

# *Spiritual Gifts And the Members*

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1 Corinthians 12:11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

- I. Let's do a quick review about what spiritual gifts are.
  - A. All spiritual gifts are for the manifestation of the Spirit of God.
  - B. Spiritual gifts are what God uses through a person, or a person's life to edify and encourage other Christians.
  - C. Spiritual gifts are not the empowerment of a person, but the manifestation of the Spirit.
  - D. Spiritual gifts never glorify a person or draw people to a person, but to God himself.
  - E. These are things we must keep in mind as we read the Scriptures on this matter, and as we watch around us at the things going on in the churches.
  - F. Spiritual gifts are all of one Spirit, which is the Spirit of God – not many different spirits. (v.13)
  - G. One Spirit, one body, many members.
  - H. One Spirit, but different manifestations, different operations, different administrations. (v.4-6)

- II. Spiritual gifts in the church are like the members of our body.

1 Corinthians 12:12-14 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many.

- A. Each member has a purpose and a place in the body.
- B. All members are different and have different functions.
- C. But in order for the body to do well and survive, let alone prosper and be fruitful, all the members must abide in their calling, stay where they belong, and do what God enables them to do.

1 Corinthians 12:14-18 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.

- D. Christians are individuals, with individual personalities, abilities, skills, talents, and spiritual gifts.

1 Corinthians 12:19 And if they were all one member, where were the body?

- 1. Christians are not cookie-cutter copies, all the same and cut from the same mold; we are all different.
- 2. And that is necessary for the body of Christ to exist and to live.

- E. The way we treat one another, care for one another, appreciate one another is also similar to the way we do with the members of our own body.

1 Corinthians 12:21-24 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. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked:

1. We do not want to lose a single member of our body, but we cherish and care for each one.
2. Especially those we esteem to be most important.
  - a) Hands, feet,, eyes.
3. Some of our members who are most essential to our survival and wellbeing are not out where they can be seen, so they are overlooked and forgotten much of the time.
  - a) Heart, lungs, liver, pancreas, gall bladder, intestines, joints, etc.
4. Some of our members serve no purpose other than adornment, but these members get the most attention of all.
  - a) Hair, fingernails, eyebrows, etc.
5. But ALL the members make a body that functions and lives and is able to do things and communicate things, and move things.

1 Corinthians 12:25 That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.

- III. Each member performs a task that benefits and sustains the life of the other members and therefore the body as a whole.

1 Corinthians 12:27-31 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

- A. The other members of the body cannot survive longer than minutes or seconds if the heart fails to do what God designed it to do.
- B. The same is true of the lungs and the brain.
- C. A minor malfunction in the circulatory system means fast and certain death to the rest of the body.
- D. The digestive system is probably the most abused and misused member of our body, but at a certain point when it fails completely, the body does not have long to live.
- E. It is the same with the church, which is the body of Christ.
- F. Many times a church dies when one of its important members dies, or is removed by sickness or old age.
  1. The church may not even know how vital that member was to the body and may have ignored, abused, mistreated them through their ignorance.
- G. Spiritual gifts are those things that each member does that keeps the body alive and moving and functioning as a body.
- H. The rest of we members need to hear the preaching of the Word of God.

1. We need to hear sound teaching of the Word of God and the principles found there for living godly and holy lives in a sinful world.
2. We need witness a miracle once in a while; not a showy, flamboyant kind, but the kind that just leaves us in awe at the mercy and goodness, and reality of God's hand among us.
  - a) Wouldn't it be right to assume that if someone experiences a real miracle that the spiritual gift they are manifesting is the gift of miracles?
3. We all need to see someone healed once in a while, the kind that the doctors have given up on and there is no argument that it was the hand of God that did it.
  - a) Wouldn't it be correct to say that a person who is healed of a disease or wound miraculously has received the gift of healing?
4. We all need a little help from time to time.
  - a) If help is not there when we need it, what happens to the body.
5. We all need the comfort of knowing someone is at the wheel and we are careening out of control. (government)
6. We all need to hear things put in words that we can understand what has been unclear, or unknown to us until now. (diversities of tongues)
- I. We all, as members of the body of Christ, need every other member that God has placed in the body.
  1. We NEED whatever it is that God has equipped them with to help and sustain, or maintain the body of Christ.
- J. Many deadly diseases are actually the members of the body turning against one another.
  1. Cancer, auto immune disease,
- K. Many other fatal diseases are the result of one or more members just failing and becoming unable to do what they were put there for.
- L. So let each member of the church know that the whole body depends upon them and their faithfulness, and their yielding to their part and place in the working of the body, and even in its survival.