

“USING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT”
1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 28-31

INTRODUCTION

There is much ignorance in the church concerning spiritual gifts. In a church this can cause problems. Ignorance is one of Satan's tools. Many times in scripture the question is asked, “Have you not read!”, “Have you not heard?”, “Do you not know?” So it is with spiritual gifts. There are 2 main abuses of the gifts. They are: 1) used non-biblically, out of Jesus' character, or 2) avoided all together. We need the right balance and God's true perspective on the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

THE SPIRIT COMMUNICATES

First of all, without the Holy Spirit the church would not exist. This chapter doesn't list all of the gifts, as there are also gifts listed in **Romans 12**, as well. It's up to the Lord to decide who gets what. There are different gifts for different ministries and different activities. The gifts are meant for profit all. Don't hoard a gift; a gift is meant to be used.

THE GIFTS ARE GIVEN TO GIVE

The *word of wisdom* is for a decision, a choice, especially when no one else knows what to do. It often resolves a conflict, such as Jesus with the question of taxes, **Luke 20**, or in the selection of elders in **Acts 6**, or even in marital counseling.

The *word of knowledge* is a piece of information that could not otherwise be known, except through the Holy Spirit. In **Acts 5** this is demonstrated with information from the Lord to Peter concerning Ananias and Saphira. The gift of *faith* is for special times of challenge. It's either to move forward or to encourage others. *Gifts of healings* are for spiritual, physical or emotional reasons. One of the greatest miracles is the resurrection! Even with all the interest in the paranormal, some doubt legitimate miracles from God. *Prophecy* is speaking the word of God and having it hit home!

All of us have some measure of *discernment*. The more we know the Lord and the scriptures, the more we are able to discern...to understand God's point of view on any given subject. (See Paul in **Acts 16**). *Helps* is a gift where others prefer one another. Much of the work done by the church is done by sacrificial servants. For some, they live for this. They love to help others! The gift of *governments* is administration, taken from the term navigator, to steer a ship, especially through troubled times. Organizing the work of the Lord and getting everyone on the same page can be part of this gift.

CONSIDER

There may be more gifts than we realize. In **verses 28-31** there is a list of gifts that include the people themselves. We are encouraged to not hoard the gifts, but give them, use them! We should covet the gifts; have a strong desire for them. What are the best gifts? Whatever He thinks you need! The Holy Spirit distributes this wide variety of gifts as He sees fit. It is a fantastic thing to have the Holy Spirit operating through the church members to benefit the body of Christ! Through this operation of the Holy Spirit, we can all live abundant, supernatural lives!

PRAY

* For the Prophecy Conference on January 25-26.

* For the Spirit to be poured out upon believers in our area!