



gracefellowship

Spiritual Gifts- JTerm
June 2, 2019
The Gifts and The Giver

:: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Introduction: If you could have any one super power, what would you choose? Tell the person sitting beside you what you chose.

- Flight
- Strength
- Speed
- Invisibility
- Mind control (parents...rethink your choice!)

Everyone has probably imagined what it would be like to have a super power. I know we dream about this because every time MARVEL or DC release a new superhero movie, it makes billions of dollars!

We dream about having supernatural abilities. What if I told you that as a follower of Jesus, that is not only available to you, it's part of life as a disciple of Jesus? Throughout the month of June we are going to be teaching on Spiritual Gifts in our JTerm study. Those Wednesday night sessions are where we will really get into the details of the Spiritual Gifts. Today and next Sunday I am also going to be teaching on the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives to empower us for works of service in God's Kingdom. But these gifts we receive are not only for use in the church- they help us be more devoted husbands/wives; better parents; more capable bosses and employees. The gifts the Holy Spirit of God gives to us are useful in every aspect of life.

It is important for followers of Jesus to know and understand what the work of the Holy Spirit is in our lives and how to utilize the gifts He gives to us. Paul wrote to the Church in Corinth and pointed out this reality...

:: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

1 Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed.

2 You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols.

3 Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus be cursed,” and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.

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.

In verse 1 Paul says he doesn't want us to be uninformed about spiritual gifts. His heart is to keep us from being in the dark and missing out on an important aspect of life as a disciple of Jesus.

We need to be informed about spiritual gifts because things we don't understand often scare us.

Illustration: In the movie “Batman Begins” when Bruce Wayne chose bats to be the symbol of his crime fighting in Gotham City, his butler, Alfred asked him: “Why bats, Mr. Wayne?” To which Bruce Wayne responds: “Bats frighten me. It's time my enemies shared my dread.”

When we are scared or uninformed about something we tend to stay away from it. Paul wants us to have knowledge and understanding about who the Holy Spirit is and what He is doing through the giving of spiritual gifts.

Look at verses 4-6 for our first bit of understanding.

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.

While there are different kinds of gifts, service and working, they fall under the authority of the same God.

This is a highly Trinitarian passage, showing the unity and authority of all three persons of the Godhead involved in the giving and use of spiritual gifts.

Paul uses three different Greek words here to describe the gifts God gives:

Gifts = charisma (khar'-is-mah)

This is where we get our English word “charisma” or “charismatic.”

Service = diakonia (dee-ak-on-ee'-ah)

We get our English word “Deacon” from this word. Deacons are servants within the church body.

Working = energēma (en-erg'-ay-mah)

From this word we get the words “energy” and “energetic.”

“All of these are gifts. Some gifts are ministries – standing offices or positions in the church. Some gifts are activities – miraculous events or outpourings at a particular time and place.” – David Guzik

Everyone has a different role to play in life with the gifts they are given, but we all submit in authority to the same God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Which means we take our gifts and use them for the purposes God lays out for us, not for our own selfish reasons. The gifts, as we will see next week, are meant to unite us, not cause us to be jealous of other’s gifts.

That brings us to our next question:

Who gets Spiritual Gifts?

If you watch superhero movies or read comics you know that not everyone gets powerful abilities. You have to be born with them, evolve into them, come from a different planet, or be in some kind of accident, like falling into a nasty chemical cocktail. Only certain people end up with powers, while the rest of humanity is unlucky. But that is not the case in the Christian faith!

7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

Each and every Christian gets at least one spiritual gift!

We are going to be talking about this throughout the month in JTerm and helping you discern what your gift(s) may be. **If you are a follower of Jesus, you have been given a spiritual gift for at least 3 reasons:**

First, to show how much God loves you.

James 1:17 says “Every good and perfect gift comes from above...”

Second, to exercise in your personal life to edify the people of God.

We are going to talk about this more specifically next weekend, but our gifts are to be used within the family of God to draw us closer to one another and closer to the God we serve.

Third, the gifts of the Spirit are meant to benefit the Church and to bless the world.

Each gift is a manifestation of the Spirit in your life. He is our power source as we follow Jesus. Paul says the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the common good. In other words, the Holy Spirit empowers you to bless and encourage others!

When you become a follower of Jesus the Holy Spirit takes up residency in your life! Sometimes you'll hear people in Christian circles say Jesus comes to live in your heart- which is a weird thing we say...especially when trying to explain that idea to children! I think that comes from Ephesians 3:16-17 when Paul says, 16 "I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith."

It's not meant to express that Jesus or the Holy Spirit live in the blood pumping organ or our body as much as it is meant to express that God dwells intimately and personally with us. The heart is the emotional center of our lives, so it's a way of expressing the relationship we are meant to have with God as His Spirit resides within us.

To truly understand that spiritual gifts God gives us through the Holy Spirit we need to get to know the Holy Spirit! I asked a friend of mine about a year ago to describe to me the relationship he had with each person in the Trinity. After talking about how he interacts with God the Father and Jesus on a personal level he admitted he hadn't really thought about his relationship with the Holy Spirit. I bet if we were honest, many of us have been in that place, or are there currently.

- We should talk to the Holy Spirit; He is, after-all, God!
- We should listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit.
- We should be empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- We should show dependency on the Holy Spirit.
- We should feel loved by the Holy Spirit; and love Him in return.
- We should take time to get to know the Holy Spirit personally.

With that in mind, here is a taste of what there is to gain in knowing the Holy Spirit:

(Read this section)

The Holy Spirit is God, unique and distinctive from the Father and Son, but sharing the same divine essence. Saint Augustine said this about the nature of the Trinity: "There is the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit- each one of these is God, and all of them together are one God; each of these is a full substance and all together are one substance. They have the same eternal

nature, the same unchangeableness, the same majesty and the same power. In the Father there is unity...And all three are all one because of the Father, all equal because of the Son and all in harmony because of the Holy Spirit." (The Trinity, pg 46 Olson and Hall)

The Spirit of God works with us in the goal of sanctification, revealing sin and helping us fight against it's grip and revealing Jesus so we can be like Him. Becoming like Jesus results in the fruit of the Spirit being grown in the life of Christians. The fruit of the Spirit are not spiritual gifts, they are supernatural signs of life change, identifying us with Jesus.

The Holy Spirit seals us in Christ at the moment of our salvation and acts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come in eternity.

The Holy Spirit is our comforter and counselor, promised by Jesus when He ascended to heaven. He is the first and greatest gift Jesus gave His followers!

The Holy Spirit illuminates God's Word. If you want to better know and understand Scripture, get to know the Holy Spirit and learn to listen to His voice. The Holy Spirit is the giver of supernatural gifts to every disciple of Jesus. To best understand the gifts of the Spirit we must walk in relationship with Him. Your relationship with the Holy Spirit is vitally important if you are going to make an impact on the Church and the world!

Getting back to 1 Corinthians 12, Paul next lists some of the gifts the Spirit hands out- this is not an exhaustive list, so we will also look at other passages in the Bible that deal with Spiritual Gifts. As homework, go back through these passages this week and circle the gifts you see.

What are the Gifts of the Spirit?

:: 1 Corinthians 12:8-10

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.

:: Ephesians 4:11-13

11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers,

12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

:: Romans 12:6-8

**6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith;
7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach;
8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.**

Paul here not only tells us what gifts are given, but how to exercise them.

:: 1 Corinthians 12:28

28 And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues.

As we hear those passages read, here is what I want you to remember: God loves you so much that He has gifted you with at least one of these things in order to draw you closer into relationship with Him, to build up the Church and to make Jesus known in the world.

I want us to see one last point from 1 Corinthians 12 and then I'm going to give you four takeaways:

11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

The Holy Spirit is the giver of God's gifts and He chose yours for you strategically! He determines what gifts go to what person. The Holy Spirit will gift you in a way that His gift will be best used for God's glory in this world.

With that in mind, let me give you 4 quick take aways:

- 1. I am gifted.**
- 2. My gift is important and special.**
- 3. My gift is meant to benefit others.**
- 4. Walking with God's Spirit is vital to my success.**

After final song:

We all deal with insecurity. None of us are given these gifts based on our performance. Rather, we are gifted to draw us deeper into relationship and dependency on God. The gospel is that we aren't good enough on our own and yet, God loves us so much that He purchased us and made us part of His family. Not only that- He gifts us to serve within His Kingdom. This is a process that you will grow in throughout your life following Jesus! Lean into Him and trust the Holy Spirit to guide you in the use of your gift(s).