

The manifestation of the Spirit

Spiritual gifts are the LORD's secret weapon for preserving the unity of the body of Christ.

The spiritual gifts provide spiritual power for serving one another.

We have been learning the characteristics of spiritual gifts.

Last Sunday, we saw that there are a great variety of gifts, ministries, and effects (1 Cor 12:4-6).

/No believer is a carbon copy of another when it comes to spiritual gifts.\

At the same time, there is great unity: one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one God and Father.

Unity and variety complement one another.

We pick up today in 1 Corinthians 12:7.

1 Cor 12:7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

/Verse 7 is a very significant verse. This one verse gives three important elements of a spiritual gift.\

But to each one

/First, each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit. \

If you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit gave you a spiritual gift at the moment you first believed.

/That means each and every born-again Church age believer gets one spiritual gift.\

It is so important for the believer to understand this. The New Testament includes this statement three other times in the passages that describe the spiritual gifts:

Look at verse 11:

*1 Cor 12:11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to **each one individually** just as He wills.*

*/Eph 4:7 But **to each one of us** grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. *

*1 Peter 4:10 As **each one** has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*

1 Cor 12:7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

*But to each one is given **the manifestation of the Spirit***

/Second, each gift is a manifestation of the Spirit. Each person is supernaturally gifted with a unique ability.\

THE manifestation – one spiritual gift

/"manifestation" is from the Greek word *phanerosis* which means a visible display, an exhibition, an appearance.\

/The Holy Spirit is made visible, is on display, makes an appearance, is on exhibit, when believers operate in their spiritual gifts to serve the body of Christ according to the workings of God.\

Let me say this more forcefully:

/Our spiritual gift is the Spirit of God ministering to the Body, using the believer to accomplish it, rather than the believer doing something and asking God for help.\

A spiritual gift is a channel through which the Holy Spirit ministers to the Body.

A gift is not an end in itself.

/ A spiritual gift is a unique supernatural ability sovereignly given to each believer by God the Holy Spirit \

*7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit **for the common good.***

/Third, God the Holy Spirit gives these gifts for a particular **purpose**. They are given for **the common good.**\

1 Peter 4:10

*As each one has received a special gift, employ it in **serving one another** as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*

/Your spiritual gift is not for private gain or enjoyment, but for the good of the team, the body of Christ, the congregation, the family.\

Not I but one another. We'll wrap up today with Ephesians 4:7-16.

Eph 4:7-16

*But to **each one** of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8
Therefore it says,*

*"WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH,
HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES,
AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN."*

*9 (Now this expression, "He ascended," what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.)
11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 **for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;** 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man,*

*to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the **proper working of each individual part**, causes **the growth of the body** for the building up of itself in love.*

/The proper working of each individual part refers both to **each member of the body** and to **each spiritual gift**.\

These gifts are for the purpose of serving the Lord and edifying the body of Christ, not bringing glory to self.

/A spiritual gift is a God-given supernatural ability to serve the church effectively.\

At this point, you have seen a lot of information on spiritual gifts already.

/You may be wondering: So what? What does this mean for each one of US?\

Great question!

/To answer it, I am going to use an illustration: the family. \

Paul uses the human body to make several points about the spiritual gifts. Today we'll consider the human family – our family. A family sitting down for a meal. /pic\

And it is a good time for this. Thanksgiving arrives in a few weeks.

For many families, this means a Thanksgiving dinner. More specifically - a Turkey dinner. You may have a different tradition: maybe fish, or pasta, or a pig roast.

/Now, when families get together to prepare the Thanksgiving dinner, it's customary for each person or family to bring an item. \ /pic\

And of course, you don't want everyone to bring the SAME item either.

/Many different dishes and items must come together to make one great meal.\

/pic\
The turkey

The turkey

The stuffing

The mashed potatoes

Several salads

Corn on the cob

The casseroles

The vegetables – green beans, Brussel sprouts

The wine, the wine glasses, the water, water goblets

The wine bottle opener

Other drinks: cider and soft drinks and juices

The water pitcher and the carving knife.

The plates and the silverware

The turkey thermometer
The gravy, with the boat and ladle
Mac & cheese for the young children
Bread rolls
Butter
Pies: pumpkin, apple, pecan
Cranberry sauce
Coffee
Cream and sugar, salt and pepper.
Napkins.

/Each of these items is important.\

Don't think so? See what happens if one of them is missing!

What if there were no butter? How would the meal taste then?
Or no plates or napkins.

Or no wine bottle opener?

No salt. No desserts,

No silverware!

Not to mention the turkey or the gravy!

Each individual part is important.

/And the mundane, ordinary, less celebrated items are necessary.\

/pic\

If you bring an ordinary item – let's say salt - no one is going to praise you!

/pic\

/If one part of the meal isn't done properly -let's say that the turkey is overcooked or the cream is sour, the whole meal could be ruined. The whole family suffers.\

Of course, some play a larger role than others. That can disturb some people. why aren't I the one who is bringing the turkey. Why am I "only" bringing dessert?

Aunt Kitty is going to make a sarcastic comment: “is that all you brought?” /pic\

Well, what if the whole meal were just turkey!

Or everyone brought wine and no food!

You see: no member of the family has an unimportant gift.

/And no member of the congregation has an unimportant gift either.\pic\

*7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit **for the common good.***

Each one brings their gift to the family. All enjoy each gift. Every one is an act of love. /Bringing your own gift expresses your love for the family. \ /pic\

Since this is true about Thanksgiving dinner at grandma’s , how much more so with our manifestation of the Spirit for our spiritual family in God’s household.

<< See Reservoir for additional material >>>