

Activating Our Position in Christ
1 Corinthians 12:7-11
Understanding Spiritual Gifts – Part 2

Today we are going to take a little deeper look into the gifts of the Holy Spirit mentioned here...

1 Corinthians 12:7–11 (ESV) — To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

1. The “WHO” of Spiritual Gifts

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I have been walking in the gifts of the Holy Spirit for so many years that I sometimes forget the many things I have wrestled through and studied deeply regarding the gifts...

As a result, some of you may think of the gifts in a denominational way...

Charismatics focus on the gifts of the Holy Spirit...

Evangelicals (non-charismatics) focus on the Bible...

➤ **The gifts of the Holy Spirit are not denominational, but biblical!**

John 4:23–24 (ESV) — But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Just because some people do them badly doesn’t give us an excuse to not walk in them at all!

The Eleventh Commandment of the Evangelical believer
– “Thou shall not do at all what others do badly.”

For many believers in America and much of the West, this question is preceded by an even more sad question... “Do Christians STILL HAVE Spiritual gifts?”

A few years ago a well known pastor and author named John McArthur wrote a book titled, “Strange Fire”.

In the book he begins to name names of those he refers to as false teachers of this “strange fire”...

In response to this book, Dr. Michael Brown wrote a book titled, “Authentic Fire”.

So, to our question, “Who DOESN’T have the gifts of the Holy Spirit,” those following a strict cessationists line would answer, “No one today has any of those gifts.”

Where does this idea come from?

1 Corinthians 13:8–10 (ESV) — Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.

The idea is that when the Scripture we currently hold was canonized, we no longer needed the gifts because now we have the “perfect”.

Two quick problems with this however...

First...

1 Corinthians 13:11–12 (ESV) — When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

Second...

1 Corinthians 1:4-8 (ESV) – I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is clear here that the Apostle Paul himself didn't believe in the cessation of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit until Jesus returns...

My firm belief is that this false idea that the gifts have ceased comes from a combination of several things

- **An overreaction against false signs (fanaticism)**
- **An over-estimation of one's personal maturity (this is the prideful idea that believes, “If the gifts really existed then I would be experiencing them”).**
- **Misinformed by false teachers**
- **Unwillingness to be misunderstood (fear of man)**
- **Unbelief**

Romans 8:9 (ESV) — You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

Romans 8:16 (ESV) — The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

1. The “WHO” of Spiritual Gifts

2. The “WHY” of Spiritual Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:7 (ESV) — To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

➤ **The REVELATION of the SPIRIT**

The word, “manifestation”...

φανέρωσις

The word means...

To cause something to be fully known by revealing clearly and in some detail

The Spiritual gifts are first given to reveal the Holy Spirit!

➤ **The RELATIONS within the BODY**

1 Corinthians 12:7 (ESV) — To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

The phrase “for the common good”...

συμφέρω

To be of an advantage to someone

When we as believers are not allowing the gifts of the Spirit to be manifest through us we are, in reality, depriving others of His advantages...

1 Peter 4:10–11 (ESV) — As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Here, Peter breaks down the Gifts of the Holy Spirit into TWO major categories... (Speaking & Serving)

The Greek word used here for “GIFT” (charisma) is the same word used for “spiritual gift” in 1 Corinthians 12...

The more “other centered” we live, the more we will want the gifts of the Spirit to be released through us to others!

1. The “WHO” of Spiritual Gifts

2. The “WHY” of Spiritual Gifts

3. The “WHAT” of Spiritual Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:8–10 (ESV) — For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

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There are various ways of dividing the gifts, but for us we will be dividing them into THREE GROUPINGS...

→ **Pic 1**

The Grouping of Spiritual Gifts		
Perceiving	Power	Proclaiming

→ **Pic 2**

The Grouping of Spiritual Gifts		
Perceiving	Power	Proclaiming
Wisdom		
Knowledge		
Discerning of spirits		

→ **Pic 3**

The Grouping of Spiritual Gifts		
Perceiving	Power	Proclaiming
Wisdom	Faith	
Knowledge	Healings	
Discerning of spirits	Miracles	

→ **Pic 4**

The Grouping of Spiritual Gifts		
Perceiving	Power	Proclaiming
Wisdom	Faith	Prophecy
Knowledge	Healings	Tongues
Discerning of spirits	Miracles	Interpretation of tongues

1. The **“WHO”** of Spiritual Gifts

2. The **“WHY”** of Spiritual Gifts

3. The **“WHAT”** of Spiritual Gifts

4. The **“HOW”** of Spiritual Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:11 (ESV) — All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

The word, “empowered”...

ἐνεργέω – (energeo)

It sounds like our word, ENERGY!

To cause a state to be—‘to cause to be, to make to be, to make, to result in, to bring upon, to bring about.

It means to energize!

The word, “apportions”... means...

To divide and distribute to persons on the basis of certain implied distinctions or differences

When the prodigal son went to his father and asked for his portion of his father’s wealth...

Luke 15:12 (ESV) — And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them.

We will see later in our study of 1 Corinthians how much we are to “eagerly desire” the spiritual gifts, but let me close with this warning and encouragement...

➤ ***Avoid FOOLISH risks with the gifts***

1 Corinthians 12:11 (ESV) — All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

Presumption and Assumption are two dangerous enemies against the gifts!

→ It is HERE why I emphasize daily surrender and focusing on the FRUIT of the Spirit!

➤ ***Employ FAITH risks with the gifts***

Luke 11:10–13 (ESV) — For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are

evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

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Luke 10:19 (ESV) — Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.

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1. The _____ of Spiritual Gifts

2. The _____ of Spiritual Gifts

- The _____ of the _____
- The _____ within the _____

3. The _____ of Spiritual Gifts

The Grouping of Spiritual Gifts		

4. The _____ of Spiritual Gifts

- Avoid _____ risks with the gifts
- Employ _____ risks with the gifts