

1 Corinthians 12:1-31

SUBJECT STUDY: GIFTS

The list that we're going through regarding spiritual gifts is not exhaustive. As we go through these scriptures and read about them, think about how they apply to your own life. A gift is something that you do that you care about that makes you happy and that glorifies God. You can have multiple gifts

1 Cor 12:1: The word "gifts" is in italics, so it wasn't in the original scripture. It should say "now concerning spiritualities". Forget the word "gifts".

Vs2: Paul says that now you have become a Christian, you are no longer a Gentile.

Vs3: You have to learn from this point on what is true. God expects you to learn the truth, and He accepts no excuses. Now that you are a Christian, you must mature spiritually by studying the bible and applying its principles to your daily life.

Vs4: here begins the many gifts, but the same Spirit.

Vs5: there are different individualities that God has given to men to serve the church.

Vs6: there are differences in administrations of work, but all given by the same God.

Vs7: The profits of these workings, talents, efforts, are to benefit the church, not the individual.

Vs8: Paul continues to emphasize that all of these gifts come from the same Spirit, and that the talents are different: wisdom, knowledge, and other talents all come from the same Spirit and are all used to benefit the church.

Vs9: Paul emphasizes again that it's from the same Spirit

Vs10: more gifts mentioned: miracle workers, prophets, a spirit discerner or psychic, one who speaks many known spoken languages, another who interprets many known languages, not unknown languages like so-called "speaking in tongues".

Vs11: Paul continues to emphasize that all of these gifts come from the same Spirit, and since this is mentioned over and over every other verse, it is very important. These gifts are not to be taken lightly, and they are not to be played with. They are to be used to better the church, period.

Vs12: We all have different talents in one church, and all these various talents are needed to complete the church and make it successful. Christ is also many in one body.

Vs13-31: We are to exhort, or build up, one another. Give money, time, or talent to those who are in need. We are to work to help others. Do whatever you can to make others feel better, make their work easier, comfort them in time of sadness or grief. Leadership is a gift. Teaching is a gift. Babysitting in the nursery during service is a gift. Many people couldn't come to service if they had no one to watch their babies for an hour or two. Mercy is a gift. Divine knowing: know who to help, how to help, and when to help is a talent from God. An insight into the truth is a divine gift from God. To know when someone calls for help, threatening to commit suicide, you must know how to help them. Someone in crisis when a loved one dies, or when they get bad news from the doctor, you need to divinely know what to say and what not to say.

Definitions

The Gift of Service: the ability to do what needs to be done. The divine ability to carry another's burden or do their task without notice or earthly reward.

Exhortation: the ability to motivate members of the body of Christ to do the works of Christ. You build up people, encourage them.

Giving: the ability to give money or time with a cheerful heart.

Leadership: the supernatural ability to know when something needs to be accomplished, who can accomplish it, and how it needs to be accomplished.

Mercy: Supernatural ability to love and care for those who are not able to care for themselves. Divine knowing of who to help and when to help. Divine ability to care for those who no one else would care for.

Utterance of Wisdom: Supernatural ability to speak words for God that a person needs to know immediately that will put the person on the path God has chosen for them. Insight into truth.

Utterance of Knowledge: Supernatural ability to speak words for God that will show what occurred or why something occurred so the person will know that God does see all things and does care for all people.

Tongues: This is not in use today. It was given before we had the written word and the message needed to be spread among people from different countries who spoke different languages. First use is a supernatural ability to speak another language not known by the believer speaking it; the heart of God to build up that believer for service to God and His people. Second use is a supernatural ability to speak another language not known by the believer speaking it; to build up the body of Christ when the message is interpreted. It is the language of the Holy Spirit.

Interpretation of tongues: Supernatural ability to make tongues a clear message to all that area present to edify, exhort and comfort the body of Christ.

Prophecy: Supernatural ability to receive a message from God to edify, exhort and comfort the body of Christ or a believer. Supernatural ability to know the heart of God through a dream, vision, or any divine encounter God would use to manifest Jesus the Christ. Can mean to forth tell the Word of God to a group of people, or it can mean to tell a future event that has not occurred yet. The word of God is complete, so we don't have any prophets today. God has told us all about the future that He wants us to know.

The working of miracles: Supernatural ability to know exactly when, where and how divine power will manifest. God working through people to heal those with medical issues. There are none today. God is still in the miracle business, and you have every right to pray for a miracle and God may grant it if He deems it.

Gifts of Healing: Supernatural ability to bring or release healing to a person in their body or soul.

Ability to distinguish between Spirits (Human, Angelic, and Satanic): Supernatural ability to know what is from God and what is not from God. Divine ability to reveal a demonic spirit or influence and bring God's power (Jesus' blood) and God's love (Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection) in its place. This is crucial and still around today. It is the ability to tell if something someone says is coming from Satan or God. They can tell if it's coming from a spirit of God or a spirit of evil. They need to use this gift carefully.

Faith: faith comes in degrees. Everybody has a different level of faith in their lives. Some have deep faith and when they have a crisis in their life, they call out to other church members for prayers. Those with shallow faith fall to pieces every time there is a crisis.

Also look at 1 Corinthians 12:27-30, Romans 12:6-8, and Ephesians 4:11 for further examples of gifts.