

September 2nd – Spiritual Gifts

“There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.” (1 Cor. 12:4-7)

I’m sure you’ve heard your pastor or fellow believers talk about spiritual gifts. Here’s how it works: When a person places his faith in Jesus Christ, he confesses that Jesus is Lord and receives the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit serves a variety of functions – conviction, leadership, intercession, illumination, etc. When the Holy Spirit indwells a believer, He gives the new Christian a spiritual gift. There are a variety of spiritual gifts mentioned in the New Testament. In fact, there are five separate lists of spiritual gifts (Rom. 12:6-8, 1 Cor. 12:8-10, 28-30, Eph. 4:11, 1 Pet. 4:9-11).

One thing is certain about spiritual gifts – every Christian possesses at least one gift. I’ve heard church members say, “I’d do more for the Lord, but I don’t have any real talents or gifts.” That excuse won’t hold water. Every child of God has a spiritual gift that is to be used “for the profit of all” (1 Cor. 12:7). Clearly we don’t all possess the same gift and that’s the way God intended for it to be. In this chapter, Paul says that the church is the “body of Christ.” If each member of the body does its part, then you’ve got a healthy body. If several members fail to do their job, then you’ve got a weak, handicapped body.

It’s time for all of us to discern our spiritual gifts and put them to use. If you’re unsure of your gift, talk to your pastor. He will probably ask you to complete a spiritual gifts inventory and pray with you about your gift. If each of us will do our part, we can have a strong body of Christ!