

# Discussion Guide

## Sunday Sermon 3.1



### Understanding Spritual Gifts

#### Sermon Youtube Link:

[Click Here](#)

#### Opening Prayer

May we as a fellowship of believers give ourselves totally to whatever the Spirit of God desires to do through us for God's glory and the building up of His Church.

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#### Key Takeaways from the Sermon

The following is the understanding Paul provides to the church at Corinth about spiritual gifts

1. The Main Work of the Holy Spirit: To exalt Jesus Christ as Lord (vv 1-3)
2. The Source of Spiritual Gifts: God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (same source, diverse gifts) (vv 4-6)
3. The Purpose of Spiritual Gifts: Corporate edification - building up the body for the profit of all (v7)
4. The various kinds of gifts (8-10) We will discuss in detail during part 2 in next week message
5. God distributes the gifts to members of His body as He wills (v11)

**Important Quote to Remember:** "These gifts are not trophies that we collect. They're not experiences that we chase. They are expressions of the Spirit's sovereign grace for the building up of Christ's body. And the focus is not on something spectacular. It's on the Savior."

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#### Discussion Questions

##### Understanding the Text

1. Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-3. Why do you think Paul emphasizes that no one can truly say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit? What does this tell us about genuine faith versus just saying words?

2. Read verses 4-6. Paul mentions "same Spirit," "same Lord," and "same God" three times. Why is understanding the unity of the source so important when we see diversity in the gifts?
3. Look at verse 7. The phrase "for the profit of all" (or "common good") appears here. How does this challenge our tendency to think of spiritual gifts as personal achievements or status symbols?

### **Going Deeper**

4. The sermon emphasized that spiritual gifts are "grace gifts" (charismata). What happens to our attitude when we truly understand that these gifts cannot be earned, bought, or achieved through our own holiness? How does this protect us from pride?
5. Paul lists nine different spiritual gifts in verses 8-10, but this isn't an exhaustive list. Why do you think God designed His church to need such a variety of gifts? What would be missing if everyone had the same gift?
6. The pastor mentioned that some churches look more like pagan gatherings than Spirit-led worship. What are some warning signs that a ministry or gathering might be emphasizing emotional experiences over truly exalting Jesus?
7. Verse 11 says the Spirit distributes gifts "as He wills." How does this truth affect:
  - How we view ourselves if we feel our gift is "less important"?
  - How we view others who have different gifts?
  - Our expectations about what God should do through us?

### **Personal Reflection**

8. The sermon asked: "What is our reputation when it comes to the work and giftings of the Holy Spirit?"
  - Have you ever shut the door on understanding spiritual gifts because of confusion or discomfort?
  - What fears or misconceptions might be holding you back?
9. The pastor emphasized that no believer should ever say "God can't use me."
  - Do you struggle with feeling like you have nothing to contribute to the body of Christ?
  - What does verse 7 ("given to each one") say to those feelings?
10. How can we test whether something is truly from the Holy Spirit? Based on the sermon, what are the key criteria? (Hint: Does it exalt Jesus? Does it build up the body?)

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## Practical Application

### This Week's Challenge:

Choose **ONE** of the following to practice this week:

#### 1. Identify and Encourage

- Think of someone in your church whose spiritual gift you've witnessed in action
- Write them a note or tell them specifically how their gift has built you up or blessed the body
- Emphasize that you see God working through them

#### 2. Humble Availability

- Pray daily this week: "God, make me a willing vessel. However You want to work through me today, I'm available."
- Journal any opportunities God provides to serve, encourage, or build up another believer
- Don't focus on what gift you think you have—just be available

#### 3. Study Deeper

- Read 1 Corinthians 12-14 in one sitting this week
- Count how many times Paul mentions "building up" or "edification" in chapter 14
- Write down questions you have for next week's discussion

#### 4. Examine Your Gatherings

- Reflect on your church's worship services and small group meetings
- Ask yourself: Is Jesus being exalted? Are people being built up?
- Pray for your church leadership and for God's Spirit to guide your corporate worship

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## Closing Reflection Questions

Before you leave, consider:

- What is one thing God spoke to you about today?
- What is one way you can be more open to the Holy Spirit's work this week?
- Who is one person you can encourage or serve using whatever gift God has given you?

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## Closing Prayer

### Pray together:

- For willing hearts to be used by God in any way He chooses
  - For a correct understanding of spiritual gifts
  - For Jesus to be exalted in all we do
  - For specific needs mentioned during discussion
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## Looking Ahead

**Next week we'll dive deeper into the specific gifts listed in verses 8-10. Come prepared with questions about:**

- Word of wisdom
- Word of knowledge
- Faith
- Gifts of healing
- Working of miracles
- Prophecy
- Discerning of spirits
- Different kinds of tongues
- Interpretation of tongues

Preparation: Read Romans 12:3-8 and 1 Peter 4:10-11 to see other lists of spiritual gifts.