

# God Gives Gifts

*Understanding your value*

Kingdom Collective

Series: Gifts of the Spirit | *unity in diversity*

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**1 Corinthians 12:1** - Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed.

## (CONTEXT)

Last fall, we began a series titled *Knowing the Holy Spirit*. These next few teachings about the *Gifts of the Spirit* will serve as the conclusion of that series. Therefore, over the next few weeks, we are not attempting to address every question or systematic approach to the person of the Holy Spirit because that is we did through eight teachings on the Holy Spirit last fall.

Why the gifts of the Spirit?

**Purpose:** To be informed and grow in what God has given.

*To not open and utilize a gift is unfortunate, maybe even dishonoring*

\*In other translations of 1 Corinthians 12:1 Paul says, "I don't want you to be *ignorant*."

- Ignorance can be *unaware* but it can also be *reckless operation* (while 'under the influence)
- Let us not be ignorant. Let us desire to be *informed* (through teaching) and *provoked* (through the stirring of the Spirit)

**Theology:** the study of God | **Doctrine:** a set of beliefs and the teaching thereof

\*These teachings represent our doctrine (beliefs) formed from our theology (study of God)

**Cessationism and Continuationism**

- Cessationism - the belief (doctrine) that spiritual gifts ceased with the Apostolic Age
- Continuationism - the belief that spiritual gifts are still in operation today
- Kingdom Collective's doctrine on this topic: *God the Holy Spirit is active in the believer and gives gifts for the revelation of Jesus Christ and the edification of the body of Christ. We believe in the person, the gifts, and the move of the Holy Spirit.* [kingdomcofw.com/beliefs](http://kingdomcofw.com/beliefs)
- There is a spectrum (or a variation) of beliefs between these two polar opposite views from Christians.
- We are surrounded by the covering of the FEC and Radiant Network:
  - The FEC doctrine states that we believe in the ongoing supernatural work of the Holy Spirit while respecting the spectrum of beliefs and opinions on this topic.
- This is not about picking sides. This is not about a label.
- This is also not a matter of salvation and eternity with God in heaven.
- Although it is a matter of accessing and utilizing what God has given us for life here on the earth.

### **An ongoing pursuit:**

- What if God's gifts were only for the early church in the book of Acts? Then how do we explain the Azuza Street outpouring in the early 1900s, and the charismatic renewal of the late 1950s.
  - Studying the history of the move of the Spirit is fascinating
- What about my life...a strong hunger for the Word at age 16 and then an encounter with the Spirit at age 19, and I've never been the same – Spirit and Truth.

### The gifts are for: **Equipping | Uniting | Witnessing**

- Equipping (Ephesians 4:12) - building up
  - *Equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.*
  - We need to be built up (edified) right now in our faith.
- Uniting (Acts 2:1) - one accord
  - *When the day of pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven...*

- We need to be united right now more than ever before, our faith is being tested
- Witnessing (Acts 1:8) - proving power
  - *But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*
  - Our God is the only living God. Oh that we would not turn internal in this season be a witness in our homes, workplaces, grocery stores, extended families, and neighborhoods.

## WE NEED THE SUPERNATURAL GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

Someone once said, "It's just "Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit." No, it's Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We serve a triune God, and we desire to walk each day in the fullness of who He is.

### (DEFINITION)

#### **Gifts in scripture**

\*In the NT, there are several references to gifts.

**Romans 12:6-7** - Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching.

**Ephesians 4:11** - And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds, and teachers.

**1 Corinthians 12:8:11** - For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 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. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

The Father gives gifts (Romans 12) - Creational gifts

The Son gives gifts (Ephesians 4) - Public office gifts

**The Spirit gives gifts (1 Cor 12) - Special use gifts**

- These 9 gifts will be our focus for the next 3 teachings

There is unity in the diversity. Every good and perfect gift comes down from above, from the Father of lights (James 1:17). So they all come from God. However, this breakdown may help you distinguish.

### **Gifts Defined:**

Greek word *charisma* (joy, cheerfulness - expression)

- It's where the label *charismatic* comes from.
- The moment a label is applied then a stereotype sets in. Let's stay away from labels and continue be about God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
- If charisma represents joy and expression, what's the opposite?
- The root word is *charis* which means grace. These gifts are the grace of God.

The gifts are not about us, we're the vessel. They flow through us for the edification of others. They are to represent a living God.

### **(PRINCIPLE)**

Three guiding principles that distinguish the ways of the Spirit:

1. Conscious control - The Holy Spirit does not drive people into wild compulsive acts. His gentle, dove-like ministry strengthens human personality. (He empowers; He does not overpower.)
2. Christ Magnified - Manifestations of the Spirit will harmonize with the truth of Jesus and magnify Christ (Are you being magnified or is Christ?)
3. Confession of Faith - The main work of the Holy Spirit is to bring people under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. (Creedal faith - belief provokes confession.)

\*These principles become a litmus test for a healthy expression of the Spirit of God.

### **(DANGER)**

#### **Detached from Love**

- 1 Corinthians 12:31 - "I will show you still a more excellent way."
- 1 Corinthians 12 teaches the gifts of the Spirit whereas chapter 13 teaches the spirit of the gifts. The spirit of the gifts is love.
- "Many people have been wounded by misfired gifts." -Michael Miller

## **Lacking Fruit**

- The fruit of the Spirit provide safeguards for the gifts of the Spirit.
- The fruit is about inward character. The gifts are about outward expression.
- If we don't have the fruit, we will likely have abuse.

## **Avoidance**

There is danger in not pursuing what God gave:

Critique without gifts = culture discouragement

Serving without gifting = culture of fatigue

Programs without gifts = culture of consumption

## **(CLOSING - value)**

There's a place for you! You are wonderfully and fearfully made. God knit you together in your mother's womb. Sin tried to destroy God's plan, but He made a way for you to be formed back into His image, which is the image of Christ His Son, who came to the earth to make crooked paths straight and restore what had been broken!

GOD LOVES YOU. He has gifted you because you are valuable to Him.

If He spoke through a donkey, and if He fed through ravens, and He arrayed the lilies with indescribable beauty, how much more valuable are you.

**Luke 11:13** - If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!