

Gifts Overview

Key Verse

1 Corinthians 12:1 - Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.

Opening Questions

What comes to mind when you hear the word “charismatic”?

Would you consider yourself someone who is charismatic?

Exploring the Bible

What Are Spiritual Gifts?

Spiritual gifts are not natural talents and abilities. Spiritual gifts are special, SUPERNATURAL gifts given by God to His children so they can operate in the supernatural realm in the Kingdom of God. These supernatural gifts can blend with talents and abilities and raise them to a new level.

The word used to describe these gifts is called “charismata” or “grace gifts.” These gifts are not only supernatural but they also come as a free gift of God’s grace, the same way that salvation came to each one of us.

What are These Gifts?

Read *1Corinthians 12:7-11*

List the spiritual gifts in this passage.

Answer:

Read *1 Corinthians 12:28*

List the additional gifts from this passage that are not in the above list.

Answer:

Read *Romans 12:6-8*

List the additional gifts from this passage that are not in the above lists.

Answer:

Read *Ephesians 4:11-13*

List the additional gifts from this passage that are not in the above lists.

Answer:

There is quite a list of gifts. There are probably even more gifts than those listed here.

The Purpose of the Gifts

Read *1 Corinthians 12:12-29*

Question: Christ is likened to what (verse 12)?

Answer:

Question: Each believer is a part of whose body (verse 27)?

Answer:

1. Gifts Are Like Body Parts (Diversity)

Question: What would happen if a body were made up of one body part (verses 17-18)?

Answer:

Question: There are many body parts but one what (verses 19-20)?

Answer:

In order for a body to function, it needs to have a lot of different body parts. Those body parts are diverse; some we cover up and some we show off. But without all of the body parts we would not be a healthy, functioning human body. In the same manner, there has to be many different supernatural gifts given in order for Christ's body, the church, to be a healthy, normal, functioning body.

2. The Body Must Function in Unity

Question: Can a body part decide on its own not to be a member of the body (verses 15-16)?

Answer:

Question: If one body part suffers, what happens to the other body parts (verse 26)?

Answer:

While our human bodies have many different parts, these body parts have to work together in unity. When these body parts operate in disharmony and begin to attack each other, the human body has disease and pain. The same thing happens in Christ's body, the church. If we begin to attack the diversity of the giftings in the body of Christ, there will also be spiritual disease and pain rather than the power and abundant life that Jesus promised. All the diversity of spiritual gifts needs to work together in harmony for the good of all.

3. No Body Part Is More Important

Question: God has given greater honor to which body parts (verses 24-25)?

Answer:

Question: What is the purpose in structuring the body this way?

Answer:

No body part in the human body is unimportant. No matter what we may think of any particular body part, we would never think of removing any part of our body just

because we think it is unimportant. Neither is that the case with Christ's body, the church. No matter what the spiritual gift is it is never unimportant. In the same way, there is no spiritual gift that so important that it should be elevated above the others. All the spiritual gifts are important.

How Do The Gifts Work?

1. The Source – One Spirit – Many Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:4 - There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. (NIV)

Question: There are different kinds of gifts, but what is the same?

Answer:

The Holy Spirit is the source of all the gifts given to believers. It is He who chooses which person receives what gift(s). But this is not some random choice on His part. He knows you because He made you. He also knows every other person in the body of Christ. He knows the plan and destiny that He has created for you. So, based on how He has created you and the destiny that He has given you, He gives you the supernatural gift(s) to carry out everything He has in mind for you to do supernaturally.

2. The Purpose – One Lord – Many Ministries

1 Corinthians 12:5 - There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. (NIV)

Question: There is the same Lord but different what?

Answer:

The Lord Jesus Christ has many services for ministries that He wants his body to perform. Some of these services relate to ministering to other members of the body. But most of these ministries relate to the world around us. As the body of Jesus Christ, we are to perform the ministries and services to a lost and dying world that reveal and bring the Kingdom of God to that broken world. We carry out these many ministries of the Lord Jesus Christ and supernatural power by using the supernatural gifts that the Holy Spirit is given us.

3. The Energy – One God – Many Works

1 Corinthians 12:6 - There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. (NIV)

Question: There are different kinds of working but the same God does what?

Answer:

Read *Romans 12:3-8*

Question: We are to use our gifts in proportion to our what (verse 6)?

Answer:

The word "working" in the original language is the word from which we get our word "energy." If we're going to carry out supernatural ministries that flow from supernatural gifts, then we cannot do this with our natural, human energy. What is this supernatural energy? It is FAITH. We use our gifts in proportion of the faith we have been given to exercise that gift. It is God the Father by His Spirit that provides the supernatural motivation and energy of faith to use our supernatural gifts to carry out the supernatural ministries of the Lord Jesus Christ. As God gives us assignments in His kingdom related to our destiny, we will need to use our supernatural gifts with supernatural energy to accomplish our assignments.

The Importance of Love

Read *1 Corinthians 13:1-10*

Question: According to this passage, what is the most important thing to have?

Answer:

Name five characteristics of love:

Answer:

Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. (NIV)

Question: Where does love come from?

Answer:

Question: Does any of the fruit of the Spirit break God's law?

Answer:

Love must be the thing that covers and permeates all the uses of these spiritual gifts. For example, if God should give you a "message of knowledge," a revelation or insight about someone's life and you use it to hurt or embarrass them rather than to minister the love and healing that God had in mind, then you only add further wounds to that person and further wounds to the body of Christ. Remember, we all hurt when one member is hurting. When we act in love, we not only say what God wants us to say and do what God wants us to do but we do it with the very character and essence of how God wants to do it—that is, with love.

Practical Exercise

How do you know what your gift is? One of the clearest indications of your gift is that it is something that flows naturally from you. You don't have to work at it or try hard to make your gift work. It just works for you. An eye doesn't have to work at seeing; it just does what it is made to do, and the same is true for your nose or hands or any other body part. This is how the gifts are designed to work.

How many of you have already seen one of these gifts operating in your life?

How many of you know what your gift(s) are?

Gift	How Does it Work
Apostle	You have the ability to go into areas that are closed and open those areas to the Kingdom of God. There is an anointing that gives vision and persistence.
Prophets/prophecy	You have the ability to communicate the message of God to people. Many times this involves speaking forth things that are unknown (future or past) to those hearing the word.
Teacher/teaching	You are able to see the truth in God's word, organize it, and communicate that truth effectively to others.
Evangelist	You have a unique passion and ability to share the good news with lost people and see them respond positively.
Pastor/Shepherd	You have a heart to shepherd and take care of God's people.
Discerning of Spirits	You have an ability to know what spirit is operating in a particular situation.
Giving	You have a unique passion to give financially and other ways beyond what believers normally give into the kingdom.
Mercy	You have a unique ability to empathize with those who are hurting in order to minister to their wounds and see them restored to spiritual health.
Exhortation	You have an ability to stir up the faith and action of others to do what God wants them to do. They are God's motivators.
Faith	You have a measure of faith beyond other believers to trust God for the manifestation of the supernatural.
Words of Knowledge	You are able to get specific insights about people or situations that are not knowable by human standards. This purpose of this knowledge is to unlock something in a person or situation.
Words of Wisdom	You are able to communicate wise counsel in various situations. Many times the response to this counsel is, "Why didn't I think of that?"
Administration	You have the ability to manage and coordinate activities. You make things flow so that the ministries of the Lord work smoothly.
Helps	You have an ability to come along side others and help them. Many times this manifests as intercessory prayer.
Hospitality	You have the ability to cause people to want to hang out together and fellowship. Everyone wants to be at your house.
Tongues	You have the ability to speak in a language that you don't know. This might be a language of earth or of heaven.
Interpretation of Tongues	You have the ability to give an interpretation of what was spoken by someone else in another tongue or language.
Miracles	You have the ability to see signs, wonders, and miracles flow from your life to demonstrate the goodness and power of God.

Healing	You have an ability to see people healed when you pray.
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