



Living the Spirit-Filled Life

“Understanding Spiritual Gifts” | Pastor Joe Yoshihara | February 1, 2026

Spiritual Gifts

A special ability given by the Holy Spirit to every believer, to be used to serve others, build up the body of Christ, or strengthen our relationship with the Lord.



1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. ²You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. ³Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one



1 Corinthians 12:1-11

can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit.

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God



1 Corinthians 12:1-11

who empowers them all in everyone.⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.⁸ For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit,⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to



1 Corinthians 12:1-11

another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ All these are empowered by one and the same



1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.



Leader: **The Word of the Lord**
Congregation: **Amen! Praise be to God!**



1 Corinthians 12:1-3

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be **uninformed**.² You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led.³ Therefore I want you to understand that **no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!”** and no one

1 Corinthians 12:1-3

can say **“Jesus is Lord”** except in the Holy Spirit.



1 Corinthians 12:4-6

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the **same Spirit**; ⁵ and there are varieties of service, but the **same Lord**; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the **same God** who empowers them all in everyone.



Everything about spiritual gifts are for the
glory of God, not man.



1 Corinthians 12:7, 11

⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the **common good**.

¹¹All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually **as he wills**.



1 Corinthians 14:1, 13

¹ Pursue love, and **earnestly desire** the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.

¹³ Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should **pray** that he may interpret.



1 Corinthians 14:2-3

² For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but **to God**; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit. ³ On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks **to people** for their **upbuilding** and **encouragement** and **consolation**.



1 Corinthians 14:20-25

²⁰ Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature. ²¹ In the Law it is written, “By people of strange tongues and by the lips of foreigners will I speak to this people, and even then they will not listen to me, says the Lord.” ²² **Thus tongues are a**



1 Corinthians 14:20-25

sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for believers. ²³ If,

therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds? ²⁴ But if all prophecy,



1 Corinthians 14:20-25

and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, ²⁵ the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.



Tongues are a sign for **unbelievers**

Prophecy is a sign for **believers**



Luke 2:10-12

¹⁰ And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a **sign** for you: you will find a baby **wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.**”



Matthew 12:38-41

³⁸ Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, “Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you.” ³⁹ But he answered them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, **but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.** ⁴⁰ For just as Jonah was three days



Matthew 12:38-41

and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. **41 The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.**



Tongues are a sign for unbelievers of
impending judgment



1 Corinthians 14:21

²¹ In the Law it is written, “By people of strange tongues and by the lips of foreigners will I speak to this people, and **even then they will not listen to me**, says the Lord.”



1 Corinthians 14:23

²³ If, therefore, the whole church comes together and **all speak in tongues**, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are **out of your minds**?



1 Corinthians 14:24-25

²⁴ But if **all prophesy**, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is **convicted** by all, he is **called to account** by all, ²⁵ **the secrets of his heart are disclosed**, and so, falling on his face, he will **worship God** and declare that **God is really among you**.



Prophecy is a sign for believers of **God's
powerful presence**



Pursue **Love**



1 Corinthians 14:1

Pursue love, and earnestly desire
the spiritual gifts, especially that you
may prophesy.



1 Corinthians 13:1-3

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, **I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.** ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, **I am nothing.** ³ If I give away



1 Corinthians 13:1-3

all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, **I gain nothing.**



Application

1. Commit to discovering and using your spiritual gifts to edify others in our church family.
2. Before using your spiritual gifts, ask God to increase your love.

