

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. **Enjoy discovering more about Him!**

"GIFTS" | 1 COR 12:1-11 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

What comes to mind with the phrase "spiritual gifts"?

"Know the Gifts and the Source of the Gifts" 1 Corinthians 12: 1-6

Paul wants believers to know about the variety of spiritual gifts because it is something God has for them from the Holy Spirit, different than natural talents or learned skills. **What does this reveal about God? What does that mean for His followers?**

"Extent of the Gifts" 1 Corinthians 12: 7,11

The Holy Spirit gives each believer at least 1 spiritual gift individually, and that is for "the common good". **What does it look like to serve "the common good" with individual gifts?**

"Diversity of Gifts" 1 Corinthians 12: 8,10

Paul goes through a list of spiritual gifts: sharing wisdom at the right time, specific knowledge for the situation, faith for God's will in big things, healing, performing miracles, and prophecy. **Which gift have you experienced or seen used well? Which gift makes you nervous?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

The Holy Spirit has gifts to empower believers to serve Him in special ways that show His glory. There are a variety of gifts God gives for the variety of roles and activities people are called to do. **Have you been asking God for gifts to experience and use so you can serve others? Have you avoided gifts because of fear or selfishness? Have you been jealous of gifts God gave others and not been thankful for the gift(s) he's given you? Pray that God would guide you as He reveals His gift(s) for you.**

Gifts

I. Announce:

- A. **Welcome:** those online & in Fellowship Hall.
- B. **Slide1 Baby Dedication:** *Mila Hope Lizarraga*. Esteban / Jacquelyn. Micah, Oliver, Gideon
- C. **Slide2** Charlotte Paulsen, the Executive Director of ICA (Int Christian Adoptions), she is looking for a placement for **2 sisters that are Rohingya** (ages 15 & 12). They are still located in **Myanmar** but will be going through clearances to travel (usually 1-2 months). The person or family would need to be **foster certified**, which ICA will help with. (there also could be *respite families* that can help out too at times).
- D. **Slide3** Starting next Sun the **HS** will join us in the Sanct, on **1st Sun** of the month.
1. I tell you this, **so** you might **welcome** them with me. **We should celebrate being a *multi-generational church*, who, though often are split up, we want to actively celebrate *worshipping together*. So** as their “*elders*” may I encourage you not to “teach them”, **but instead love them by welcoming them, asking about them, and learning from them *if they sit next to you* :)**
- E. **Prayer:** Lord as we talk about the gifts, I don’t think we’ve done any better in 2000 yrs.

II. Slide4 Intro: Gifts

- A. This chapter beautifully illustrates the **unity in diversity** within the body of Christ.
1. It underlines the importance of **every believer** and **their unique contributions** to the community in the form of **gifts**.
 2. Use your God given gifts to **serve** others **and build up** the church.
- B. **Slide5 3 broad camps** when it comes to the **Gifts** of the Holy Spirit: (cease vs. continue)
1. **Cessationism.** Gifts were only for the early church, not for today.
 - a) The gifts ceased w/the **Apostolic age**, after the death of the last apostle (John 100ad). Cessationism was developed during the *Reformation* (1500’s).
 - b) **So, Did the gifts peter out with Peter?**
 2. **Continuationism** - Spiritual gifts were meant for all Christians in all ages.

a) **Pentecostals** (often/not always, believe speaking in tongues is a proof you have the Holy Spirit). **Charismatics** who have a **higher view** of the moving of the Spirit, **over their view** of the Bible.

3. **Open** (that is, continuationist) **but cautious**. *Charismatics w/a seatbelt* :)

a) Who believe *all the gifts are for today*, **but** who also believe *the gifts need to be governed*. [Calvary's origins in Pentecostalism, moved outward Open]

C. **Slide6a** There are **2 groups** in **Acts 2:12,13** as there are still **today**. At Pentecost, all were hearing the gospel in their native languages (15 diff languages).

1. **Some** asked, *What does this mean?* **Others**, *thought they were drunk*.

Nope, it wasn't *distilled spirits*, **but the HS**. [2 extremes: not for today vs anything goes]

a) **Slide6b** Chuck Smith said, *No HS & you dry up. Too much HS & you blow up. Right Balance & you Grow up.*

b) *Gifts should be Tools to build with, not Weapons to slay with, nor Toys to play with.*

2. **CM** let's come at it the same way, by asking, *What does this mean?* Paul doesn't want us to be ignorant/**uninformed**.

D. **Still for today?** Peter quoting **Joel** about **the pouring out of the spirit in the last days**. Peter says in Acts 2:17,18 the beginning of the last days *was there at Pentecost*, **and** vs.19-21 is the ending (in trib time).

III. **Slide7a KNOW THE GIFTS (1-3) I do not want you to be uninformed**

A. **Slide7b A gift** is by **grace**. Which is the very core of the word gift. Grace / χάρις.

Gift / χαρισμα. Gifts / χαρισματα. [like salvation, *God gives us gifts we do not earn them*]

B. **Slide7c Spiritual Gifts** are **not**: our **Natural talents** (given by God through parents).

Nor Learned skills (learned by us). **But** Gifts that God Gives (*ie Supernatural gifts*).

C. **Slide8 3 Warnings:**

1. Coveting the gifts God **didn't** give you. (entitlement, envy, jealousy, discontent)

2. Not using the gifts, God **did** give you. (fear, selfishness, apathy, laziness, disobedience)
3. Using the gifts God gave you, but for **wrong reasons**, or in **wrong ways**, or for **attention**.

D. Just because gifts are *abused*, does not make them wrong. As we'll see in ch.12, Gifts can be used *incorrectly* or even *abused*. (but so can prayer, **but** we don't throw it out)

IV. Slide9 **SOURCE OF THE GIFTS (4-6)** *by the HS*

A. Knowledge dispels ignorance of the giver of the gifts.

B. (4-6) **Diversities & Differences** - *God loves Variety*. There are a **variety of gifts**, **service**, and **Activities**.

1. **Varieties of gifts** - we'll see in vs.8-10.
2. **Varieties of service** - Eph.4:11,12 *And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.* [roles, ministries, offices]
3. **Varieties of activities** - implementing actions, accomplishing something.
 - a) Don't try to pigeonhole God on **how** He works. Allow **other Christians/Churches** to manifest the gifts a little differently than you.
 - b) **Gifts** seemed to be the general topic, that's divided in 2: into **service/**ministries, **and activities/**workings.

C. Slide10 Oh, don't miss the **Trinity** at work here.

V. Slide11a **EXTENT OF THE GIFTS (7,11)** *each believer gets at least one gift, no believer is given all* (read vs.30).

A. (7) I think this is the key interpretive verse here. Here is the purpose of your gift, *it is for the common good*. (don't be like the Corinthians, don't make the gifts about you, it's about **others**).

B. (7,11) **to each** - **each one individually** as He wills.

1. Donald gee said, *The Holy Spirit for His own wise reason imparts to every person a special gift for the special service to which he is called.*
 2. Rom.12:7 *Having then gifts **differing** according to the **grace** that is given to us, let us use them.*
- C. How many gifts are there? 13 out of the 20 gifts *mentioned* in the NT are in this ch. 9+4
1. We don't have an exhaustive gift lists. *But* we don't want to take it too far and invent some, *and* we also don't want to sell it short either.
- D. How come Jesus doesn't talk about gifts? He does!
1. Mark16:17,18 *And these **signs** will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons (miracles); they will speak with new tongues (tongues); they will take up serpents (miracles); and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them (miracles); they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover (healing).*
- E. Slide11b Ask, *did **Jesus** teach it? Did the **early church** practice it? And did the **epistles** support it?*

VI. Slide12 **DIVERSITY OF GIFTS (8-10)** *note: diversity w/in each one*

- A. The utterance/word of **wisdom** - wisdom rightly applied.
1. It implies a **spoken utterance** through a direct operation of the HS at a given moment.
 2. It is **not** an abiding deposit of supernatural wisdom.
 3. **Example:** When Paul threw a *theological-hand-grenade* in the middle of the Pharisees/Scribes. He said, *Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee; concerning the hope and resurrection of the dead I am being judged.* (wisdom at the rt moment) [Phar bel in res, scribes didn't]
 4. **Example:** when Jesus was asked by the Pharisees & Herodians, *Tell us, therefore, what do You think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?* Jesus response, *Render to Caesar what's his & to God what's His.*
 - a) This gift helps in answering questions on the spot.

B. **The utterance/word of knowledge** - it isn't just *good helpful knowledge* about life, it is *God's knowledge imparted to us at a precise moment*.

1. It is the ability to understand God's truth in a definite situation.
2. **Example:** Jesus asks the disciples *Who do you say I am* (Mt.16:13-17).
 - a) Answer given by Peter, *You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*
 - b) **But who revealed this to him?** - *Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.* [did Peter know this was happening? **Nope, Jesus had to tell him**]
3. **Today's example: Prayer** - when the Lord impresses you to pray for someone because they are going through a difficult time ... and then you find out they were, right at that time!
4. **Personal Example:** The HS through me have exposed people in Adultery, Lying, other sins. (i.e. things I had no knowledge)

C. **Faith** - Not saving faith, but a **faith of a different kind**.

1. *"The ability to discern God's will, pursue it with extraordinary confidence, and then lay hold of God's promises w/remarkable results."*
2. **Example:** Elijah on Mnt Carmel, boldly calling down fire from heaven.
3. You will run into situations in life where you need to pray for **the gift of Faith**.

D. **Gifts of healing** - The plural relates to the different classes of sicknesses to be healed. (Godet, Linguistic Key to the Greek NT)

1. **Example:** The apostles denied that these healing gifts were from themselves. Acts 3:12 *So when Peter saw it, he responded to the people: Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?*

E. **The working of Miracles** (dunamis) - operations of works of power. Other words used: signs, wonders, and powers.

1. **Example:** Jesus turning the water into wine, or raising Lazarus from the dead. There can be no natural explanation for these events.

2. **Example:** A Miracle can be referring to God using a **common** thing, with a **miraculous timing & or placement.**

a) **Timing example:** *now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah.*

God could have created a **special fish** for this purpose? **Or**, made a submarine? **Or**, simply worked His perfect timing of having one of His *huge plankton eater whales* to come along to swallow up Jonah by sucking in everything in its path? [**Timing**]

b) **Placement example:** Peter finding fish w/coin in mouth.

3. I believe God can use certain gifts, more than other gifts, during specific time periods, because again **He chooses the best Gifts.**

F. **Prophecy** - the speaking forth of the mind & counsel of God.

1. To receive and communicate a message from God.

2. Prophecy is not only **foretelling** the future, but we find **forth-telling** was the norm in the NT and the early church.

a) The few times Prophecy was given in the NT as **foretelling** a future event. **Agabus** twice, in Acts 11:28 (a Famine is coming. It will be world wide). And in Acts 21:11 (the fate of Paul if goes to Jer. - Agabus binds Paul's belt to his own hands/feet).

3. **Note**, the purpose of True Prophecy is **not** to *satisfy our curiosity* about the future, **but** to *stir up our hearts* to do the will of God.

4. Paul later tells the Corinth Church (14:1,39) *to especially desire this gift!*

G. **Distinguish between spirits** - this gift reveals the true nature of the **source** of any behavior *professed to be of God*. [**discern between:** real/counterfeit, truth/falsehood]

1. **Example:** Peter w/Simon Sorcerer **Acts 8:21,22**. Peter discerned the heart of Simon. [Outwardly he had deceived the rest vs.13]

2. **W/o discernment the church can get ripped off!** Much of the church doesn't discern very well, **maybe because we don't earnestly desire this gift**

H. **Various kinds tongues and The interpretation of tongues** - this one gets the most press ... usually bad press :(

1. Many have been pressured into receiving this gift.
2. *“Speaking in tongues is **Prayer or Praise** spoken in syllables not understood by the speaker.”* Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology
3. **What is The Gift of Interpretation?** Again like the rest of the gifts it will be **supernatural**, not natural interpretation (like those in Acts 2 who heard it in thrown language).
4. **Is this tongues Important? Is Prayer important?** ... that’s what it is!
 - a) 1 Cor.14:14,15 *For if I pray in a tongue, **my spirit prays** but my mind is unfruitful. 15 What am I to do? I will **pray with my spirit**, but I will **pray with my mind also**; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing w/my mind also.*
 - b) **My spirit prays** - this is the ability to express ourselves to God w/o funneling our feelings through our intellect. This is bypassing the *narrow channel* of your intellect.
5. **You don’t have to speak in tongues do you?** No, but wouldn’t you want to if the HS deemed to give it to you? (I love my prayer language)

I. **Slide13 HOW DO I IDENTIFY MY GIFT(S)?**

1. **Know what gifts are available.**
2. **Be available to receive the gift.** (you can’t give a gift to someone who won’t receive it)
3. **Pray for God’s gift He’s designed for you.** (He has your name on it already)
4. **Step out in Faith.** (eg. be bold in *the Word of Knowledge*)
5. **Don’t wait around to feel gifted, earnestly desire the best gifts.**
 - a) Here’s what Paul’s after, here’s what we’re after at CM, an **EMM** an *Every Member Ministry*.

J. Keywords: gifts, Holy Spirit,