

Spiritual Gifts, Part 1: Together: A Study of 1 Corinthians

Pastor Tim Allen

Key Truth: Spiritual Gifts are given to believers for the glory of God and the good of the Church.

The church in Corinth was a diverse and gifted church, and the Holy Spirit was manifest in their congregation. However, they were also divided and sin-filled. It also appears they wanted the manifestation of the Spirit without the Spirit's control. They apparently wanted Paul to clarify a question they had concerning spiritual gifts. Paul gives them an answer they may not have been looking for. The Holy Spirit apportions spiritual gifts to individuals in the church as he wills (v. 11) for the glory of God and the good of their church. Therefore, spiritual gifts are not intended to exalt the individual, but to build the church.

DISCUSS

Read **1 Corinthians 12:1-11** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon on **Spiritual Gifts**.

DIG IN

1. What are Spiritual Gifts?

Do you agree with this definition of spiritual gifts? Why or why not?

A spiritual gift is a special ability or stewardship (described as “the manifestation of the Spirit,” v. 7) given by God to a believer, which that believer must use to serve Christ and his Body.

In what ways do we often confuse spiritual gifts with roles in the church, with natural talents, or with the fruit of the Spirit?

Why is it important to differentiate them?

2. What are Spiritual Gifts for?

Why is the Holy Spirit necessary in saying, “Jesus is Lord” (v. 3)?

In what specific ways do spiritual gifts aid the church in proclaiming Jesus as Lord?

Read vv. 4-6: Describe the diversity of works manifested by the persons of the Trinity. In what ways does this illustrate the diverse ways spiritual gifts function in the Body of Christ?

Read v. 7: Give some examples of ways spiritual gifts have been used for the “common good.”

DO

Describe for the group the spiritual gift/gifts you believe you have been given. How did you arrive at that conclusion?