

Spiritual Gifts

1Corinthians 12:1-11

First mention of the phenomenon of spiritual gifts is here in Paul's letter to the Corinthians 55 AD. God supernaturally making Himself known in the church by means of each member exercising 1 or more spiritual gifts.

AW Tozer—There are churches so completely out of the hands of God that if the Holy Spirit w/drew from them they would not find it out for many months.

Paul commended the church at Corinth for not coming behind in any spiritual gift 1:7. At the same time abuses were happening in the exercise of those gifts.

1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware. 2 You know that when you were pagans, you were led astray to the dumb idols, however you were led.

Ignorance exists today-*Pentecostal*-extremism & *Fundamentalism*-indifference. We need to pay close attention & not be unaware/ignorant Grk *agnoeo-agnostic*-a thinker disclaiming knowledge of God—Lat. *Ignoramus*-ignore knowing God. Paul corrects & instructs proper use of gifts--religious tradition dies hard. Can correct ignorance, unless, self imposed ignorance

Dumb idols--voiceless gods vs Living God *Ps 115:4-8*-*you become like... pr 23:7 as think in heart so is he*

3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed"; and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

Rumors in Corinth-gift of tongues interpreted: blasphemed God – '*Jesus is accursed*' false but discouraged use of the gift. Same in *liberal seminaries* today discouraging use spiritual gifts especially tongues.

Yet Jesus said... *when HS comes He will testify of Me Jn 15:26*. Saying anything contrary to the nature of Jesus (God) is a counterfeit spirit (*cults-false Christs*).

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4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. 6 And there are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons.

Gifts *charismata* (instant enabling by HS w/o respect to natural ability-doing works of God)-from charis-grace-gifts by Gods grace not our ability. Not earned but offered. (Bud: I don't like blue eyes) it's what God gifts us w/.

Varieties of gifts not same for all—what is needed for the moment.

Given to the church to glorify God & build up believers. *Variety* of people-personality, temperament & nature-so variety of gifts

Variety ministries-ways to apply gifts to be effective. Blades-box cutter, chisel, planer blades, stake knife, razor to shave. Saws-hacksaw, crosscut, rip, coping, hole saw, chain saw. Drill bits-wood, metal, cement.....

Variety effects Grk *energema*-energy- result of the gifts used to bring a spiritual energizing-revitalizing-healthy effect on people. Gifts used in direct proportion to the positive benefit to Christ & Church-**Kevin**. Brings greater glory to God, greater maturity of believers, greater outreach thru evangelism

RC Ryle 18th C author-pastor-evangelist in Liverpool The church of Christ needs servants of all kinds, and instruments of every sort; penknives as well as swords, axes as well as hammers, chisels as well as saws, Martha's as well as Mary's, Peters as well as Johns.

In other words-God wants to use you no matter how undeserving. *"The Christian church is the only society in the world in which membership is based upon the qualifications that the candidate shall be unworthy of membership"*. A hospital for sinners not country club for saints.

Notice *'all'*--every believer is important part of body of Christ. But you say *I'm not a people person, I'm a loner*. No solo flights to heaven we are one body of Christ. *John Wesley There is nothing more unchristian than a solitary Christian*

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*7 But to **each one** is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8 For to one is given the word of **wisdom** through the Spirit, and to another the **word of knowledge** according to the same Spirit; 9 to another **faith** by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of **healing** by the one Spirit, 10 and to another the effecting of **miracles**, and to another **prophecy**, and to another the **distinguishing of spirits**, to another various kinds of **tongues**, and to another the **interpretation of tongues**.*

Each one-God uses all of us to benefit all of us so we have a healthy church. Gifts demonstrate God at work in His church--revealing His presence to *edify, profit* 8 x's in these chapters.

Tozer My observations have led me to believe that many, perhaps most, of the activities engaged in by the average church do not contribute in any way to the accomplishing of the true work of Christ on earth. I hope I am wrong but I am afraid I am right.

Gifts are not toys to play w/ but tools to build w/.

Wisdom-right application of knowledge **Acts 6** chose deacons w/ Gk names to serve Grk widows who felt ignored. **Acts 15:28** *seemed good HS & us to lay no greater burden...* Brings together those polarized- at impasse

Knowledge-divine insight into a matter. **Jn 1:48** **Nathaniel**-w/o guile.

Ananias/Sapphira **Acts 5**--sudden, inner awareness—*plane ride*

Faith – each a measure of faith **Rom 12:3**. Here supernatural gift of faith.

Acts 3:16 *'silver and gold...'* **Acts 14:9** **Paul ...seeing he had faith....****Danny**
1040am radio

Healing-**Dorcas** **Acts 9:40** + **James 5:14,15**.*prayer offered in faith...* **Danita warts**

Miracles-God supersedes natural for supernatural-**Red sea**, Peter **walk on water**, Paul **Acts 19:11,12** sweat bands -- **Queen Victoria**

Prophecy-speak the mind of God for present or future- **Acts 11:28** **Agabas**.

Acts 14 forthtelling for edification, exhortation and comfort.

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Discerning spirits—Peter to Simon **Acts 8:23** – to stare at, see w/ mind of the spirit, perceive—saw his true nature. Paul **Acts 16** ***spirit of divination***

Tongues-Acts 2 spoke in *glossa*-escatic utterances; 17 different dialektos- always God ward **ch 14**

Interpretation—not translation but interpreting of spiritual thought behind.
Halewia/Japanese.

11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

Same spirit is the Holy Spirit working all things in & thru each individual or ***Lit*** separating & assigning to one & another as He wills to accomplish a spiritual work on earth thru the church to glorify God

Stephen Olford-We rob Christianity of all excitement when we evacuate the miraculous.

God is a miracle working God and He wants to use you...Amen..