

WIND

The Power and Personality of Christ

Small Group Study Guide

READ · 1 Corinthians 14:1

“Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts.”

Where We Have Been

Over the last three weeks we explored truths about the Holy Spirit.

Week 1: The Person	Week 2: The Power	This Week: The Personality
Not a force, but a Person	Pentecost	Fruit of the Spirit
Our Helper and Comforter	Spiritual gifts	Character formed in us
Our Advocate	Power for ministry	Becoming like Jesus

BIG IDEA

The gifts of the Spirit reveal the power of Christ.

The fruit of the Spirit reveals the personality of Christ.

Both are needed for healthy, Christ-centered ministry.

PART 1

Why Did God Give Spiritual Gifts?

READ · 1 Corinthians 12:1-7

“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”

What Gifts Are Not For

- Elevating individuals
- Creating spiritual celebrities
- Drawing attention to ourselves

What Gifts Are For

- Glorifying Christ
- Strengthening the Church
- Serving others
- Advancing God’s mission

PART 2

The Nine Gifts of the Spirit

READ · 1 Corinthians 12:8-10

Paul lists nine gifts, given by one Spirit, for the good of the whole body.

Gifts That Say Something

Gift	What It Is
Prophecy	A Spirit-inspired message that strengthens, encourages, and comforts.
Languages (Tongues)	A Spirit-enabled language used in prayer, worship, or ministry.
Interpretation	The Spirit-given ability to communicate the meaning of a language message.

Gifts That Do Something

Gift	What It Is
Faith	Supernatural confidence in God for a particular situation.
Healing	God working through believers to bring healing.
Miracles	Supernatural acts that demonstrate God's power.

Gifts That Reveal Something

Gift	What It Is
Word of Wisdom	Divine insight for applying God's truth.
Word of Knowledge	Spirit-revealed information not known naturally.
Discernment of Spirits	The ability to distinguish spiritual influences.

PART 3

What Makes Spiritual Gifts Healthy?

READ · 1 Corinthians 12:12 - 13:3

Paul places the Love Chapter right between two chapters on spiritual gifts (12 and 14). That placement is on purpose.

Love protects spiritual power. It keeps our gifts pointed at God and people instead of ourselves.

KEY PRINCIPLE

Power without character becomes dangerous.

Character without power becomes incomplete.

PART 4

The Fruit of the Spirit

READ · Galatians 5:22-23

Paul does not say “fruits.” He says “fruit.” One Spirit. One life. One Christ. Nine expressions of one character.

Fruit	What It Looks Like
Love	Putting others first.
Joy	Delight in God.
Peace	Rest in God’s control.
Patience	Trusting God’s timing.
Kindness	Compassion in action.
Goodness	Doing what is right.
Faithfulness	Staying true.
Gentleness	Strength under control.
Self-Control	Mastering desires through the Spirit.

PART 5

The Battle Within

READ · Galatians 5:16-18

The Christian life holds a real battle. The flesh wants one thing. The Spirit wants another. The fight happens in the soul: our mind, our will, and our emotions.

The Flesh Produces	The Spirit Produces
Works	Fruit
Striving	Growth
Performance	Transformation
Self-reliance	Christlikeness

PART 6

Means of Grace

Fruit grows naturally, but healthy things still need nourishment. The means of grace are the practices that position us to receive what God wants to give.

Practice	Practice
Scripture	Communion
Prayer	Solitude
Worship	Service
Fellowship	Generosity

IMPORTANT TRUTH

These practices do not earn God's favor.

They position us to receive God's grace.

PART 7

Gifts Reveal Power, Fruit Reveals Maturity

No matter how powerful the gift, gifts are not the final sign of spiritual health. Fruit is.

A Picture To Hold Onto

Ornaments can be hung on a dead tree. Fruit only grows on a living one. The gifts may decorate a ministry, but the fruit is what validates it.

PART 8

The Ministry of Christ

“The fruit of the Spirit is the personality of Christ. The gifts of the Spirit are the power of Christ. The power of Christ and the personality of Christ produce the ministry of Christ.”

— Ron Mehl

READ · 1 Corinthians 14:1-33

The Christian life holds a real battle. The flesh wants one thing. The Spirit wants another. The fight happens in the soul: our mind, our will, and our emotions.

The Final Principle

Healthy churches pursue all of it together: spiritual gifts, spiritual fruit, biblical truth, and Christlike character.

THE GOAL

Not simply powerful ministry.

Christ-centered ministry.

APPLICATION

This Week

Carry the study into your everyday life with these five questions.

1. Which spiritual gift do you believe God has given you?
2. Which fruit needs the most growth in your life?
3. Which means of grace will you intentionally practice this week?
4. How can you strengthen the Church through your gifts?
5. How can you better reflect the character of Christ?