



BEULAH FIRST BAPTIST

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Focus: GIFTED – Discovering Your Gift. Finding Your Place. Serving with Purpose.

Week 1: You are Gifted – God Has Given You Something

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Primary Texts: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, Romans 12:3-8, Galatians 5:22-23

Introduction: Paul begins 1 Corinthians 12: “**Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.**” Corinth was a gifted church, but being gifted did not mean they understood giftedness. They needed clarity about **where gifts came from, why God gave them, and how they were intended to function.** Before identifying our individual gifts, finding our place, or determining how we should serve, we need a **biblical foundation for spiritual gifts.**

WHAT IS A SPIRITUAL GIFT?

WORD	MEANING	WHY IT MATTERS
PNEUMATIKOS (πνευματικός)	Spiritual; pertaining to the Spirit	In 1 Corinthians 12:1, the language points us first to the Spirit , not ourselves. Before asking, “ <i>What gift do I have?</i> ” ask, “ Who is at work? ”
CHARISMA (χάρισμα)	Gift; gracious endowment	<i>Charisma</i> is related to <i>charis</i> ; grace . Your gift flows from God’s grace. It is not earned or achieved; therefore, giftedness should produce gratitude, not pride.
PHANERŌSIS (φανέρωσις)	Manifestation; making visible	In 1 Corinthians 12:7, the Spirit’s work becomes evident through believers for the benefit of others.

WORKING DEFINITION: A spiritual gift is a grace-given expression of the Holy Spirit working through a believer for the benefit of others and the purposes of God.

NEUMATIKOS — The Spirit is behind it.

CHARISMA — Grace gives it.

PHANERŌSIS — God’s work becomes evident through it.

1. THE SOURCE — OUR GIFTS COME FROM GOD

1 Corinthians 12:4–6: Paul emphasizes both **diversity and unity**: Different **gifts** – same Spirit; Different **ministries/service** – same Lord; Different **activities/workings** – same God.

God does not work through every believer in exactly the same way. Our differences are not accidents; diversity is part of God’s design for His Church.

Truths to See: 1) God is the source of spiritual gifts. 2) Gifts are expressions of God’s grace. 3) God intentionally works through different people in different ways.

Application: If my gift comes from God, my response should be gratitude, not pride. I cannot take credit for what grace gave me. And I do not have to compete with someone else over what grace gave them.

2. THE RECIPIENT — YOU ARE GIFTED

1 Corinthians 12:7: Paul says, “*But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.*” The **emphasis is important:** every believer has something to contribute. **Some gifts may be more visible than others, but visibility does not determine value.**

Truths to See: 1) Every believer has something to contribute. 2) Different does not mean deficient. 3) Public gifts are not necessarily more important than less-visible gifts.

Application: Be careful not to overlook what God has placed in you because you are looking at what God placed in somebody else. **You don't have to have a microphone, a title, or a position to be gifted.**

3. THE PURPOSE — YOUR GIFT ISN'T JUST FOR YOU

1 Corinthians 12:7: Paul says the manifestation of the Spirit is given **“to profit withal” ...for the common good.** The question, then, is not only **“What is my gift?”** We must also ask, **“Who is supposed to benefit from what God has placed in me?”** Spiritual gifts are not primarily given for recognition, status, or personal fulfillment. **God gives something TO us because He intends to do something THROUGH us.**

Truths to See: 1) Every gift has a purpose. 2) Spiritual gifts are intended to benefit others. 3) Giftedness should lead to contribution, not merely identification.

Application: The goal is not simply to know the name of your gift. The goal is to understand that God has given you something that can make a difference in the lives of others and in His Body.

4. THE DISTRIBUTION — GOD DETERMINES THE GIFT

1 Corinthians 12:8–11: Paul describes several manifestations of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12:8–10, but 1 Corinthians 12 is not the only place the New Testament discusses spiritual gifts.

NEW TESTAMENT GIFT PASSAGES

SCRIPTURE	ITEMS LISTED	PRIMARY EMPHASIS
Romans 12:6–8	7	Building Up the Church — gifts expressed through the life and service of believers
1 Corinthians 12:4–11	9	Manifestations of the Spirit — special abilities given by the Holy Spirit for the common good
Ephesians 4:11	5	Leadership / Five-Fold Ministry — gifted leaders given to equip the saints and build up the Body
1 Peter 4:11	2	Speaking & Serving — broad expressions of gifted service for the glory of God

The critical statement for tonight remains 1 Corinthians 12:11: *“...dividing to every man severally as he will.”* **The Spirit determines the distribution.**

Truths to See: 1) The Spirit determines how gifts are distributed. 2) The variety of gifts reflects the wisdom of God. 3) Because our gifts differ, we need one another.

Application: Comparison can cause us either to **inflate ourselves or devalue ourselves.** Neither response honors God. Stay in your lane.

5. FOUNDATIONAL GUARDRAIL — GIFTS, GRACE & GROWTH

Romans 12:3 | Galatians 5:22–23: Gifts reveal ways the Spirit works THROUGH us. Fruit reveals the character the Spirit is producing IN us. While gifts and fruit are not the same, the exercise of our gifts should be governed by and consistent with the fruit of the Spirit.

Does the way I am using my gift reflect the character of the Spirit who gave it?

FOUR GUARDRAILS FOR GIFTEDNESS

SOURCE	PURPOSE	POSTURE	GLORY
Who gave it? God.	Who benefits? Others and the Body.	How should I use it? With humility, love, and Spirit-shaped character.	Who gets the credit? God.

God is not only concerned with what gift is operating through you; He is also concerned with what kind of person you are becoming while you use it.

PREPARING FOR WEEK 2: KNOW YOUR GIFT – Learning to Recognize How God Works Through You

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:4–11 • Romans 12:6–8

Consider: What did your spiritual gifts assessment help you notice about yourself, and what questions did it leave unanswered?