

Why Do We Need Each Other?

Cross Waves never wants to be thought of as an online church. Online church is an oxymoron.

God has designed us to need each other, therefore, none of us have all the abilities.

What Does The Bible Say?

I'll give you instructions about the other matters after I arrive.

Now, dear brothers and sisters, regarding your question about the special abilities the Spirit gives us. I don't want you to misunderstand this. (1 Corinthians 11:34–12:1 NLT)

13 Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:13 NLT)

Everyone brings their background beliefs and traditions with them.

4 There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. 5 There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. 6 God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us. (1 Corinthians 12:4–7 NLT)

The Godhead works as a team and He expects us to do the same.

The Gift of the Holy Spirit

Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)

Given at the moment a believing sinner places faith in Christ, the Holy Spirit comes to permanently indwell that person, uniting the believer with Christ forever.

The Gifts from the Holy Spirit

It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have. (1 Corinthians 12:11)

All believers, baptized by the Holy Spirit, have also been given spiritual gifts from the Holy Spirit.

The Fruit of the Holy Spirit

22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! (Galatians 5:22–23)

The fruit of the Spirit manifests itself in character qualities—virtues produced from within us by the power of the indwelling Spirit.

7 A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. (1 Corinthians 12:4–7 NLT)

God gives gifts to serve others.

How Can You Obey?

Discover your spiritual gift. How? By serving Christ and others.

People will confirm you when you are gifted.

Additional Notes:

If you would like to use your home to disciple others, check out our training at www.crosswaveschurch.com/host. Cross Waves has produced short videos to train you how to use your home to reach others for Christ. So please check it out.

Notes:

Today's Deep Dive Segment comes from Michael S. Heiser, I Dare You Not to Bore Me with the Bible, ed. John D. Barry and

Rebecca Van Noord (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press; Bible Study Magazine, 2014), 75.

Explore:

SPIRITUAL GIFTS LISTED IN SCRIPTURE - Romans 12:6–8

Prophecy

Service

Teaching

Exhorting

Giving

Leading

Mercy

SPIRITUAL GIFTS LISTED IN SCRIPTURE - 1 Corinthians

12:4–11, 28

Word of wisdom

Word of knowledge

Faith

Healing

Miracles

Prophecy

Distinguishing of spirits

Speaking in languages

Interpreting languages

SPIRITUAL GIFTS LISTED IN SCRIPTURE - Ephesians 4:11

Apostles

Prophets

Evangelists

Pastors

Teachers

SPIRITUAL GIFTS LISTED IN SCRIPTURE - 1 Peter 4:10–11

Speaking

Serving

Explore:

Christian freedom is not to be expressed by breaking our marriage vows, fretting about our condition or rejecting our work. Instead, we are to enjoy a new freedom in our circumstances—because we belong to Christ. Every situation is God-given or God-allowed—a place in which we can know his calling and his grace.

Andrew Knowles, *The Bible Guide*, 1st Augsburg books ed. (Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg, 2001), 582.

Explore:

Key Truth: Every Believer Has Been Given Spiritual Gifts by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:1-11)

In 1:7, Paul indicated that the Corinthian church did not lack any spiritual gift. We gather from this week's text, however, that they were not using their spiritual endowments properly, and that further wisdom and instruction were needed. By definition, spiritual gifts are gracious endowments given to believers by the Holy Spirit to enable them to perform service for the building of the church and the kingdom of God. There are various gifts, but all of them originate from the same Spirit. Those gifts lead to a variety of ways to serve and different kinds of good works. All this variety, however, comes from the one and same God. The believers' gifts were not for their own benefit, but instead were for God's glory and the common good of all.

Explore:

Paul reminded the reader that human body parts perform unique functions, and are each important to the body. In fact, if the body is to function properly, varied body parts are necessary. That's how it works with the church. God has placed each of us in His

body, the Church, and He has given us various gifts. The members have differing gifts, but they all depend on each other. Each has a role that is indispensable for a healthy and fully functioning church. Paul reminded the readers never to regard other believers as unnecessary within the body of Christ. The body is pictured as unity that depends on diversity. It depends on each one functioning in a unique role. It was imperative for the Corinthian believers to focus on unity rather than their diversity.

Explore:

How can people with such different personalities, backgrounds and gifts belong together (12:12–31)?

Paul says that the church is like a body—the body of Christ. A Christian may be Jewish or Greek by birth, and slave or free by circumstance. But all Christians are filled with the same Holy Spirit and belong to the same body of Christ, which is the church.

Christians are like parts of a body. They are different from one another, but belong together. Feet are different from hands—and very different from eyes—and yet they belong together and need one another. The eye is deaf—it needs an ear. The ear can't smell—it needs a nose.

And so it is with the church—we are incomplete and disabled without one another's gifts.

Paul makes special mention of parts of the body which are weak or shameful. He often feels weak himself—and knows that some Christians at Corinth are ashamed of him. But he is an apostle and evangelist—a reproductive organ of the church. Just as a body puts on clothes to avoid embarrassment, so the church must take special care of the parts that preach the gospel.

Paul teaches that Christians should not only function together but also feel together. In a body, the toothache or a sore toe can make the whole person miserable. So it is with the church.

Christians should so feel for one another that they are sad or glad together.

So—vive la différence! God builds the church in the way he decides. Of course, there is an order in which the different parts emerge.

Apostles come first. As witnesses to the death and resurrection of Christ, they lay the foundations of the church. Prophets come next, as they speak God's word to particular situations. Then teachers are needed, with the skill and patience to help people understand and live the Christian way.

Andrew Knowles, *The Bible Guide*, 1st Augsburg books ed. (Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg, 2001), 587.

Explore:

Division was a major problem in the church at Corinth (1:10–16; 6:1–8; 11:18–22). Each group followed its chosen human leader, exercised its gifts selfishly, and cared little for the health or

ministry of the whole body. The Christians at Corinth had received an abundance of spiritual gifts (1:4–7), but they were lacking in spiritual graces—the kind of Christian character that the Holy Spirit longed to form in them. Keep in mind that Christian gifts are not necessarily a mark of Christian character or spiritual maturity. These Corinthian believers were carnal, yet they exercised wonderful and miraculous gifts.

A. We share the same confession (vv. 1–3).

A citizen of the Roman Empire was required once a year to put a pinch of incense on the altar and say, “Caesar is Lord!” This was anathema to believers. No true Christian could call anyone but Christ “Lord,” so this was a definite test of whether or not a person was saved. It is only by the Spirit that we can confess Christ as Lord (Rom. 10:9–10).

B. We serve the same God (vv. 4–6).

The church, like the human body, has diversity in unity. Our human members all differ, yet they work together for the health of the body. In the spiritual body of the church, we possess gifts from the Holy Spirit (v. 4), partake in service to the same Lord Jesus Christ (v. 5), and share in the workings (operations) of the same Father (v. 6).

C. We seek to build the same body (vv. 7–13).

Paul now lists the spiritual gifts and shows that they are given for the benefit of the whole church, and not for the private enjoyment of the individual Christians. We must distinguish between: (1) the spiritual Gift, which is the Spirit Himself, received at salvation (Eph. 1:13–14); (2) spiritual gifts, which are ministries to the church through the Spirit, and not just natural abilities or talents; (3) spiritual offices, which are positions of trust in the local church, as discussed in 1 Peter 4:10; 1 Cor. 12:28; Rom. 12:4; (4) spiritual graces, which are the

fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22–23; 1 Cor. 13:4–7) in Christian conduct. Paul makes it very clear that each Christian has the Gift (12:3) and at least one spiritual gift (12:7). Not all Christians have spiritual offices, but all Christians should manifest the graces of the Spirit, which are far more important than miraculous gifts.

It is clear from 1 Cor. 13:8 that some of the gifts granted to the early church were never meant to be permanent. When the church was in its infancy (13:11), before the completion of the NT Scriptures, these gifts were needed; but they are not needed today. God can grant them if He pleases, for He is sovereign in all things; but these “sign gifts” are not necessary for the ministry of the church.

D. We share the same baptism (vv. 14–20).

The baptism of the Spirit refers to the placing of members into the body at the moment of their conversion. The Jews were first

baptized into the body at Pentecost (Acts 1:5 and 2:1ff); the Gentiles were first baptized into the body at the household of Cornelius the centurion (Acts 10:44 and 11:15–16); and ever since, whenever a sinner trusts Christ, he or she is made a part of that same body by the operation of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit places each believer in the body as He sees fit, but each part of the body has an important ministry to perform. “Many members in one body” is the program for this present age.

Warren W. Wiersbe, *Wiersbe’s Expository Outlines on the New Testament* (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1992), 453–455.

Explore:

12:7–10. The gifts had a unity in source (vv. 4–6), and they also had a unity in purpose. They were given, not for personal enrichment (cf. 14:4; 1 Peter 4:10), but for the common good of the body of Christ, the building up of others (1 Cor. 10:24;

14:12). Paul listed some of the gifts here. Others, along with some of these, are given in Romans 12:6–8; 1 Corinthians 12:28–31; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Peter 4:10–11.

The list here includes nine gifts. (1) Wisdom refers to insight into doctrinal truth. Paul exercised and expressed this gift in this letter (e.g., 2:6). (2) Knowledge refers to the ability to apply doctrinal truth to life. Paul also exercised and expressed this gift in this letter (e.g., 12:1–3; 11:3). (Cf. the recurrence of the phrase “Do you not know” in 3:16; 5:6; 6:2–3, 9, 15–16, 19; 9:13, 24; also cf. 8:1–3, 10–11). (3) Faith as a spiritual gift is probably an unusual measure of trust in God beyond that exercised by most Christians (e.g., 13:2). (4) Healing is the ability to restore health (e.g., Acts 3:7; 19:12) and also to hold off death itself temporarily (Acts 9:40; 20:9–10). (5) Miraculous powers may refer to exorcising demons (Acts 19:12) or inducing physical disability (Acts 13:11) or even death (Acts 5:5, 9). (6) Prophecy is the ability, like that of the Old Testament prophets,

to declare a message of God for His people (1 Cor. 14:3). (7) Ability to distinguish between spirits is the gift to differentiate the Word of God proclaimed by a true prophet from that of a satanic deceiver (cf. 2 Cor. 11:14–15; 1 John 4:1). If the Corinthians possessed this gift (cf. 1 Cor. 1:7), it was not being put to good use (cf. 12:1–3). (8) Tongues refers to the ability to speak an unlearned, living language (e.g., Acts 2:11). (9) Interpretation was the ability to translate an unlearned, known language expressed in the assembly (1 Cor. 14:27).

With the possible exception of faith, all these gifts seem to have been confirmatory and foundational gifts for the establishment of the church (cf. Heb. 2:4; Eph. 2:20) and were therefore temporary.

David K. Lowery, “1 Corinthians,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F.

Walvoord and R. B. Zuck (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985),
533.

Question 1 of 5

Why does God give us the same information from different authors, such as in the gospels?

Question 2 of 5

What are spiritual gifts?

Question 3 of 5

Why is it important for every believer to use his or her spiritual gifts to serve the Lord and the church?

Question 4 of 5

How is a church like a human body?

Question 5 of 5

How can believers discover which gifts they have received and begin to use them?