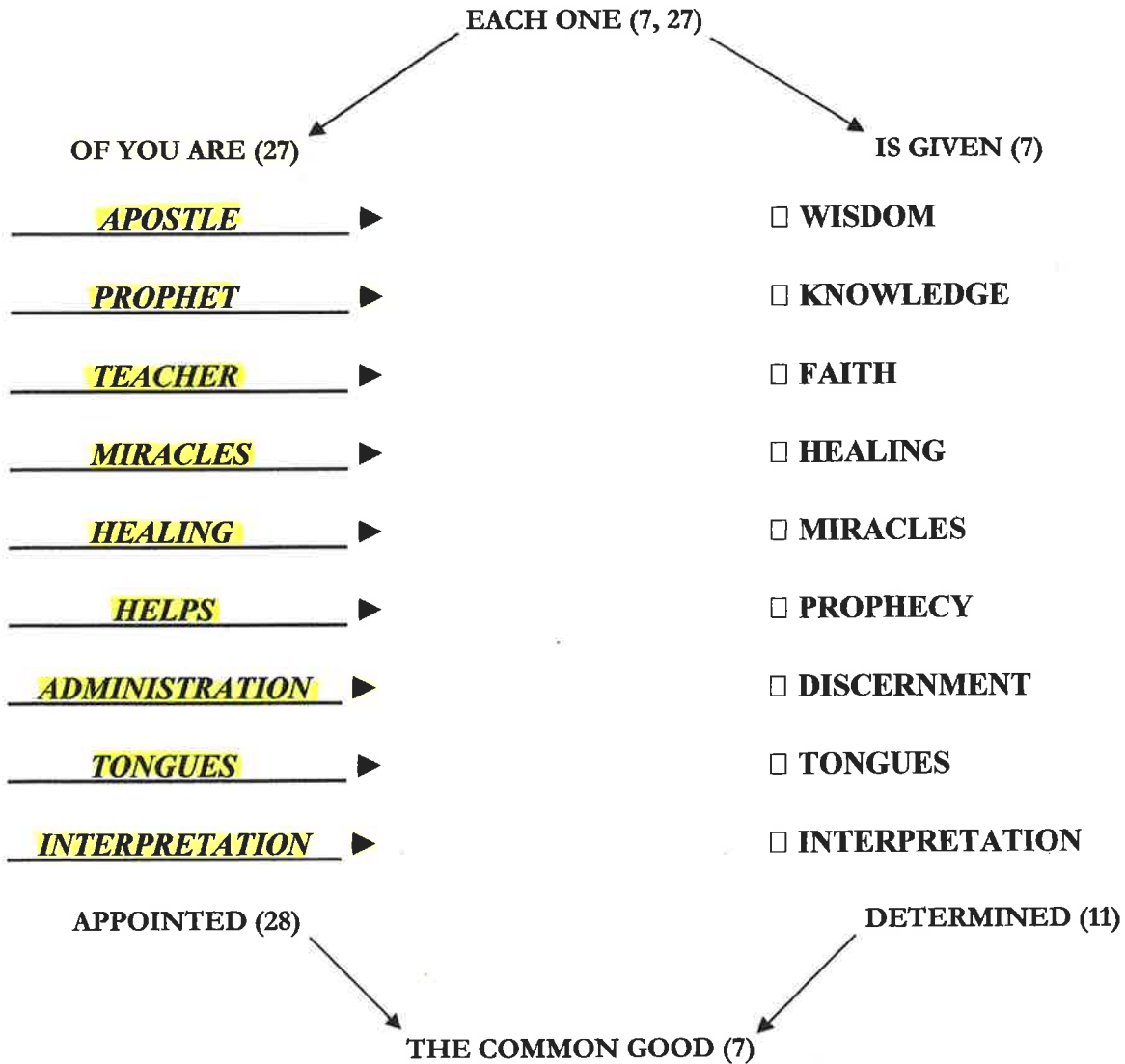


## What is the relationship between 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 and 27-31?

### B. Position and Function



Spiritual gifts are *distinct manifestations of the Holy Spirit's presence in and through the body of Christ*. In 1 Corinthians 12:7-11, the word "body" doesn't appear, though it is used 17 times in this chapter. Emphasis is on the divine side of the gifts. In 12:27-31, the word "Spirit" doesn't appear, though it is used 10 times in this chapter. Emphasis is on the human side of the gifts. In 12:14-26, we have a candid description of how the human side CAN react to the divine side when they converge. What comes into being are inferiority and superiority complexes that alienate parts of the body. The proper response to this dilemma is for those members of the body who recognize what is happening to give honor to the parts that are lacking it until there is equal concern.

## *If I believe the Holy Spirit wants me to share a spiritual gift during a service or in a group, what should I do?*

### C. Procedure

The answer to this question comes from learning in advance what the church has determined to be fitting and in good order. Basic Guidelines

1. **RECOGNIZE** that the leader is responsible to determine where a gift should fit. To speak forth, suddenly or arbitrarily, may be acceptable in some churches. But, by no means is this practice universally endorsed. The shepherd/leader bears the responsibility for the flock, especially in his pasture (Acts 20:28-30). Therefore, I strongly recommend that the leader be informed of what you believe to be God's leading prior to presenting the gift publicly.
2. Be careful not to confuse the **IMPULSE** to act with the decision to speak (1 Corinthians 14:32). There can be effects, feelings or reactions to the movement of the Spirit within a person that take on a physiological form, such as: a quickened heart rate, sweating, shaking, falling, or speaking in tongues. We need to learn to submit these impulses to the fruit of the Spirit, self-control. If not, we may end up doing what we "feel" at an inappropriate time (1 Corinthians 13:11).
3. Wait to be **ACKNOWLEDGED**. This is courteous and communicates respect for everyone present (Acts 13:14-15).
4. Be willing to accept that just as you feel led to share a gift, there are others who are being led to **WEIGH CAREFULLY** what you say (1 Corinthians 14:29).
5. If, for some reason, **PERMISSION** is not given to speak, do not automatically assume that the Spirit is being quenched or that your ministry is not being accepted. YOUR JOB IS TO DELIVER THE GIFT TO BE WEIGHED (1 Corinthians 13:9 → 14:29).
6. Neither is it your job to try to **CONVINCE** others that God is speaking through you. That is for them to decide (1 Thessalonians 5:19-21).
7. Every time we sense the Spirit prompting us to minister a spiritual gift there is something for us to learn in order that we may mature in our faith, delight in God and glorify his Son (Revelation 19:10).

## *What obstacles need to be overcome in the ministry of spiritual gifts?*

### **D. Obstacles to Overcome to the Way of Love (1 Corinthians 13:4-5)**

In the process of **DESIRING** spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:31; 14:1, 39) or in the knowledge that we are in our **PLACE** in the body (1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 4:7-8) or in **MINISTERING** the gifts, the Lord will work to remove impediments to *the way of love* by replacing them with the fruit of the Spirit.

1. **ENVY** manifests itself when we are jealous of the gifts of others. The contentment we need comes from the Spirit's Peace.
2. **SELF-SEEKING** Sharing a gift of the Spirit is "*for the common good*", the Goodness of another, not to advance myself.
3. **IMPATIENCE** with myself or others fosters frustration toward God. He imparts gifts *as he determines*. When we are patient we are at rest in his presence.
4. **BOASTING** is rooted in the "Superiority complex" from chapter 12 and detachment from others. We need Joy.
5. **PRIDE** is indicative of a life out of balance; a condescending approach toward others. Love (humility) conquers pride.
6. **UNKIND** Sharing a gift in Kindness doesn't reduce its power but makes it easy to receive.
7. **RUDE** Over-assertiveness or brashness in ministering gifts is intimidating and manipulative. More is accomplished with Gentleness.
8. **KEEPING RECORDS of WRONGS** is condemnation of myself or unforgiveness towards others. Exercising Self-control helps.
9. **ANGER** can come about as a result of things not going the way we anticipated or hoped. Be Faithful anyway.