

What is a Normal Christian?

- A “Normal Christian” is a Christian who conforms to the Norm or Standard of a Christian... which would be Jesus
- John 14:12 – ... whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

Gifts of the Spirit

- 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 – 4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. 7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8 To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

Seven Practical Pointers

- 1) The Gifts are Meant to Build Up the Church
 - 1 Corinthians 12:7 - Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good
 - Using the gifts of the Spirit will encourage and strengthen you personally, but their primary use is to bless others, not yourself.
- 2) The Gifts are Meant to Glorify Jesus, Not You
 - John 16:13-14 – 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. 14 He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you.
 - If you seek the gifts to glorify yourself, the Holy Spirit will not endorse you for long
- 3) The Gifts of the Spirit Don't Replace the Fruit of the Spirit
 - There are 9 Gifts of the Spirit and 9 Fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control)
 - We need both the Gifts and the Fruit. Neither is more important.
- 4) The Gifts of the Spirit are Gifts
 - They are gifts freely given from God to be received, not payment earned from God for living a godly life.
 - 1) You are already as worthy as you will ever be to operate in the gifts, because they aren't payment for you attaining some level of maturity or holiness
 - 2) There will be some who operate in the gifts that don't look like they “deserve” them
 - Just because someone has a powerful gift doesn't mean they are a godly person
 - Romans 11:29 – for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable
- 5) We Should Desire the Gifts of the Spirit
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:19-20 – 19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not treat prophecies with contempt
 - 1 Timothy 4:14 – Do not neglect the gift that is in you...
 - 2 Timothy 1:6 – stir up the gift of God which is in you...
 - The Example of Corinth
 - The Corinthian church had major problems with sin and they were a little too wild with the Holy Spirit

- 1 Corinthians 12:31 – ...eagerly desire the greater gifts...
 - 1 Corinthians 14:1 – ...eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy...
 - 1 Corinthians 14:39 – ...be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues.
 - It's not out of balance to seek the Gifts of the Spirit. It's out of balance to reject them.
- 6) If you're Filled with the Holy Spirit, You Get All His Gifts Too
 - If you're filled with the Holy Spirit, you have the Gift Giver inside you, and He brings all His gifts... but you will typically be most comfortable moving in 1 or 2
- 7) The Gifts Work Best Combined with Love
 - It's no accident that, in the middle of the Bible's longest teaching on the Gifts of the Spirit (1 Cor 12, 14), is the Bible's longest teaching on love.
 - 1 Corinthians 12:30-31 - 30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? 31 Now eagerly desire the greater gifts. And yet I will show you the most excellent way.
 - 1 Corinthians 13:1-2 - 1 If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.