

# 01. Introduction to Spiritual Gifts

By Robert Rohlin

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**Bible Text:** Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12

**Preached on:** Sunday, February 20, 2011

## **First Baptist Church Las Colinas**

1930 Gateway Drive  
Irving, TX 75038-2405

**Website:** [www.firstbaptistlascolinas.org](http://www.firstbaptistlascolinas.org)

**Online Sermons:** [www.sermonaudio.com/rrohlin](http://www.sermonaudio.com/rrohlin)

Yes and there is a lot of folks in our church that have either never been taught what the spiritual gifts are or they don't really have a clue what theirs are. And I have discovered that for me the easiest way for me to be happy is to be in a position where I am using my spiritual gifts and when I can use my spiritual gifts, that is when I am the happiest. And my particular spiritual gift is teaching so there is nothing I enjoy more than teaching, you know, and that is true whether I am teaching God's Word or, you know, teaching somebody how to do something. It is just that is kind of an exercise of my gift.

So we are not going to get into each of the gifts today, but I need to acquaint you with the different categories of spiritual gifts and so what we are going to do is, first of all, talk about why we need to know our spiritual gifts.

The Church at Corinth, of course, there is a whole bunch of stuff in 1 Corinthians chapter 12 and 1 Corinthians chapter 15 on the subject of spiritual gifts. And Paul had to write them because they had a lot of problems and Paul said that one of the reasons that the Church at Corinth had problems was that they were ignorant of their spiritual gifts. They didn't know what their gifts were and they didn't know how to use it. And if you don't know what your spiritual gift is, then there is a pretty good chance that you are not going to use that gift properly.

So we are going to look at a few of these passages inside. I would like you to go ahead and get your Bibles out and there is a couple of places we are going to be turning. Primarily we will turn to Romans chapter 12 and then to 1 Corinthians chapter 12. So go ahead and get your Bible out and turn to those two passages.

But it is good for each of us to know what our spiritual gift is and if we knew that and we knew how to use it and also if we knew what the weaknesses that we had were, then we could serve God better. And that is what we all want to do.

So 1 Corinthians chapter 12, these first seven verses. Now one... there is going to be a lot of interesting terms in here that you might even want to think about underlining. So I will highlight those as I read. You might want to underline these different words in this passage.

It says:

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant. Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led. Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. Now there are diversities of gifts [and so you want to underline that word there, the words “gifts” you will want to underline] there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations [so underline that word “administrations”], but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations [so underline that word “operations”], but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation [so underline that. That will be our last word to underline] of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.<sup>1</sup>

Now what is fascinating about this passage is that the apostle Paul uses four different Greek words to describe spiritual gifts. Most of the time when I see books or literature written about spiritual gifts, the people have divided the gifts into two categories, the speaking gifts and the non speaking gifts. But God has divided spiritual gifts into four categories, interestingly enough. And yet very few people ever bother to understand that. Very few people ever bother to understand the different kinds of spiritual gifts that there are.

So if we understand the different categories then we can know which ones to focus on and maybe which ones we don't need to focus on, because I think even today, especially among the charismatics, a lot of people are focusing on the wrong spiritual gifts. They are focusing on gifts which they really don't have any control over.

And so let's look at some definitions. In chapter 12 and verse four of that passage that we read, so that was the verse there that says, “Now there are diversities of gifts...”<sup>2</sup> So the word “gifts” there is the Greek word *χαρισμάτων* (khar-is'-mah-ton). This is the word from which we get charismatic and charisma and things like that. It means it is a gift given and assigned by God. It is a grace gift is actually the literal translation.

So this is not a gift you can earn. It is not a gift that you can go get trained in. It is not a gift that you can learn. It is a gift that God has chosen to give you. So it is given and assigned by God. It is not earned. It is part of his grace. And he gives it to us so that we can assist in building and establishing his Church, in growing the kingdom of God. And a good definition of this gift would be the drives, the opportunities and results given by the Holy Spirit to achieve God's supernatural goal. So this is kind of a broad category. And within this we are going to see three subcategories: the drives, the opportunities and the results.

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<sup>1</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:1-7.

<sup>2</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:4.

So this is the broad term for spiritual gifts as a whole. But then there are three subcategories of gifts that we are going to look at.

Now, our focus on spiritual gifts are going to be the motivation gifts. These are the drive gifts. These are the ones that are listed for you in your Bible in Romans chapter 12. And these are the ones that we are going to focus on. These are special endowments that he has given to give you a special ability for service to be used within the body of Christ.

And you get this gift at the moment you are saved. You not only do you get the Holy Spirit, but God gives you a gift. In Ephesians four when it says when Christ ascended and it says he took captivity captive, which means he took all the departed souls who were saints, they couldn't quite go to be in the presence of God yet because Jesus hadn't been resurrected, but when he was resurrected it says he carried away captivity captive in Ephesians 4:8. And then it says, "And he gave gifts to men."

And so every since that moment each child of God when he is born again by receiving Christ as the Savior, has been given a gift. And this is the gift that motivates them or drives them. It is also the gift that... one good way to tell what your spiritual gift is, is what ticks you off that other Christians do. And so if we identify what it is that, you know, upsets us then we have a... a better idea of... of what it is that our gift is.

So... so let's talk about some features of spiritual gifts here. First of all, it is an ability to do something for the glory of God. So it gives us a qualification to engage in a special service.

So, you know, my spiritual gift is teaching so I, you know, that is the thing that God has gifted me for and wired me for and the thing I most enjoy doing. And my task is to do that for God's glory.

There are other people that have the gift of service. And they just love to have opportunities to serve the Lord and that is such a wonderful great thing when it is like that.

There are other people, still, that have, you know, the gift of administration and they are the ones that help keep me organized, because that is not one of my skills. And so when God gives you an ability to do something for his glory, he qualifies you and then he gives you the strength to use that gift. And sometimes as Christians we are totally exhausted trying to serve the Lord because we are trying to serve in an area that God hasn't gifted us for. What I have discovered is that when I am serving in the area of my gift, I tend to be energized rather than drained. But when I am trying to serve in an area that is not part of our gift, then I find that draining.

So God has given you a gift, but now once he gives it to you, he expects you to then be a steward of what he has given to you. In other words, he expects you to actually use it, not just sit on it, which is another reason it is important for us to know what our gift is.

And we need to talk about little bit about what a spiritual gift is not. It is not a talent. You know, talent comes from your parents or it comes from environment. So piano playing is a great talent to have. But it is a good skill to have. It is a skill that, to a certain degree, can be taught. There are some people that have a degree of natural talent in that area. But it is not a spiritual gift. Same thing with, you know, you know, the ability to sew. It is a wonderful talent to have, but not necessarily a gift, the ability to do carpentry. It is a talent, but it is not a gift from the Lord.

So sometimes you do have natural talents, but you can have natural talents from your birth or you could have natural talents apart from Jesus Christ. There is a lot of talented people that are going to go to the lake of fire. But a spiritual gift is from God's grace and it comes at the moment of salvation. And so that is important for us to know that distinction.

Now, another thing about spiritual gifts—I am waiting for the slide to forward here just a minute. It is thinking about it. Ok we are... There we go.

So a talent can be possessed from birth or it can be learned, but a spiritual gift comes at the moment of salvation and a Christian can have a talent that differs from their gift.

Now sometimes you may have a talent for teaching and maybe you have the spiritual gift, too, but, you know, maybe if you just have a talent, but it is not your gift, that is really not the area you need to serve in in the church.

So the gift ensures that if you are using gift in God's work, then God will bless the work that is done. And that is what is different.

Now gifts are distributed individually. So look back there in 1 Corinthians chapter 12 in your Bible and in verse seven let me read this verse to you again.

It says, "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal."<sup>3</sup>

So in that verse when it says it is given to every man, in the Greek it is clear that God gives to each person individually. And then look at 1 Corinthians 12:11. It is even clearer even in the King James English.

It says, "But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man,"<sup>4</sup> and in Greek it literally says "dividing to each man," "...severally..." that means individually, "...as he will."<sup>5</sup>

So God decided to give each individual a gift and a single spiritual gift, not all of the gifts, but this means a single one of the gifts that is going to be listed for us in Romans 12.

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<sup>3</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:7.

<sup>4</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:11.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

So it is good for us to understand that God says he gives severally or individually to each one. He picks out a gift.

In Ephesians 4:7 he says, “But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.”<sup>6</sup>

So he... these are grace gifts and they are given. Not only are they given individually, but they are given in varying degrees. You know, so some people may appear to at least have more of a gift than others, but we all have the proper and appropriate amount that God wants us to have.

In 1 Peter 4:11 Peter says, “ If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth.”<sup>7</sup>

So he says, “You know, when you do need to do it with God’s ability.”

“...that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ.”<sup>8</sup>

So, in other words, we are to use our gift and we are to use it to the maximum that we can. If you know what your gift is, you can develop it.

Now, no one person has all the gifts. If you look back at 1 Corinthians 12 this is the chapter in which the apostle Paul beginning down at verse 15 compares the Church to the body of Christ.

And he says:

For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.<sup>9</sup>

In other words, you don’t get to pick your gift or your portion of the body. God picks your place in the body.

And he says:

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<sup>6</sup> Ephesians 4:7.

<sup>7</sup> 1 Peter 4:11.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:14-18.

And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.<sup>10</sup>

So, in other words, what Paul is saying is that each one of us are a critical and a part of the body. We should all be functioning in our functions, but no one of us has all the gifts. If so, we would be a walking church all by ourself and we wouldn't need anybody else and that is not the case.

So the gifts, then, are distributed individually.

You are needed in the body of Christ to exercise your gift so that the body of Christ functions properly and you are individually responsible as a steward to use the gift he has given you and to develop that gift. It is kind of like, you know, you are responsible for taking care of the finances God blesses you with and the resources he entrusts to you and if you are parents you are responsible to raise up a godly seed to the Lord.

Well, he is also giving you a spiritual gift and your capacity and your service and your usefulness to God is determined by the degree to which you develop that gift. So the first thing is, let's figure out what our gift is. Let's figure out which one of the gifts is the one that God has given us to focus on. And then we need to develop that particular gift.

So the gifts, then, are distributed by God's will. They are grace gifts. And they are distributed individually and we just kind of have to figure out and which is our gift and pump the iron there.

Now God didn't just distribute these willy nilly. He distributed them purposefully. So the context of 1 Corinthians 12 is clear that the purpose of a spiritual gift is to edify the Church. The whole purpose of the gift is to edify the Church and the ministry it has and it is to be used in the ministry of God's kingdom and the ministry of the body.

Now here is a very important thing and this is where I think a lot of our charismatic friends have an improper understanding of gifts and that is gifts are given to profit others, not yourself.

In 1 Corinthians 12:26 it says:

And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. Now year the body of Christ, and members in particular.<sup>11</sup>

And basically what he is saying is, "Hey, no part of the body exists just to meet its own need."

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<sup>10</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:19-21.

<sup>11</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:26-27.

In other words, the toe isn't there just so that it can support the toe. The toe is there to keep the foot in balance so the foot can carry the, you know, the rest of the body where it needs to go. You know, you kind of feel like breaking into one of those, you know, the hip bone is connected to the thy bone songs. But we won't do that now.

But no part of the body exists for its own need.

Now a lot of times in charismatic circles people will do things like feeling a compulsion to speak in tongues and Paul even makes it clear in 1 Corinthians 14 that when you do this you edify yourself and not others. And Paul's point in 1 Corinthians 14 was when you exercise something to edify yourself that doesn't edify or build up or profit others, then it is not really a spiritual gift.

So we all exist to help meet the needs of others.

So the gift, then only fulfills its purpose in edifying, in building up people when we use it for God's glory and not our own. And I have known a bunch of people.

The first church I pastored had a bunch of people that had kind of gone into a lot of charismatic error. And I remember one guy bragging to me one time that not only did he have the gift of tongues, but when somebody dropped too many stray cats off at his farm and he couldn't get rid of them after two times of hauling them away, he was able to throw them in the pond and pray over them in tongues and they finally all drowned. And he was proud of that.

Well, that is not the use of a spiritual gift because drowning a bunch of cats isn't really glorifying to the Lord even if you don't like cats.

So they are distributed individually. They are distributed by grace. They are distributed to fit God's purpose and that purpose, then, is to edify the Church of Jesus Christ and to edify the other people in the Church. And the purpose of the gift is never just to edify ourselves. And that is crucial that we understand that.

So let's go to the next screen here. It is taking just a moment again. Give me just a second. I don't know why it is being slow.

There we go.

They are also distributed sovereignly. In other words, God is on his throne and in 1 Corinthians 12:11 it says he divides to every man severally or individually as he will.

God didn't just give out spiritual gifts arbitrarily. He gives the gift that is best suited to the purpose that he has for your life.

Every one of you are like a picture frame around a picture of Jesus Christ. And I know when my daughter Melody started painting a number of years ago that when, you know, after she finished a painting we would always go down to, you know, Hobby Lobby or some place like that and pick a frame to go around the painting. And some of her paintings needed, you know, more elegant frames. Like we have got one out here in our living room that has got kind of dull old frame and a matt around it because it is more of an elegant picture. And then we have got several that we use kind of a rugged, almost fence post looking wood for because the things in the painting were more rugged. And, you know, you need the right frame to go around the right picture.

Well, every one of us is a different frame around a picture of Jesus Christ so that we each highlight a little something different about him. So God hasn't just given you a gift just, you know, like you drew a number and so, ok, here is your gift. He had a purpose for your life and he gave you the gift that you needed for your purpose in your life. And the gifts are all about his grace.

So here are the four kinds of gifts and I would encourage you to write these four things in the Scripture references down. And, by the way, there is a little trick to remembering this slide. You will notice that the first two categories both come from chapter 12, Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12. You will also notice that the next two come from chapter four, Ephesians four and 1 Peter four.

So the motivation gifts are listed for us in Romans 12:3-9. This is the primary gift. And so if you are taking notes, the motivation gift, these are the ones you want to focus on. This is the gift that God gives you. He gives you... there are seven of them. He gives you one of these at the moment that you are saved and that becomes your driving force. That becomes your passion. That becomes what controls the kind of things that irritates you that other Christians do. This becomes the thing that if you do this thing you will be energized.

The manifestation gifts are a second category of gifts and what the manifestation gifts are is if I am using my motivation gift in a ministry—and you see the third category of gifts down there are ministry gifts—these are offices within the church or opportunities to serve God within the body of Christ. When I use my gift that God gave me in a ministry that God and or his Church have given me an opportunity for, then God works out a result or a manifestation in someone else's life.

So an example of that would be if I am using my gift of teaching in First Baptist Church Los Colinas as pastor behind a pulpit and I am preaching a sermon and the Holy Spirit of God may use me using my gift in the office of preaching this sermon or teaching a class and the Holy Spirit speaks to you and suddenly you get a word of knowledge.

Now a word of knowledge doesn't mean that, you know, you suddenly discover something that has never been there before. It just means that God has revealed something to you from his Word that you didn't know before. Or you get a word of wisdom which is not, you know, some charismatic thing that you suddenly, you know,



the guy on the TV screen closes his eyes and says, “God has just given me a word that there is somebody out there with a liver disease, blah, blah, blah.” No, a word of wisdom means that you now understand something about life in a way that you have not understood before.

So when a person uses their spiritual gifts in the body of Christ where God has given them an opportunity to serve, it will have a result or a manifestation in the life of someone else.

And then there is one other category of gift in 1 Peter where, interestingly enough, hospitality is called a spiritual gift. And you tend to kind of just kind of ignore this one off to the side, but it is interesting that the Bible refers to this as a spiritual gift.

In 1 Peter 4:9 he says:

Use hospitality one to another without grudging. As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.<sup>12</sup>

So I think it is... it comes to a job to all of us as Christians that as he has blessed us, we should open up our homes and pocket books to others to demonstrate hospitality. I think one of the sad things of Christian life in this century is that we are all so busy now that we really don't take time to just invite people over to our home and fellowship with them. And that really is a... an important spiritual gift.

So these are the types of the spiritual gifts. And we are going to focus primarily on the motivation gifts.

So in Romans 12 let's look at Romans 12 and we are going to read this list. This is the list that—and over the next few weeks as we are studying spiritual gifts—I would like you to focus on.

In Romans 12 and verse three we will start reading there. It says this.

For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.<sup>13</sup>

So he says, “Ok, we are all part of the body. We all have a different job to do.” And here he begins listing the gifts.

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<sup>12</sup> 1 Peter 4:9-10.

<sup>13</sup> Romans 12:3-5.

He says, "Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy..."<sup>14</sup>

So the first motivation gift is prophecy.

...let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality. Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.<sup>15</sup>

The reason I went a little further there and read all the way through verse 15 is that for each one of those seven gifts he listed, which were prophecy, ministry, service, teaching, giving, administration or ruling and mercy, for each one of those seven things there is a verse after that has a caution for that gift. And we will be looking at that in the coming weeks.

So the words "diversity of gifts" in 1 Corinthians 12:4 and the word that is used here, the motivation gifts or the charisma, these are the ones that you get at the moment of salvation. You get one of these, not all seven. You don't come into the world and, you know, get Jesus Christ in your life and suddenly you are a teacher and an exhorter and an administrator and a mercy person and a prophet at the same time which is kind of the opposite of mercy and, you know, you don't have a gift of giving. You don't have them all at once.

The reason God gives us one is so we can focus on it and so that we can realize we need others. We really need at least six other people, you know, to have a balance of gifts. And this is the wonderful thing about the Church. This is why the person who says, "Well, I can worship God just as good at home." They are missing out on something vital, because they can't have advantage of all the other spiritual gifts at home. That is why we need to come to a church. That is why we need to come to a body.

So let's talk about these gifts: prophecy, serving, teaching, exhorting, giving, organizing and mercy as the motivation gifts.

There is a second category of gifts, though, in 1 Corinthians 12 and it is mentioned in verse five and where it says in the King James version, "diversities of administrations."

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<sup>14</sup> Romans 12:6.

<sup>15</sup> Romans 2:6-15.

Now this is the Greek word διακονια (dee-ak-on-ee'-ah) from which we get deacon. So, you know, the role of a deacon in the early church was to be a servant. In other words, you had deacons to take some of the load off of the pastor teachers so that the pastor teachers could focus on the ministry of the Word of God because that was their most important task and the deacons in the early church saw to the administration of taking care of the widows and some of the things that were starting to become neglected.

Now these gifts are listed for us in Ephesians four. So go ahead and turn over in your Bible to Ephesians four and these are some pretty famous passages. And I am going to start back reading at verse eight because there is so much background there in Ephesians four.

“Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.”<sup>16</sup>

So what he is talking about there is that in the Old Testament when saints died they trusted Jehovah, the second person of the godhead and they trusted the mercy of God and they trusted in the blood of the sacrifice. Well, they couldn't go to heaven when they died because nobody could go to heaven until Christ had risen from the dead. So they went to a holding place and we are told what that holding place was called. It was called paradise. You may remember Jesus said to one of the two thieves on the cross, “Today thou shalt be with me in paradise.”

Now what he meant by that was that there was going to be a place. And paradise was one of two compartments in the place of death called sheol. So when you died everybody went to sheol, but there were two compartments. One compartment was called hades or hell and the other compartment was called paradise. And you may remember Jesus telling the story of a man in Luke 16. Some people think it is a parable, but it is not. Jesus didn't say it was a parable. He told it as a true story where he says:

There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table.<sup>17</sup>

And if you remember the rest of that story, they both died and the rich man went into hades and Lazarus went to paradise and basically the rich man looks and says, “You know, please send Lazarus over here that he can dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue for I am tormented in this flame.” And Abraham said, “Sorry, we can't do that. There is this great gulf between you and him that nobody can pass in either direction.”

And so sheol was divided into two compartments and there was no passing from compartment to compartment.

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<sup>16</sup> Ephesians 4:8.

<sup>17</sup> Luke 15:19-21.

When Jesus died and he had fully paid for our sins he descended into this place of death. This, by the way, is why the Apostles' Creed talks about him descending into hell and then on the third day he rose again. He descended in the place of death. He announced, 1 Peter tells us, that he announced to the fallen angels in hell that he had won the victory. He made an announcement there. But then he carried away captivity captive. He took those fallen, he took those departed saints of the Old Testament and he carried them away up into heaven now that he had resurrected himself and paid for that.

So Paul goes on, Ephesians 4:9 and he said:

(Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)<sup>18</sup>

And now he lists the gifts.

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers.”<sup>19</sup>

Now the King James this is pastors and teachers, but it is more like a hyphenated word. Pastor-teachers

He says, “For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”<sup>20</sup>

So he says into the Church he gave some different offices. He gave apostles. Another words for apostles today would be missionary. The Latin word “apostle” is *missio* from which we get missionary. He gave some prophets. These are proclaimers of the Word. He gave pastors and teachers. And these are ministry gifts.

Now these are confirmed on ordination. They are given by the Church. Now... and actually it is just those four. I am not sure why this slide also lists miracles and healings and helps and governments and tongues. There are some gifts that came out during the early stage of the church.

And, oh, this is listing 1 Corinthians 12. So let me read this in 1 Corinthians 12 down at verse 27. Let me read this to you.

He uses the Greek Word. It says:

Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly

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<sup>18</sup> Ephesians 4:9-10.

<sup>19</sup> Ephesians 4:11.

<sup>20</sup> Ephesians 4:12.

teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.<sup>21</sup>

By the way, if you... open your Bible to 1 Corinthians 12 verse 28. I would like you to underline three words in that verse that are crucial for you to understand. Next time you see Benny Hinn on TV claiming he has the gift of healing, you need to look at 1 Corinthians 12:28 more critically.

You will notice it says that gifts, plural, of healings, plural. Nowhere in the Bible does it teach that anyone has the gift of healing. Healing is not a spiritual gift. There are gifts of healing or gifts of healings, but there is not a gift of healing.

Now why do I make such a big deal under that? Jesus Christ is the only person that has ever had the gift to be able to heal. But God does heal this individual and that individual. In other words, he gives this person a gift of healing to heal their problem and maybe this person over here needs to be healed from a physical ailment and he heals them. Sometimes over here is a person that maybe they are suffering a physical problem because of bitterness in their lives and they hear that sin is bitterness and they confess it and God relieves them of their medical problem because they give up the bitterness behind it. In that case that is a gift of healing to that person.

But Scripture never teaches that there is a person who walks around and has the ability to just heal on demand. Nobody has the gift of healing. That is just not scriptural. It is gifts of healings.

Now, by the way, there are some of these things that we can talk about later in more detail about tongues and are they biblical for today and if they were biblical, why did they disappear from the scene of human history for 1800 years and suddenly come back and some other things.

But I just want to make you aware that these are the gifts listed by the word διακονια (dee-ak-on-ee'-ah). And then there is the manifestation gifts. Now this is the ones listed in 1 Corinthians 12 verses six through 11. So let's read those verses.

“And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God...”<sup>22</sup>

So the word “operations” there in verse six, a good word would be an effect or an ability to show. So this is where God shows the power of his Holy Spirit by working, in effect, to some one's life.

So when it says:

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<sup>21</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:27-28.

<sup>22</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:6.

“And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation...”<sup>23</sup> the φανερωσις (fan-er’-o-sis), the showing “...of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom...”<sup>24</sup>

In other words, you hear the pastor preach a sermon today and maybe as he is preaching on the quantum leap to the wonderful life that you are going to hear about later, God speaks to you and he gives you a word of wisdom. You... you see something in Scripture that you didn’t know before. To another the word of... or maybe there is an application of a Scripture that you now understand that applies to you that you didn’t know before. That would be a word of wisdom, a word of knowledge of something you didn’t know before.

“...To another faith by the same Spirit.”<sup>25</sup>

You know, the pastor might say something in his message today that increases your faith for a task that God has called you to do.

“...to another gifts of healing...”<sup>26</sup>

Now, again, there, you notice it is not singular. It is gifts of healing. So, in other words, it may be that you hear something today and you have a physical ailment. It could be tied to a spiritual problem. And God heals you in your spiritual problem because you confess your sin. And James tells us that, you know, very often if someone is sick, if they confess their sins and you lead them back into the way that they can, you know, that they can experience healing. So sometimes healing comes from that.

And he says, “... to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits...”<sup>27</sup>

In other words, maybe you are trying to make a decision and you hear the Word of God taught. And something in that message clarifies for you what that decision is.

“...to another diverse kinds of tongues...”<sup>28</sup>

And we will talk more about tongues later and where they went with history and what Paul says about them in the next chapter, chapter 13.

“...to another the interpretation of tongues: But all; these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.”<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:6-7.

<sup>24</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:7-8.

<sup>25</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:9.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

<sup>27</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:10.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

So a manifestation gift, then, is the effect of God's Spirit working in a person because he heard someone else or saw someone else using his motivation gift in a ministry within the body of Christ. And that is what we want.

So let's talk about how these three subcategories of gifts relate. Every Christian has one God given motivation gift. This is one gift that energizes you, that motivates you, that is your gift.

He has been given a ministry gift by his church. In other words, we love to have people serve in our church. And there are opportunities there. Sometimes there are opportunities to give testimony. Sometimes opportunities to deliver Sunday school lesson, maybe to preach in an afternoon service. There are opportunities to use a gift of service to, you know, help erect playground and... and, you know put the fence up and fix stuff around the church. There is opportunities to take food to certain people in certain times. There is opportunities to demonstrate mercy by visiting people and listening to them, going to the hospital.

The point is there is lots of opportunities for service. You are to use your motivation gift, whatever that is, and combine it with an opportunity for ministry through the ministry of your church and then God will work that manifestation. He will reveal himself or there... your ministry that when you exercise your gift in a ministry God gives you, it will produce an effect or a manifestation in those who receive your ministry. And that is what we want.

And so this is a good kind of thing, maybe, for you to write down to take notes on, to focus primarily on these three kinds of gift.

Now all of us should be practicing hospitality which is the fourth category of gifts. But just a couple of words about this slide and then I am done and you are dismissed and that is that for the motivation gift are going to be found in Romans chapter 12. So in the coming weeks we will go through each of the gifts in Romans chapter 12 and help you figure out which one is your gift if you don't already know. And if you do know I hope you will be strengthened in that conviction. But you don't need to focus on the list in 1 Corinthians 12. You don't really need to focus on the list in 1 Peter four.

I am trying not to sneeze. I am sorry.

You don't need to focus on, you know, any of the other lists. Focus on that list of Romans 12. We are going to figure out which gift is there and then we want to also focus on the caution he gives to each gift that is there.

Once you find that out then we need to look for opportunities for you to use your gift and I would love it if some of these came up. So, brother Robert, now that we have heard this

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<sup>29</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:10-11.

series of spiritual gift lessons, I know what my gift is. Here it is. And you will get some input from some other people, you know.

And I remember when I first studied spiritual gifts and discovered there were different categories in the Greek and that God had actually not differentiated just two kinds of gifts, speaking and non speaking or public and no public, that he had actually categorized four different kind of gifts and he told me which one I was supposed to focus on. And when I understood that he only had one gift, well, I wanted the gift of prophecy. I don't know why, but I thought that was gift and I, you know, I thought, ok, this is my gift.

And then it became apparent as time went on that that wasn't my gift because when I looked at the weaknesses, every gift has weaknesses, too. And I had all the weaknesses of the gift of teaching. And I also found out that it was teaching more than anything else that motivated and stirred me which is why I am glad for my technical brethren who are able to hook a computer up on the internet and then in through the sound system so I could be there to teach this morning without bringing my germs up there and causing you all to get sick and go home and have asthma attacks and what not. So I am grateful for that.

So I want us just to close with a word of prayer and pray that God will help us to, as a church, for every believer in our church to know what our spiritual gift is and hopefully we got all this recorded and we can post it on the internet later as well so those who were not here will have that opportunity.

So let's bow our heads for a word of prayer, please.

*Father, you are an awesome God and you chose to give us gifts not because we deserve them, not because we had any special talent or special intelligence or grew up on the right side of the tracks and you gave us something that would make us look more important, but, God, out of your grace you made each of us a different picture frame for Jesus Christ and you gave each of us a different gift so that we can fulfill a vital spot in the body of Christ that not everybody else can fill. And, God, I thank you that you have already shown me some people in our church that have the gift of service and they are willing to pitch in and help with really anything that needs helping with and they don't mind manual labor because they are using their gift and they are motivated by it. They are satisfied by that. Thank you for those that have the gift of keeping things organized and helping me in that, because that is not my strength, certainly. And, Lord, we know that your Word tells us we ought to try to practice all these things. We should all be better organized and we should all practice giving and we should all work to be ready to teach the Word of God when anybody asks us for a reason of the hope that is in us. But we also know, God, that you have divinely endowed each of us with one thing we need to focus on and concentrate on. And, God, I am asking you that you help each person here at First Baptist Los Colinas to know hat their gift is and now how to use it.*

*Now, Father, may you bless our pastor today. Fill him by might with your Spirit as he preaches and as he shows us from the book of Ecclesiastes how life lived under the sun is,*



*indeed, vain and it is only over the horizon when we look up to God that there is real meaning and we experience that quantum leap to the wonderful life.*

*Now, Lord, we love you. I pray that everything that is said and done here today will be for your honor and for your glory. For we pray it in Christ's name. Amen.*

Well, thank you so much and the service will convene in nine minutes and we just pray that today has been a blessing to you. God bless you and I wish I could be there with you and look forward to seeing you hopefully on Wednesday. God bless you. Bye, bye.