

LXXVI. ABIDING GIFTS—WISDOM, KNOWLEDGE, AND FAITH: 1 Corinthians 12:8-9a

INTRODUCTION/CON(TEXT). Brothers and sisters in Christ, friends, visitors:

We are in the middle of 1 Corinthians 12. This chapter deals with Spiritual Gifts. Spiritual Gifts are gifts and abilities that God the Holy Spirit gives to Christians. They are above and beyond our natural gifts and abilities. And the first thing we need to know or remember when coming to the study of Spiritual Gifts is what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 12:1. Look at verse 1 with me, and let's remember what God has said previously, through Paul, before we zero in on 1 Corinthians 12:8-9.

I) Christians must not be ignorant of spiritual gifts (v. 1).

1 Corinthians 12:1

"Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed (ignorant)."

Now I would remind you that according to a Barna's Primary Survey (2008 data, published 2009),

(i) 68% of self-identified Christians in the U.S. said they had heard of spiritual gifts.

(ii) About 21% of aware born-again Christians said God had not given them any spiritual gift.

(iii) Roughly 20–21% listed "gifts" not found in biblical lists, such as a sense of humor, singing, health, happiness, patience, creativity, clairvoyance, or premonition.

(iv) Only about one-third accurately identified solely biblical gifts.

Additionally, because of the massive growth of those who are especially ignorant concerning Spiritual Gifts, there have been a number of negative effects on the Church not only in America, but worldwide.

(i) Those who are ignorant of spiritual gifts often **ELEVATE EXPERIENCE OVER SCRIPTURE.**

(ii) Those who are ignorant of spiritual gifts often **DISTORT THE TRUE GOSPEL BY TYING IT TO PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL PROSPERITY.**

(iii) Those who are ignorant of spiritual gifts often **MOCK THE HOLY SPIRIT AND ARE PLAGUED BY ANTI-INTELLECTUALISM.**

(iv) Those who are ignorant of spiritual gifts often **END UP TEACHING HERESY BY DENYING THE TRINITY.**

(v) Those who are ignorant of spiritual gifts often **FIND THEMSELVES ENGROSSED IN SEXUAL SIN.**

(vi) Those who are ignorant of spiritual gifts often **EXPLOIT THE**

POOR.

(vii) *Those who are ignorant of spiritual gifts have been and continue to EXPORT THEIR DISTORTIONS OF TRUE CHRISTIANITY, ESPECIALLY TO THE THIRD WORLD.*

With all these things in mind, look at verse 1 again: *CHRISTIANS MUST NOT BE IGNORANT OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS.*

II) Christians must not be ignorant of their spiritual past (v. 2).

1 Corinthians 12:2 "You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led."

III) Christians must not be ignorant of spiritual fruit (v. 3).

1 Corinthians 12:3 "Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit."

IV) Christians must not be ignorant of their spiritual purpose (vv. 4-7).

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

"4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of activities (effects), but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. 7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

(i) Christians are gifted differently, but the same Spirit gifts them (v. 4).

1 Corinthians 12:4 "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;"

(ii) Christians serve differently, but the same Jesus is served (v. 5).

1 Corinthians 12:5 "and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord;"

(iii) Christians serve with different effects, but the same Father empowers all (v. 6).

1 Corinthians 12:6 "and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone."

(iv) Every believer is given a spiritual gift (v. 7a).

1 Corinthians 12:7a "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit..."

(v) Spiritual gifts are given for the common good (v. 7b).

1 Corinthians 12:7b "...for the common good."

1 Corinthians 12:8-9a "8 For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit. . ."

Please note that Paul is not listing every Spiritual Gift here or elsewhere in 1 Corinthians.

CALVIN: "[Paul] now. . .specifies particular kinds (of Spiritual Gifts) — not

indeed all of them, but such as are sufficient for his present purpose.

"Believers," says he, "are endowed with different gifts, but let every one acknowledge, that he is indebted for whatever he has to the Spirit of God, for he pours forth his gifts as the sun scatters his rays in every direction."

— Calvin, John. **Calvin On The Bible: John Calvin's Bible Commentary** (p. 13061). Kindle Edition.

DOCTRINE. Some Christians are given the spiritual gifts of wisdom, knowledge, and faith, yet all Christians are to seek after wisdom, knowledge, and faith.

OUTLINE. There are three main points to be noted in our text, then I am going to give you general directions concerning Wisdom, Knowledge, and Faith.

I. SOME CHRISTIANS ARE GIVEN THE SPIRITUAL GIFT OF WISDOM (1 Corinthians 12:8a).

1 Corinthians 12:8a "For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance (*logos*) of wisdom (*sophia*) . . ."

Q1. What is it?

POOLE: "It is most probable, that he means by it what we ordinarily understand by wisdom, viz. a faculty, from a good judgment of the circumstances of actions, to do them at the best time, and in the best manner, wherein they may be serviceable to their ends." — **Poole, Matthew. English Annotations on the Holy Bible . E4 Group. Kindle Edition.**

The spiritual gift of wisdom looks like someone who can say "Therefore," and what comes after is faithful application of God's Word to a present circumstance.

ILLUSTRATION

The spiritual gift of wisdom looks like someone being supernaturally gifted by God to see the entire chess board, rather than just a pawn or a rook or a knight. They see the whole board and can help make decisions that will most help win the game, if the game is to glorify and enjoy God.

BOYS AND GIRLS...

Q2. What does it do?

A. Guides.

The spiritual gift of wisdom is used to guide believers in how to best glorify God in the many duties and circumstances we have in this life.

Q3. What effect does it have in building up the body of Christ?

A. *Helps other believers love God with their will.*

USE FOR EXHORTATION

If you have the Spiritual Gift of Wisdom, put it to use in being available, not to meddle in others' private business, but to speak and act wisely, always ready to give wisdom to others when appropriate.

Some think they have wisdom but they obviously do not because when people take their advice, those peoples lives end up being ruined.

II. SOME CHRISTIANS ARE GIVEN THE SPIRITUAL GIFT OF KNOWLEDGE (1 Corinthians 12:8b).

1 Corinthians 12:8b ". . .and to another the utterance (*logos*) of knowledge (*gnosis*) according to the same Spirit. . ."

Q1. What is it?

POOLE: "He means a capacity to comprehend things in our knowledge, or to communicate it to others, or the actual communication of it by preaching, which was the work of the pastors and teachers; or the prophetic knowledge of future contingencies; or an ability to speak of spiritual things doctrinally, without any great faculty of applying them." — **Poole, Matthew. English Annotations on the Holy Bible . E4 Group. Kindle Edition.**

The spiritual gift of knowledge looks like someone who is able to read or listen to things and both comprehend what they are reading or hearing and commit them to memory.

ILLUSTRATION

The spiritual gift of knowledge looks like someone who has been supernaturally gifted by God with either a fast processor or a massive hard drive, sometimes both.

BOYS AND GIRLS...

Q2. What does it do?

A. *Equips other believers to think rightly about, God's essence and attributes, God's promises,*

God's commands, and
God's world.

This includes theology, but not only theology. Also science or history or philosophy or economics or politics or technology or physical health or any other thing that exists to be used for God's glory.

Q3. What effect does it have in building up the body of Christ?

A. *Helps other believers love God with their mind.*

USE FOR EXHORTATION

I) If you have the Spiritual Gift of Knowledge, put it to use by gaining as much knowledge as possible, so that you may help others understand the truth of God's word and His world.

III. SOME CHRISTIANS ARE GIVEN THE SPIRITUAL GIFT OF FAITH (1 Corinthians 12:9a).

1 Corinthians 12:9a ". . .to another *faith* (*pistis*) by the same Spirit. . ."

Q1. What is it?

HENRY: "A faith in the divine power and promise, whereby they were enabled to trust God in any emergency, and go on in the way of their duty, and own and profess the truths of Christ, whatever was the difficulty or danger." — **Henry, Matthew. Unabridged Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible (best navigation) . OSNOVA. Kindle Edition.**

ILLUSTRATION

The spiritual gift of faith looks like someone walking through the Red Sea with their head up and shoulders back. Imagine someone confidently trusting the Lord to hold the walls of water, and get you safely to the other side, even destroying Pharaoh's army who is savagely chasing you down to return you to your former slavery.

Q2. What does it do?

A. *Encourages.*

Q3. What effect does it have in building up the body of Christ?

A. *Helps other believers love God with their affections.*

USE FOR EXHORTATION

If you have the spiritual gift of faith, put it to use in by trusting the

promises and providence of God, always ready to help others by encouraging them to trust in God's promise and providence.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, let me make sure this is crystal clear: All wisdom, knowledge, and faith must have Christ Jesus as its focus and center.

- I) There is no true wisdom without Christ, who is wisdom personified!**
- II) There is no true knowledge without Christ, who is the Creator, Sustainer, and Savior of the world!**
- III) There is no saving faith without Christ, who is the object, author, and finisher of our faith!**

Colossians 2:3 "In [Christ] are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

SERMON TRANSCRIPT

Brothers and sisters in Christ, friends, visitors, we find ourselves in the middle of 1 Corinthians chap 12. And I would remind you that this chapter deals with spiritual gifts. Spiritual gifts. And spiritual gifts are gifts and abilities that God the Holy Spirit gives to each and every Christian. So there are a variety of different gifts and each Christian has at least one. Some Christians might have multiple but everyone has at least one spiritual gift and not everybody has the same exact gift. But it is not just so we remember and we are all clear. It is not just an ordinary thing that we would call a talent or an ordinary ability. It is a supernatural gift that God the Holy Spirit gives specifically to Christians. Though that does not mean that before you got saved you were just totally terrible at something and then you get saved and it is like whoa I used to be the dumbest person in the world and now I am the smartest person in the world. Like it is not always like that that it is just so blatantly obvious of this radical change. Um you could take the Apostle Paul for an example. He surely had the spiritual gift of knowledge. He had the spiritual gift of wisdom, but it is not like he was dumb before he was saved. He was a Pharisee of Pharisees. He was trained at the feet of Gamaliel. Like he is an elite thinker. But the spiritual gift that he was given goes far beyond what our natural gifts and abilities are. Though they might be in the same vein. I hope that makes sense. So, we do not think, well, was I actually pretty good at this type of thing before I became a Christian and now I so I do not know if it is actually a spiritual gift. You know, you might have people who are like, I was an okay public speaker before I got saved. Now I am a preacher after I became a Christian. So, maybe that is not a

gift. No, do not conclude those kind of things. But we do need to know that spiritual gifts are different than just the way you were wired by nature or at creation. We have to remember the providence of God in all of that too. That he wired you, built you in a specific way with your personality and your ordinary gifts and abilities. And then when you become when he saves you and he gives you spiritual gifts, they might even be in line with those natural gifts, but they are really evidently supernaturally energized by God, the Holy Spirit for the good of other Christians. they are above and beyond our natural gifts and abilities. that is what is important at the very least for us to understand. The first thing though we really need to know or remember when coming to the study of spiritual gifts is what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 12 verse 1. So I know we are in verses 8 and 9, but in the providence of God, it is been uh three or four weeks since we have been in 1 Corinthians. So I want you to remember with me what we have learned so far in chapter 12. And all of chapter 12 is about spiritual gifts, how to think about them. So, let's remember what God has said previously through Paul before we zero in on verses 8 and the first half of verse 9. Look at verse one. And this is the crucial truth you have to begin with when studying spiritual gifts. God says through Paul, now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. I do not want you to be ignorant concerning spiritual gifts. So, Christians must not be ignorant concerning spiritual gifts. And I would additionally remind you that according to a Barna Primary Survey, 68% of self-identified Christians in the United States said they had in fact heard of spiritual gifts. But then 32% of Christians in the United States said they had never even heard of spiritual gifts. So 32% in our nation fail right off the bat. If you have never heard of them, you are definitely ignorant concerning spiritual gifts. Paul says, "I do not want you to be ignorant." About 21% of Christians who were aware of spiritual gifts said that God had not given them even one. They do not have any spiritual gifts. Well, that goes against what God says in his word. And so they are obviously ignorant of spiritual gifts as well. So roughly 20 to 21% would list gifts when they were asked, "What are your spiritual gifts?" They would list certain things that are not spiritual gifts, not things that the scripture would say are spiritual gifts. And so, well, such as clairvoyance or premonition or creativity, things like that. it is like, well, that is not actually spiritual gifts. So, then we have a whole lot of other people that fail Paul's standard right here. I do not want you to be ignorant. About one-third, one-third of people surveyed who were Christians accurately identified the biblical spiritual gifts that God reveals. Additionally, according to this or in line with this understanding, I want you to understand how crucial it is to not be ignorant about spiritual gifts. Some of the biggest harms that happen in the name of Jesus through local churches, through different Christian, professed Christian movements, the most harmful ones are almost always those who are ignorant about spiritual gifts. the charismaniac movements that really started in the early 1900s and have just taken over certain areas. they have taken over Tulsa. Tulsa is the epicenter of the world for the word of faith movement. You speak things into existence through your faith. If you say things in faith, they teach it manifests. it is

paganism. it is demonic thinking, but that dominates some areas. And some of the most harmful professed churches are these who are at their core ignorant concerning spiritual gifts. Because if you are ignorant concerning spiritual gifts, you think that there is new revelation still happening. that God is still speaking directly through people that has the same authority as the scriptures. And so you have false prophets and even just Christians who have a bad understanding of this and they say this is what God is saying. And then the people take it as if the same authority as the written word of God, the scriptures. And so it just gets mass after mass after mass after mass. They believe the spiritual gift of healing that you have a spiritual gift of healing like the apostles did like you can touch someone and they are healed. we are not talking about praying for someone and then God heals them. we are talking about the spiritual gift of healing meaning you can touch me and you get healed or I can touch you and I can heal you by touching you. They think that continues because they are ignorant about spiritual gifts and they do not understand that was a sign gift, a sign of an apostle so that people would listen to them before the scriptures were pinned down. And we will get more into that next Lord's day, Lord willing, as we looked at the spiritual gift of healing. But they think that continues, though it does not. So what they have to do is then manipulate people into thinking it continues by doing street healings and different healings. And none of them are ever verifiable. they are always manipulating someone to think like someone says they have cancer and then they lay hands on them and they are like the person that has cancer is like I am healed and then they die six months later. Or Todd White is a famous charlatan that should be avoided and he is a fake faith healer because he believes he is ignorant about spiritual gifts. He believes healing continues. So what does he do? He finds people. This is a common thing that he is done for years. He finds people on the street and asks anyone if they have an uneven uh if their legs are different lengths like your right leg is a little bit wrong longer than your left leg. it is like, and in case you do not know, that is like most everyone that your legs are not exactly the same length. that is not really the point. But he will, and they video all this to put it online and everything, but he will have people sit down and their heel is kind of turned back right here on one of the legs. The heel is just down. And then Todd will, you know, do his big thing and like act like he is pulling the leg. And God is like making these legs that were different lengths. Now they are the same length. And they are like "a healing has happened." And then you they even there is people who have done the video of it and shown what is actually happening. And he is just like tilting the heel forward. But people buy it and believe it. Why? First of all, because they are ignorant about spiritual gifts. And so the spiritual gift of healing continues. But it does not actually. So they cannot actually heal people like the apostles did. So we got to figure out some other way to put it on all this kind of stuff. Tongues and those of you who grew up in charismatic movement and you see the tongue the tongues movement and which is really just nonsense gibberish. It does not have anything to do with what the scripture says about the gift of tongues when the gift of tongues was functioning in the early church. No, it is just nonsense

ridiculousness that does not edify anybody. it is just gibberish. it is more like Hindu Kundalini—demonic practices—than it is to do with anything to do with Christianity. And so all this stuff happens and typically those who are ignorant about spiritual gifts, they elevate their personal experience over scripture. They distort, many of them distort the true gospel by tying the gospel to physical and financial prosperity. Find me a prosperity preacher who is not ignorant about spiritual gifts as well. They are uh they mock the Holy Spirit. they are plagued by anti anti-intellectualism. Uh usually they end up teaching heresy like denying the Trinity. Most of them find themselves engrossed in deep sexual sin. Like the biggest sexual scandals of evangelicals in the last 30 or 40 years. Some of you who are older, you remember you remember the many televangelists, they are on TV and everything, and then one of them is like, "Oh, he hired a male prostitute in uh Denver." Whoa. But that is something that is consistent with scripture, too. As you see, sexual sin follows those who are false teachers. Go read second Peter and see how sexual sin is almost always tied with these false teachers. uh those who are ignorant about spiritual gifts often exploit exploit the poor because of their distorted view of Christianity and they export the distortions of true Christianity especially even to the third world. With all these things in mind, look at verse one again. Now, concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed or ignorant. It really matters that we are not ignorant about spiritual gifts. And those who are frequently go off in crazy directions that do a lot of harm to Christ's name and reputation and a lot of harm to individuals. We must not be ignorant concerning spiritual gifts. Now, look at verse two. He says, "We need not be ignorant of our spiritual past." he is reminding us, you need to remember who you were. You know that when you were pagans, you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. Christians must not be ignorant about their spiritual past. We need to remember who we were and who we are now by God's grace in Christ Jesus and filled by the spirit. But Christians also in verse three, what we learn there is we must not be ignorant concerning spiritual fruit. Someone cannot say this is the work of God, the Holy Spirit in me, but then be saying something like Jesus is in hell and we go, "Oh, well that was the spirit who said that." Go like, "Nope, that is bad fruit." So you cannot turn your brain off to spiritual fruit, especially when we are examining spiritual gifts. And that in the providence of God is extremely helpful for us today because with the charismatic and charismaniac movements sometimes all you have to do is examine the fruit and you go this cannot be right. Look at the fruit. And so you examine the fruit. I want you to understand he is saying that no one speaking in the spirit of God ever says Jesus is a curse. Jesus is anathema. Jesus is in hell. No one ever says that by the spirit. And no one can say Jesus is Lord except in the Holy Spirit. Jesus is Lord, good fruit. Jesus is in hell, bad fruit. does not matter if they say me saying Jesus is a cursed is the work of the spirit. Well, they are liars and they are wrong. And you can tell by the fruit that comes from it. Then you can look in verses 4-7 and see they that what we should really learn is Christians must not be ignorant of their spiritual purpose of their spiritual purpose. And we learn in these verses Christians

are gifted differently. we are all gifted differently but the same spirit gifts us. Verse four. Now, there are varieties of gifts, but the same spirit. So, we are all gifted differently, but it is God the Holy Spirit who gifts each of us. Next, in verse 5, he learned that Christians serve differently, but the same Jesus is served. He says in verse 5, there are varieties of service. A lot of different ways that you serve the Lord Jesus Christ, but the same Lord, talking about the Lord Jesus. So Christians are gifted differently but the same spirit gifts them. Christians serve differently but the same Jesus is served. And then in verse six we learn that Christians serve with different effects.

But the same father empowers all. he is the one who is sovereign over the effectiveness of any of our ministries. We serve with different effects. There are varieties of activities. what he means by the effectiveness of what you are doing. But it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. And we learn in verse seven at the beginning that every believer is given a spiritual gift to he says to each is given the manifestation of the spirit. So this when we go back to that Barna study that I have mentioned to you frequently like 21% of professed Christians who knew about spiritual gifts said the Holy Spirit has not given me any spiritual gifts we go whoops what about that verse to Paul Paul is very specific to each that means to each individual that is what that Greek word means to each individual is given the manifestation of the spirit And in this context he is saying to each individual a spiritual gift at least one is given. Every believer is given a spiritual gift at least one. Some multiple. Verse the second part of verse 7. Spiritual gifts are given for the common good. See to each is given the manifestation of the spirit. Everyone has a gift. And the purpose of the gift is for the common good. Meaning you are gifted for the good of others, specifically others in your local body, but definitely for others in the universal body of Christ. You are gifted not for your own benefit. You are gifted for the benefit of other people, for the common good. Now we come to verses 8 and N where he finally starts listing some of the spiritual gifts. Look at verse 8 and then through the first half of verse 9. For to one is given through the spirit the utterance of wisdom or your translation might say the word of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge or the word of knowledge according to the same spirit. to another faith by the same spirit. Now, please note that we do not have one passage in scripture that gives a detailed listing of every single spiritual gift because that is usually not the purpose of the writer in that occasion. And so Paul's purpose right here, though you might like it and I might like it, his purpose is not to give a detailed list of every single spiritual gift that exists. And we know that because he gives some spiritual gifts here in 1 Corinthians 12. And then he gives a few variations and different ones in Romans 12. And then Peter in 1 Peter 4 gives variations and different. So he is not Paul is not setting out here to list every single spiritual gift. There could be more spiritual gifts than are even listed in the scripture and it is just not for us to necessarily know and we just serve the Lord and we might find out later that was actually a spiritual gift. I do not know. But the only safe thing to conclude is what God has

listed in these various passages and said these are spiritual gifts. But do not think that first Corinthians 12 is like that is the sum total of spiritual gifts. It is not. It is not. That is not his intention. He does not list all of them. Calvin even points out but such as are sufficient for his present purpose. So what should we learn from these two verses or this one and a half verse that we are looking at today? Here is the doctrine. Some Christians are given the spiritual gifts of wisdom, knowledge, and faith. Some Christians are given the spiritual gifts of wisdom, knowledge, and faith. Yet for our personal application, I would include this second half of that sentence. For our doctrine today. Yet all Christians are to seek after wisdom, knowledge, and faith. Some are given the spiritual gifts of wisdom, knowledge, and faith. Yet all Christians are to seek after wisdom, knowledge, and faith. Now, there are three main points to make note of in this one and a half verse right here. One and a half verse that we are looking at today. Three main points. And then I am going to give you three specific directions after that that are more general concerning wisdom, knowledge, and faith. So, first of all, let's just learn the simple thing and try to understand what God is saying here through the Apostle Paul. Here is the first thing that you need to make note of. The first truth we learn in verse 8, some Christians are given the spiritual gift of wisdom or the word of wisdom, the utterance of wisdom. Some Christians, we can put it simply, are given the spiritual gift of wisdom. The reason he says the utterance of wisdom or the word of wisdom is because as we have already seen, spiritual gifts are given for the good of others. And so having wisdom yourself without sharing that wisdom with others really does not benefit anybody. So when he says the utterance of wisdom, it is not like all of a sudden you are in a trance and you say something that is like, "Wow, that is a really good proverb." He is just the utterance, the word of wisdom, meaning he is just highlighting the fact that you are actually going to share your wisdom with other people when they need it because your gift exists for the common good. But it is the spiritual gift of wisdom that is used and meant to be used for the good of other people. So what is this gift? What is this gift? The spiritual gift of wisdom looks like someone who can say therefore and then what comes after their therefore is faithful application of God's word to a present circumstance. So the spiritual gift of wisdom is this. God says this. We know this for certain and we have this circumstance. But and since God says this, therefore, this is what would be best to do for God's glory in this present circumstance. So wisdom is taking this is what God says and being able to apply it and not just like how should we allow babies to be murdered. We need someone with the spiritual gift of wisdom to apply for us. You shall not murder. Huh? Does that apply to murdering people? Like that is not the spiritual gift of wisdom. That is just common sense. The spiritual gift of wisdom looks more like we have a situation that we do not have a specific verse on that says you shall not murder like with the murder question like you do not need wisdom for that you just need to be able to read but wisdom is we have this situation we do not have a verse on it but we know that God says this and this and this and this which is kind of all around that will shine light on how we could make a decision in this situation that would boast that would most

glorify God and be good for other people. Wisdom is able to say God says this therefore this and it makes sense and leads to the glory of God and the good of other people. So the spiritual gift of wisdom, let me give you an illustration or let me paint a picture. Let me give you an anecdote. The spiritual gift of wisdom looks like someone being supernaturally gifted by God to see the entire chess board. Boys and girls, look up here at me. Have you ever played chess? Okay. Have you ever played checkers? Okay, let's go with either one of those. When you are playing checkers or chess, you need to be thinking about the entire board. You cannot just look. If you are playing checkers, you just cannot look at one of those little I do not even know what they are called. You cannot look at one piece. you have got to look at that and figure if I move here, what is that going to do for the rest of the board? And even more so, when you are playing the game of chess, you need to look at the entire board and see what is going on. And the spiritual gift of wisdom is someone like being supernaturally gifted in life. it is like they can see the whole chessboard of life. like you move here. Well, that is an effect. This is an effect. You would have to really watch out for that. If you do this, it might result in this and that would not end well for you. That would not glorify God if you do this. So, the spiritual gift of wisdom can see the whole board and shine light on things that you would go, "Oh man, I never really thought about that." Or if you do that, you are actually disobeying God. in like this realm because if you do that then you are shirking your other duty that God has given you to do. So all those kind of things wisdom can see the whole board rather than just a pawn or a rook or a knight. They see the whole board and can help make decisions that will most help win the game if the game is to glorify and enjoy God. that is what the spiritual gift of wisdom looks like. They can say therefore and what comes after is faithful application. They can see the whole board and help you make right decisions given what God says in his word. So what does this gift do to help other people? Remember spiritual gifts are given not for the good of the person that has it but for the good of others for the common good. Simply the spiritual gift of wisdom helps guide other people. It guides It can protect you from walking off a cliff. It can help guide you on how to walk the path of righteousness for Christ's name's sake. it is used to guide believers in how to best glorify God and the many duties and circumstances we all have in this life.

Now, what effect does this have on building up the body of Christ? Because all of it is for the common good. we have seen it helps guide people. But what effect does it have to edify the body? Every spiritual gift is given to build up the body to make all of us, if you are using your spiritual gift properly, it will make that other person stronger in their faith, more like Jesus, less like Adam, and they will be mature. So, what effect does the spiritual gift of wisdom have in building up the body of Christ? It helps other believers love God with their will, with what they choose, with their will. So we have the mind, the will, and the affections. And the spiritual gift of wisdom equips other people to love God with their heart, which includes their will, their decisions, what they want to do, what they choose even to

do. So if you have the spiritual gift of wisdom, put it to use by being available not to meddle in other people's private business, but to speak and act wisely yourself and always ready to give wisdom to others when appropriate. If you have the spiritual gift of wisdom, put it to use by being available. Not meddling in other people's private business, but speaking and acting wisely yourself and always ready to give wisdom to others when appropriate, especially when they ask you. Now, some people think they have the spiritual gift of wisdom and they do not. And typically those who think they are wise are always forcing their opinions on other people. that is usually a sure sign that person does not have biblical wisdom. They do not have the spiritual gift of wisdom. People who are always pushing their preferences or pushing their opinions on others, that should be a sign to you that this person does not actually have wisdom. if they had wisdom, they would know what Pastor Brandon even taught a few weeks ago. it is like sometimes it is not my business. And I would be glad to give someone counsel or advice if they want it, but it is not my place to intrude, you know, to move an ancient landmark. that is not my place. that is what wisdom does. So, when you have someone who is wise in their own eyes, and that is usually evidenced by they are always forcing their opinions on other people, that is usually a sure sign this person actually is not wise. The wisest people I have ever known are the people who frequently refrain from giving unsolicited advice, but if you ask them, it is like, whoa, they are a wealth of wisdom. And that is an easy trick that gets played on Christians. Ordinary Christians like you and me. The people that present themselves as wise are usually the least wise because if they were wise, they would keep their mouth shut and wait for someone to come to them for counsel. Additionally, you need to be able to judge fruit with this. There are many people who think they are wise and so they always give people counsel or they present themselves as wise and so less mature believers end up going to these people who are w present themselves as wise and then when the less mature people take the counsel of the person who presents themselves as wise then their life is ruined like that is evidence that that person does not have wisdom. So if you think you are wise yet when people take your counsel their life becomes a wreck you need to probably talk less because if you give people wise advice and they follow it it is not going to lead to things like being ruined in their life or a mess in their life. it is going to lead to more godliness and more holiness. I do not mean if someone is persecuted you are unwise. that is not what I mean. But if someone takes your advice and then their life becomes a wreck, you did not give them wise advice. So watch out and watch out with the spiritual gift of wisdom and thinking I have the spiritual gift of wisdom. Just labor to be wise. And when people come to you for counsel, labor to give them biblical counsel. Beware of being wise in your own eyes. But that is what the spiritual gift of wisdom is. people can see the whole board and make right therefore's. And it actually leads to good things when people take their counsel. It helps build up the body of Christ by helping other believers love God with their will, with the decisions that they follow through and what they make. And it helps them know how to act and best glorify God in the many duties and circumstances of life. Now

in the next part of verse 8, we have another spiritual gift that the Apostle Paul mentions. He says, "And to another the utterance of knowledge." it is that same Greek word utterance in the first part of verse 8. And in this part, it is the Greek word logos. Just means word, the word of knowledge. And the reason he says that again is because if you have the spiritual gift of knowledge, the purpose is to share that knowledge with other people for their edification. Not just getting a bigger head, oh great, you are smarter now. But that does not actually help anybody. No, the spiritual gift of knowledge is to be used for the good of other people. So what is the spiritual gift of knowledge? The spiritual gift of knowledge looks like someone who is able to read or listen to things and both comprehend what they are reading or hearing and then commit them to memory. that is it. The spiritual gift of knowledge is someone who is able to read or listen to things and both comprehend. they are able to understand what they are hearing or reading and then to keep it so they stored up that knowledge.

Some people are better, you just need to know this by clarification. Some of you are going to be better at understanding and memorizing things by hearing them. And some of you are going to be better at understanding and memorizing things by reading them. And you do not need to pit those against one another. And you should already know this is true. Some of you like, I have got to read it. If I do not read it, I am not going to comprehend it. I am not going to memorize it. And then some of the rest of you would go, if I hear it, it sticks. it is like if I read it, it does not stick. And it is just a different way to do it. Some people can really retain and understand and memorize information audibly, and some people can do it through reading. You should labor to do both, but it is not something to be afraid of if you are better at reading or you are better at listening. And you should you should realize that there are different levels of being able to read and comprehend or listen. There are different capacities there. There are even different there is a different effectiveness even with each spiritual gift. Somebody might have the spiritual gift of knowledge able to really retain but it is not to the extent that Charles had and Spurgeon had it. Did you know Spurgeon read an entire book every single day? Just blow through them. Spurgeon. If you have ever read any of Spurgeon's sermons, you should at least read one or two of them in your life. They dictated them. His sermons were so powerful that there is someone sitting on the front row because they did not have a way to record it. there is someone sitting on the front row just writing down the entire thing. And then Spurgeon the next day would go back through and edit that transcript that the person was just speedwriting as fast as they could. He would edit it. Then they would type it up. Then they would publish it and they would sell millions of them across the world because his sermons were so powerful. And if you read them, you are like, "Golly, this guy, the metaphors he uses are just striking and helpful." He speaks simply to the average person. Like you can understand what he is saying. You know, his sermons, he did not start writing them until Saturday evening. He would spend a couple of hours Saturday evening. Saturday evening, he would go into his study

with his wife. His wife would come in and help him, and he would be like, "Ah, can you grab me that book, that book, and that book over there?" And he would be sitting down with a piece of paper. Come in my office if you want to see later, and I will show you a it is a photocopy of Spurgeon's notes for his sermon, and you will look at it and go, "There is no way that is all he had in front of him." And what came out of his mouth is what we have printed in his printed sermon. it is like there is no way that could come out of somebody's mouth just extemporaneously. And he just had a chicken scratch outline. he is like, "Yeah, there is a way." Because he had the spiritual gift of knowledge. he is just able to read and comprehend everything. I mean, he is like a computer brain. He obviously had the spiritual gift of knowledge, but not everyone has that kind of extent. Like you do not have to be that and be like, well, I cannot do that, so I do not have the spiritual gift of knowledge. Well, you may still, but you might not have the same effectiveness because the Lord, as we have just seen, there are many a variety of activities, which means the effectiveness of your service, of your using your gift, all that is up to God. So Spurgeon had a crazy effectiveness with the spiritual gift of knowledge. Yours and mine, if we have it, will surely be much less than the Titan of the Prince of Preachers. But the point is, you are able to read or listen to things and both comprehend and commit them to memory. So the spiritual gift of knowledge to give you another anecdote or a metaphor. The spiritual gift of knowledge looks like someone who has been supernaturally gifted by God with either a fast processor or a massive hard drive. Sometimes both.

Some people can just process like a computer like have a very fast processor. Can get tasks done really quickly. can get information and it is like they have already wrapped their mind around it in a few minutes and they are comprehending what you are saying. they are connecting all the different dots and go, "Yeah, I understand what you are saying." Some people have a slower processor and it takes them a lot longer to come to positions or to comprehend what is being said. But the spiritual gift of knowledge is it is like you have got a fast processor or a massive hard drive. You can just It might take you longer to process, but once it is in there, it is just there and you have got it. And so you can share that knowledge with other people. Sometimes it is both. You got a fast processor and a massive hard drive. Can be either or it can be both. that is what it looks like. Boys and girls, look up here at me. Someone that God has given the spiritual gift of knowledge, of knowing true things is able to hear things and understand them pretty quickly and they are also able to remember a lot of things. they are able to like store it up and remember it so that they can recall it and then share it with other people in the future for their good. that is the spiritual gift of knowledge. What does it do? What does the spiritual gift of knowledge do? If it is given for the common good, what does it do? It equips other believers to think rightly. To think rightly about God's essence and attributes, who God is, what he is like, what he does. The spiritual gift of knowledge, since it is given for the common good, it is able to help people think rightly about God's promises. If you are able to comprehend things and memorize

things, I mean guys, if you have never done a deep dive and even to the essence and attributes of God, if you have not done a deep dive into that, then you probably do not realize like we need somebody with a good processor and a big hard drive to help all of us understand all of these complicated things, thinking through the essence and attributes of God. If you have not, just study into divine simplicity. Just look a little bit into that. Ask AI to explain to you in a paragraph what divine simplicity is. And then you are going to read that and go, we really need people with the spiritual gift of knowledge that is able to understand, memorize, and help all of us better think rightly about God's essence and attributes. We also need people who can help us and equip us to think rightly about God's promises, God's commands, God's world. So the spiritual gift of knowledge, we cannot just restrict it to theology, but this is a spiritual gift that God gives so that you, if you have got that gift, can help other people think rightly about what is true, true knowledge. And that does not just mean the only true knowledge or only things are true that are revealed in the Bible. It also would be things like science or history or philosophy or economics or politics or technology or physical health or any other such thing that exists to be used for God's glory. If you have not figured it out yet, some Christians are just a lot better at understanding and memorizing things. And if that is you, you need to use that and lean into that as hard as you possibly can and say, "I can read things pretty fast and understand them and remember them." You need to lean hard into that so that you can use that knowledge to help other believers. What effect does it have the spiritual gift of knowledge in building up the body of Christ? that is the whole point of the spiritual gift to edify the body. So, how does it do that? It helps other believers love God with their mind. With their mind. To think rightly about, to put it simply, God's word and God's world. To think rightly about God's word and God's world. So if you have that gift, put it to use by gaining as much knowledge as possible. Not so that you may be puffed up in pride. Like when Paul says earlier in first Corinthians, pride puffs up, but love builds up. His point is not you do not want knowledge. He says knowledge puffs up you. So therefore, we do not want any knowledge. No, of course that is not what he means. He means knowledge for the sake of knowledge puffs up. But if it is knowledge for the sake of loving your brothers, then that is going to edify them and build them up. So gain as much knowledge as possible so that you may help others understand the truth of God's word and his world. that is how you use that spiritual gift. You should be thankful. If you see other people with that gift, you should be thankful for them. Not like, "Oh, this person is so brainy or this person is so smart or whatever." Like, you should actually be really thankful for them and ask them for some help understanding things that you might not understand as well. People have the spiritual gift of wisdom. You should not disdain them, but thank God for them and seek them out and ask their counsel so that you can avoid ditches and best glorify God. Now, thirdly, look at the beginning of verse 9.

Where he says to another faith by the same spirit keeps underlining the same spirit

is the one who gives these gifts right so we are united we are gifted differently but so we are diverse but we are united because the same spirit has chosen which gift or gifts we get to another faith the spiritual gift of faith by the same spirit some Christians are given the spiritual gift of faith. Now look at me. Every one of you look at me. This is not talking about saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for your salvation. Because in this context, not everyone is given the spiritual gift of faith. So we got to get this clear. Saving faith that every Christian has by which you are not a Christian if you do not have it. saving faith to receive and rest in Christ alone for salvation as he is offered to you in the gospel. That is also a gift and it is a gift from God the Holy Spirit. But he is not talking about the gift of saving faith here in this context. he is talking about a spiritual gift that not every Christian has. And it is the gift here he says of faith. What is the spiritual gift of faith? Matthew Henry says, "It is a faith in the divine power and promise whereby they are enabled to trust God in any emergency and go on in the way of their duty and own and profess the truths of Christ whatever the difficulty or danger." What Henry is saying is the spiritual gift of faith is the person that has a divine that has a trust like this supernatural unshakable trust in the divine power of God and God's promised. And he says whereby they are enabled to trust God in any emergency. When other people are freaking out because of what is happened, the person with the spiritual gift of faith is going, "Guys, God has promised this though, like we are going to be okay. we are going to be okay." So, let me give you an illustration of that. What the spiritual gift of faith looks like. The spiritual gift of faith would look like someone walking through the Red Sea with their head up and their shoulders back. Boys and girls, look up here at me. You remember in the book of Exodus when God set his people free from slavery in Egypt and they are starting to walk toward the promised land. they are set free. The angel of death comes and strikes down all of the firstborn in the land of Egypt except God's people because they took shelter under the blood of the lamb. You remember that? And all of God's people, we think like maybe a million and a half of them are walking through a desert. And then all of a sudden, Pharaoh and his armies say, "Actually, we want you back. We would like you to be our slaves again." So Pharaoh and his army start chasing after God's people and they are encamped in an area where there is mountains on one side. there is a huge sea called the Red Sea on another side. And then from this way, Pharaoh and his armies are coming. So it is like there is a mountain, there is a sea, and there is an army who wants to take us back to be slaves. What did God's people do? You remember? Did they become slaves again? No. The Lord told Moses to raise up his staff in front of the sea. And the Lord parted the waters of the Red Sea. Parted the waters so that the walls of water are standing up so that God's people could walk through the middle and escape the danger of Pharaoh and his army. Boys and girls, can you imagine how terrifying that would be? Massive walls of water. you are in the middle of something that does not just look like a lake, but to us it would look like an ocean. And walls of water are next to you. No idea how high. Probably hundreds and hundreds of feet high. and we are walking through the middle and seems like they could fall down at

any second. it would be terrifying. But they had to either do that or they had to go back and be slaves. And they chose they chose to trust the Lord and they walked through. I think the spiritual gift of faith looks like the person who is just like, "This is awesome." it is like, "Look what God is doing. is not this amazing?" while everybody else is like, "Oh my gosh, what is happening?" they are down. they are cowardly. they are still walking forward. they are trusting the Lord and walking forward, but the person with the spiritual gift of faith is standing up straight with their shoulders back just trusting the Lord. Like, guys, are you kidding me? Why are you freaking out? This is awesome. that is what the spiritual gift of faith looks like. The Lord is delivering us. Why are you guys afraid? Yeah, we are promised to suffer, but we are going to be okay because God works all things together for good for those who love him and are called according to his purpose. The Christian who is battling with indwelling sin, the person with the spiritual gift of faith goes, I am sure that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. The Christian who feels overwhelming guilt, the person with the spiritual gift of faith will go, "No, no, he himself bore our sins in his body on the tree that we might die to sin and live to righteousness." The person who is fearful about what is going to happen in the future, the person will respond with the spiritual gift of faith and said, "Do you not remember how Jesus promised that one day he will make all things new, even you, and you will reign with him on the earth for all eternity?" The person with the spiritual gift of faith trusts in the providence, the promise of God, and that gift is given to them, remember, not for their own good. it is given to them for the good of other people to remind them of the promises to exhort them to trust the providence of God. And they do not just go, man, that is hard. I bet you do feel really guilty. it is like, no, there is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For God has done what the law weakened by the flesh could not do. He sent his own son in the likeness of sinful flesh and in him he condemned sin in the flesh so that the spirit and the law of God might be fulfilled in us who walk not according to the flesh but according to the spirit. The person with the spiritual gift of faith has that gift so that they can encourage other Christians, especially when they are suffering, especially when they have been sinful, especially when they are sick. Like, you are sick. I will pray for you. And I will remind you of God's promise that he is going to give you a new glorified body one day and you will never be sick again. you are sinful. One day he is going to make you like a pillar in the temple of his God. Stable, steadfast. you will never be tempted again. you will never sin again. Your suffering. he is promised not only to work all your suffering to prepare you for that eternal weight of glory beyond comparison, but he is promised one day to rid this world and even you of any suffering. There will be no more tears, no more crying, no more pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. that is in your future, Christian. that is what the person with the spiritual gift of faith does for other people. They encourage them to keep their eyes on the Lord and on his promises and trusting his providence. Just like the person walking through the Red Sea that the people who are stumbling and cowering and maybe just freaking out so badly they want to

sit down. The person with the gift of faith like, "Stand up. we are about there." Like, just keep going. he is going to keep the walls up. He did not put the walls up to deliver us halfway and then let us be crushed. I bet he is going to crush Pharaoh and his armies. The person with the spiritual gift of faith could probably even guess that once God's people get through fa I bet Pharaoh and his armies are going to try to come in after us. And I bet God's going to drown him. Watch. Like I do not know if he is going to do that. Yeah, he is. Watch. And he did. What effect does that have on building up the body of Christ? Well, it helps other believers love God with their affections, with their loves and their hates. It helps them love God with their affections so that they would not be downcast, but they would hope in God and remember the promises and thank God and love him from a pure heart. So if you have the spiritual gift of faith, you need to put it to use by trusting the promises and providence of God and always being ready to encourage other people to trust his promises and providence. These are the spiritual gifts that Paul mentions in verses 8 and nine.

And now in conclusion, I said I was going to give you some directions, but we will have to save those for the next Lord's Day. Let me make sure this is crystal clear. In conclusion, all wisdom, all knowledge, and all faith must have Christ Jesus as its focus and center. Every bit of it. There is no true wisdom without Christ who is wisdom personified. Go read go read Proverbs 8 where the son of God the eternal son of God the Lord Jesus Christ is personified as wisdom itself. there is no wisdom without Christ. There is no true knowledge without Christ who is the creator, the sustainer and the savior of the world. There is no faith without Christ. Christ is the object of our saving faith. he is the author of all faith that we have and he is the finisher of our faith. Remember what Paul says in Colossians 2:3, "In Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Unbelievers you have got no wisdom, no knowledge, no faith apart from Christ. So come to him and receive salvation. receive forgiveness of your sins and be gifted by God the Holy Spirit for others good and for God's glory. Believers, benefit from these gifts. And if you have these gifts, use them for others good and the Lord's glory.

Pray with me. Our Father in heaven, we thank you for your word. We ask you to help us understand these gifts and to use them if we have them. and to benefit from others who have them so that we all may be edified and built up and be a strong, healthy, faithful local body and that in which you would be glorified. We ask you to receive our songs, our prayers, the Lord's supper, our offerings, the fellowship, everything that we do now in response to your word to worship you in spirit and in truth. We ask you to receive them for Christ's sake. We offer them up through faith in him. And our desire is that they would be a pleasing smell in your nostrils and a sweet sound in your ears. be glorified in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations forever and ever. Amen.

