

# Lesson 7

## Gifts of the Holy Spirit

### Weekly Spirit Exercise Reminder

“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace.” Numbers 6:24-26

*“Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.”*

Just like God commanded Moses to bless the sons of Israel, we are called to bless others. And in the process, our spirits are blessed! Each day this week, find a way to pronounce a blessing over a loved one, friend or even a stranger. This is different than praying for someone – you are declaring the fullness of God’s love and grace into their spirits. You can use the words of Moses from the above scripture as your guide, but first, ask the Lord how He would like you to bless each person.

*I Corinthians 14:1*

### Introduction to Spiritual Gifts

1. What is the purpose of spiritual gifts according to I Corinthians 12:7, 14:12, 14:26; Ephesians 4:12-13 and I Peter 4:10?
  
2. According to Ephesians 4:7-8 who gives spiritual gifts?
  
3. Who determines which gifts we will receive and who distributes these gifts according to I Corinthians 12: 11?
  
4. Who decides upon our place in the body of Christ according to I Corinthians 12:18?

5. What is the basic test to see if one speaks by the Spirit of God given in I Corinthians 12:3, I John 2:22-23 and I John 4:1-3?
6. Discuss I Corinthians 12: 14-27. Why do you think Paul encouraged the Corinthians to give more honor to the “less visible” gifts?
7. Do you make it a point to honor those who serve the body of Christ in a “less visible” way?
8. There may be a serious implicit warning against pride in the above passage. Why might someone become proud of their spiritual gift?
9. Should there be a concern that a person exercising their spiritual gifts will be out of control under the power of the Holy Spirit according to I Corinthians 14:32-33? Discuss.
10. What attitude toward spiritual gifts are we commanded to have according to I Corinthians 12:31 and 14:1, 14:39?
11. When will we no longer need spiritual gifts according to I Corinthians 13:8-12, Ephesians 4:13 and I John 3:2?

### **Specific Spiritual Gifts**

12. What spiritual gifts are mentioned in Ephesians 4:11 and I Peter 4:11?

13. List the spiritual gifts mentioned in Romans 12: 6-8. According to these verses, will we all receive the same gifts? Also see I Corinthians 12: 4.
  
14. List the spiritual gifts mentioned in I Corinthians 12:8-10, 28-30. Briefly discuss what you think each one means.
  
15. What particular gift does Paul single out in I Corinthians 14:1? What are we commanded to do there? Also see I Thessalonians 5:19-20 and Revelation 19:10.
  
16. What is the threefold purpose of the spiritual gift of prophecy according to I Corinthians 14:3?
  
17. What can happen when the gift of prophecy is properly exercised according to I Corinthians 14:24-25?
  
18. The gift of tongues (*glossa* in Greek, which simply means language) is a controversial gift that we need to examine in the Word of God. From these verses in I Corinthians 12-14 it seems that there may be three different spiritual gifts related to the gift of tongues. The first is the gift that the disciples experienced on Pentecost. They were given the ability to speak in a known language that was unknown to them. I Corinthians 13:1. The second gift is the ability to speak or sing in an angelic language to God, I Corinthians 14:14 -15, 28. The third gift of tongues is the gift of interpretation of an unknown or angelic language, I Corinthians 12:10 and 14:27.
  - ❖ From I Corinthians 12:30 will every believer speak in tongues?
  
  - ❖ Did Paul speak in tongues according to I Corinthians 14:18?
  
  - ❖ Did he think it was a good idea? See I Corinthians 14:5.
  
  - ❖ What does speaking in tongues accomplish according to I Corinthians 14:2 and 4?

- ❖ What is Paul's instruction for speaking in tongues when the body of Christ is assembled from I Corinthians 14: 27-28?

19. Consider I Corinthians 14:26. Ask the Lord to give you something that you can share with a fellow believer this week that will edify them.

### **The Greatest Spiritual Gift**

Inserted between these two chapters in I Corinthians about spiritual gifts is an entire chapter about "the more excellent way" (I Corinthians 12:31), the way of love. From I Corinthians 13:1-3, as we consider spiritual gifts, how important is love?

20. How are we to grow in love according to John 15:4-5, 8-10 and Galatians 5: 22-23?

21. Love is more than a nice feeling. Describe love according to I Corinthians 13: 4-7. Insert your name in these verses and make this a prayer, that you will grow in love in these ways.

### **Wrap-up**

22. If you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ then you have the Holy Spirit residing in you and the Lord has given you spiritual gifts (at least one gift, often, more than one). Take some time this week to take inventory of your gift(s).

- ❖ What gifts do you think He has given you?
- ❖ How are you exercising these gifts?
- ❖ Do you want more opportunities to serve? If so, ask Him.
- ❖ Are there other gifts that you desire to walk in?
- ❖ If so, will you begin to seek the Lord for these gifts? Write out a prayer in the space below. Remember, the purpose of spiritual gifts is to serve the body of Christ out of love. You can be greedy about this!

## Weekly Exercise for Our Spirits

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.” John 10:27

As our spirits have been getting to know the Holy Spirit, we have been increasing our awareness of God’s voice in our lives. Every day this week take 10 minutes to LISTEN to God. Start by meditating on the verse, “Be still and know that I am God.” Then wait patiently to hear what the Holy Spirit wants to reveal to your spirit. Sometimes this comes as pictures in your mind or thoughts you did not think. Sometimes you will physically feel His presence or just sense a profound peace. He knows how you will best “hear” Him! Write down your experiences in the room in the margin after you sense He is finished.

## Lecture Notes: