

FINDING MY PLACEMENT IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

I. INTRODUCTION:

- A. The context of this passage in referencing spiritual gifts:
- B. The definition of spiritual gifts: (See handout)
- C. The Spirit's ministry:
 - 1. Baptism of the Holy Spirit: (*Acts 2:38; 1 Cor. 12:13; 3:16b*)
 - 2. Gifts of the Holy Spirit: (*1 Cor. 12; Rom. 12:6-8; Eph. 4:11; 1 Pet. 4:11*)
 - 3. Filling of the Holy Spirit: (*Eph. 5:18b*)
 - 4. Fruit of the Holy Spirit: (*Gal. 5:22-23*)
- D. The referencing of a church being a body of believers: (*1 Cor. 12; Rom. 12:4-8*)

II. SPIRITUAL GIFTS INTRODUCED: vv. 1-11

- A. The danger of spiritual gifts: vv. 1-3
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
- B. The reason for spiritual gifts: vv. 4-7
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
- C. The variety of spiritual gifts: vv. 8-11 (See handout)

III. APPLICATIONS:

- A.
- B.
- C.

UNDERSTANDING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

I. **SPIRITUAL GIFTS DEFINED:** "Spiritual gifts are special abilities that equip me to function as an essential part in the local body of Christ with ease and success. They are given to me at the moment of my salvation by the Holy Spirit and each born again believer has at least one. Since it is an unconditional gift, it can't be lost or taken away. Spiritual gifts can be broken down into three basic headings which are **service gifts, support gifts, and sign gifts.**

II. **"SERVICE" GIFTS DEFINED:** Service gifts are those gifts that minister to others behind the scenes and are rarely publicly acknowledged. Most Christians have at least one of these gifts, yet they are rarely discovered because they are not as glamorous as the support or sign gifts.

A. **Spiritual gift of administration:** This individual is calm, showing leadership with tact and skill when the battle is raging. He knows where he is going and can excite others to go with him. *(1 Cor. 12:28; Rom. 12:8)*

B. **Spiritual gift of exhortation:** It is a personal one on one ministry of challenge driving home specific truths from God's Word to individual lives in a practical and tactful way. The gift of counseling and exhortation are synonymous. *(Rom. 12:8)*

C. **Spiritual gift of faith:** This person has the ability to take hold of God's promises for results far beyond the power of man to achieve. In spite of insurmountable odds, this person remains firm. *(1 Cor. 12:9)*

D. **Spiritual gift of giving:** This person has the ability to be sensitive and to provide for the needs of other saints with joy and generosity over and above their tithing responsibilities to the local church. *(Rom. 12:8)*

E. **Spiritual gift of mercy:** This person has the ability to enter into the needs and heartaches of fellow believers and bring cheer and encouragement. It is the idea of visiting, encouraging, strengthening and sharing in another's burdens. *(Rom. 12:8)*

F. **Spiritual gift of helps:** This person gets involved in caring for, assisting, or supporting other saints in the ministry where ever they, he or she is needed. This person rarely gets any public attention, but without him or her, the local church would collapse. *(1 Cor. 12:28)*

III. **"SUPPORT" GIFTS DEFINED:** Support gifts involve the ministry of the Word. These gifts are given more authority and honor than most of the other gifts. They are group oriented and designed to finely tune the other gifts. Once again, we can see the balance of God's Word. God knew that for a local church to reach any level of maturity, it would need a maintenance ministry done to existing parts (the service gifts), while conducting an aggressive building ministry (the support gifts), to expand and further equip the local church to "reach their world for Christ". Every local church must have both a maintenance ministry and a building ministry going on, or it will soon be a dead church.

A. **Spiritual gift of apostleship:** To qualify to be an apostle, a man would have to be a witness of the resurrection and of the resurrected Lord. This gift was first in rank and order. An apostle usually possessed most of the sign gifts as well as the ability to carry out the support gifts. Their job description included founding churches and supernaturally upholding those local churches until the Bible was completed and available. The gift ceased due to its limited definition. *(1 Cor. 12:28)*

B. Spiritual gift of **prophecy**: "The word for prophet means to speak out. The gift included receiving a message directly from God through special revelation, being guided in declaring it to the people, and having it authenticated in some way by God Himself. It ceased upon the completion of the Word." *Ryrie (1 Cor. 12:10,28)*

C. Spiritual gift of **evangelism**: The word means gospelizer. This person has the ability to share the Gospel with his or her lost world with more ease and success than fellow Christians experience. *(Eph. 4:11)*

D. Spiritual gift of **pastor-teacher**: This ability is given exclusively to a man to shepherd the flock of Jesus Christ in a local church setting. He is responsible for not only leading the sheep, but feeding, caring, and guarding the sheep that are entrusted to his care. *(Eph. 4:11)*

E. Spiritual gift of **teaching**: It is the only spiritual gift mentioned in every list found in Scripture. This person has the ability to instruct others from God's Word with relevant application. A pastor is a teacher but a teacher is not necessarily a pastor. Women as well as men can have this gift, but women are limited as to who and where they can teach. *(1 Cor. 12:28)*

III. **"SIGN" GIFTS DEFINED**: Sign gifts were super-human abilities used to alter the laws of nature as signs in the early church to authenticate God's spokesman. They, for the most part, were no longer needed after the dispensation of the local church was established, and the written Word was completed.

A. Spiritual gift of **miracles**: The person who had the gift of miracles had the super human ability to alter the laws of nature by super-human power. Most of God's dispensations throughout Scripture began with a display of miracles and after the dispensation was under way, they subsided. To say the gift of miracles has ceased, does not mean that miracles have ceased. *(1 Cor. 12:10)*

B. Spiritual gift of **healing**: The person who had this gift had the super-human ability to restore health immediately and at will.

C. Spiritual gift of **knowledge**: This person had the super-human ability to possess facts and understanding to make right decisions without previously being taught those facts. *(1 Cor. 13:8)*

D. Spiritual gift of **interpretation of tongues**: This person was a man who was recognized by the local church to have the ability to interpret any tongue spoken at any time during any service. *(1 Cor. 12:30)*

E. Spiritual gift of **tongues**: This person had the Spirit-given ability to speak in utterances not otherwise known, to be used exclusively as a sign to unbelievers. These utterances had to follow strict guidelines spelled out in I Corinthians 14. *(1 Cor. 12:28)*