

“Neglect Not The Gift!”
1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Introduction:

1. Please Head Back With Me To 1 Corinthians 12:
 - Where We Just Started Looking At Paul’s Discussion About Spiritual Gifts To The Church Of Corinth!
 - His Instruction Goes From Chapter 12-14:
 - But He Begins By Reminding Us In The First 3 Verses:
 - Of The Gifts / The Goodness / And The Grace Of The Holy Spirit!
 - And How That Even Our Ability To Believe & To Say That:
 - “Jesus Is Lord!”
 - Is Something That Is Done In Us Through The Work Of The Holy Spirit Of God! We Owe Him So Much!
2. Now We Are Going To Start Looking More Closely At The Spiritual Gifts:
 - Given By God Through The Holy Spirit To The Church!
 - And By Church, We Mean Every Genuine Born-Again, Spirit-Regenerated Christian!
 - If You Have Truly Been Saved By Grace Through Faith:
 - In The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - Not Only Has God Given You The Gift Of Eternal Life!
 - But He Has Also Given To You The Gift Of The Holy Spirit!
 - To Influence You & To Indwell You!
 - And When He Came Into Your Life:
 - He Brought Something With Him!
 - Something We Call: “Spiritual Gifts!”
 - Every Christian Has A Spiritual Gift!
 - Read 12:4-11!
 - **IE:** The Church Is Not Like A Company That You May Have Worked For! You Get Into A Company Through What You Have To Offer Them! They Will Hire You When You Have Something They Need! But This Is Not How The Church Is Formed! You Come Into The Church – The Body Of Christ – Through What Jesus Has To Offer You! You Are Saved, Not Because Of Who You Are, Or What You Have, But Because Of What You Need & Because Of What Jesus Has!
 - So: A Spiritual Gift:
 - Is Not Something You Have Before You Are Saved!
 - Like Talents Or Abilities That You Might Even Have Been Born With, Or Have Developed Through Training & Education!
 - No - A True Spiritual Gift:
 - Is Something You Are Given When You Are Saved!
 - So That You Can Function Together With Other Christians In The Church!
3. Every Christian Has A Spiritual Gift!
 - And This Morning - We Are Going To Start Learning More About These Gifts!
 - And Why They Were Given To Us & Even How We Should Use Them!
 - The Question I Want Us To Consider This Morning:
 - Are You Neglecting Your Spiritual Gift?
 - If You Are A Christian!
 - Could You Even Recognize A True Spiritual Gift When You Saw Or Heard One?
 - If You Are A Christian – You Do Have One!
 - As We Will See This Morning!
 - But Are You Neglecting Your Spiritual Gift?
4. Paul Wrote Another Letter To A Young Pastor Named Timothy:
 - And Timothy Too Had Some Spiritual Gifts!
 - And So Paul Told Him In 1 Timothy 4:14 - “Neglect Not The Gift That Is In Thee!”
 - Are You Neglecting Your Spiritual Gift?
 - As Paul Told Timothy:
 - “Neglect Not The Gift!” Why?

* Do Not Neglect Your Spiritual Gift Because Of:

1. *God’s Plan For Your Gift!*

- 12:4-6 - “Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. / And there are differences of administrations, but

- the same Lord. / And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all!”
- God Has A Special Plan For The Gifts He Gives To All Of His People!
 - And This Plan Is One Of Great Honor For Each One Of Us!
- God Works Through His Church / Through His People Through Their Spiritual Gifts!
 - How God Works In The Church! And Even How God Works In The World!
- The First Part Of His Plan Is In 12:4:
 - The Enabling Of Our Gifts!
 - Any & All Of Our Gifts Are Enabled By The Holy Spirit Of God!
 - “Now There Are Diversities Of Gifts, But The Same Spirit!”
 - Some Key Points About This Verse:
 - There Are Gifts! And The Source Of All Of These Gifts Is God The Holy Spirit!
 - There Are A Variety Of Gifts! “Diversities Of Gifts!” Many Different Kinds / Many Different Measures! But The Source Of All Of These Gifts Is God The Holy Spirit!
 - We Must Remember That It Is The Holy Spirit Who Enables Any Spiritual Gift We Have!
 - What An Honor! For God To Use Us In His Continuing Work In This World!
- The Second Part Of His Plan Is In 12:5:
 - The Exercise Of Our Gifts!
 - We Are To Exercise & Use Any & All Of Our Gifts In Service To The Lord, Our Master, Our Savior, Jesus Christ!
 - “And There Are Differences Of Administrations, But The Same Lord!”
 - Some Key Points About This Verse:
 - There Are “Administrations” Or Ministries & Services For Us To Use Our Gifts! And The Head Of All Of Our Opportunities To Serve Is The Lord!
 - There Are A Variety Of Ministries & Services! “Differences Of Administrations!” Many Different Kinds & Ways To Serve! But The Lord Is The Lord Of Us All!
 - We Must Remember That It Is The Lord Jesus Christ Who We Serve!
 - No Matter How We Use Our Spiritual Gifts / No Matter Where Or When Or To Whom! We All Answer To The Lord! And We Are All To Follow The Example Of The Lord!
 - IE:** “In His Steps” (Charles Sheldon) - WWJD? And How?
- The Third Part Of His Plan Is In 12:6:
 - The Effect Of Our Gifts!
 - God Is The One Who Accomplishes His Will & His Work When We Exercise & Use Our Gifts! God Is The One Who Brings About His Desired Effects Through Our Service!
 - “And There Are Diversities Of Operations, But It Is The Same God Which Worketh All In All!”
 - Some Key Points About This Verse:
 - There Are “Operations” Or Effects / Workings / Accomplishments! God Uses Our Service With Our Gifts To Bring About & Accomplish His Will!
 - There Are A Variety Of Effects & Results! “Diversities Of Operations!”
 - Like In The Parable Of The Sower:
 - Mark 4:20 - “And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred!” What Is The Difference? God’s Sovereign Pleasure To Bring Forth Fruit Wherever He Wants!
 - We Must Remember That It Is God Who Is Sovereign, And Is The One Working Even & Especially When We Are Exercising Our Spiritual Gifts! He Works: “All In All!”
 - Not Just Some / Not Just Some In All / But All In All!
- These 3 Remarkable Verses Show Us God’s Amazing Plan For Our Spiritual Gifts!
 - God Works Through His Church / Through His People Through Their Spiritual Gifts!
 - The Trinity Is Completely Engaged Through Our Spiritual Gifts!
 - God The Holy Spirit Is The Ultimate Source!
 - God The Son Is The Ultimate Servant!
 - God The Father Is Ultimately Sovereign!
 - And When We Use The Gifts God Has Given To Us:
 - He Is At Work! And It Will Be For His Glory!
 - Romans 11:36 - “For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen!”
 - **IE:** Usually Companies Try To Excel In One Mission:
 - Google - To Catalog The World’s Information!

- Walmart - "Save Money. Live Better!"
- Only God Can Use – In An Exponential Way:
- A Great Variety Of Gifts
- And A Great Variety Of Ministries
- With A Great Variety Of Results
- And Still Bring About His Will Through Them All!
- Psalm 104:24 - "O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches!"
- Do Not Neglect Your Spiritual Gift!
 - Because When You Use Your Gift Or Gifts:
 - No Matter What It Is!
 - God Is Working Through It!
 - And God Is Getting Glory From It!
 - Do Not Neglect Your Spiritual Gift!

* Do Not Neglect Your Spiritual Gift Because Of:

2. God's Purpose For Your Gift!

- 12:7 - "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal!"
 - God Also Has A Special Purpose For The Gifts He Gives To All Of His Children!
 - And Whenever We Use Our Gifts, We Are Fulfilling His Purpose For Them! Like:
- The Purpose Of Display!
 - These Gifts Are Described In 12:7 As:
 - "The Manifestation Of The Spirit!"
 - To Manifest:
 - Means To Show & To Display!
 - A Spiritual Gift Manifests & Displays The Holy Spirit!
 - It Displays The Spirit To You!
 - As A Confirmation Of Your Relationship With God Through Jesus Christ!
 - Romans 8:9 - "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his!"
 - It Displays The Spirit To You!
 - As A Comfort Of His Care For You & His Continuing Work In Your Life!
 - It Displays The Spirit To Others!
 - To The Church & To The World, If They Could & If They Would But See It!
- The Purpose Of Dependence!
 - The Gifts Or "Manifestations" Of The Holy Spirit Are:
 - "Given To Every Man!"
 - Of Course - Not Every Man In The World:
 - But Every Person In The Church!
 - Every Person Who Is Truly Saved & Part Of The Body Of Christ!
 - And This Shows That Since Every Christian Has Been Given A Gift:
 - From The Same Holy Spirit – God Himself!
 - Then Each Gift Is Important & Is Valuable & Is Useful & Is Necessary!
 - We Need Each Other:
 - And We Need Each Other's Gifts!
 - In Full Use!
 - And If We Neglect Our Gift:
 - And Others Neglect Their Gifts:
 - We Cannot Function The Way God Intended As A Church!
 - These Gifts Are Given To Show Us To Depend:
 - Not Just On The Lord & His Spirit!
 - But To Depend On One Another In The Church As Well!
- The Purpose Of Development!
 - In 12:7 We Further Find The Main Reason God Has Given His People These Gifts:
 - "To Profit Withal!"
 - Or To Help Each Other!
 - These Gifts Are Not Given:
 - To Divide The Church!

- Through Pride In What You Have As A Gift, Which Is What Was Going On In Corinth!
- Or To Discourage The Church!
- When One Member Thinks They Have A Gift That Is Minor Compared To Another, Or Not That Important!
- No - These Gifts / Your Gifts Are Given:
 - To Develop The Church & Each Other!
 - Especially In Our Growth In The Lord & Our Service For The Lord!
- Matthew Henry Reminds Us That Our Gifts Are:
 - “Not For Show, But For Service!”
 - He Adds - “They Were Not Distributed For The Mere Honor And Advantage Of Those Who Had Them, But For The Benefit Of The Church, To Edify The Body, And Spread And Advance The Gospel!”
- So, Do Not Neglect Your Gift!
 - Whatever Your Gift - God Has A Special Purpose For It!
 - And A Special Purpose For Every Single One Of His Children!
 - To Bring Growth To His People!
 - And To Bring Glory To Himself!
 - We Need To Keep This In Mind!
 - And Use Our Gifts To Their Fullest Extent!

* Do Not Neglect Your Spiritual Gift Because Of:

3. God’s Provision Of Your Gift!

- 12:8-11 - “For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; / 9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; / 10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: / 11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will!”
 - God Also Has Made A Special Provision Of The Gifts He Gives To All Of His Children!
 - And When We See Not Only What Gifts God Has Provided, But Also How God Has Provided Them, We Will Learn To Use Them:
 - In Humility / With Honor / With Passion!
 - In 12:8-10 We Find A List Of Several Different Gifts:
 - That Were There In The Corinthian Church!
 - In Looking At This List, We Need To Remember Why It Is There!
 - It Is To Show The Differences & The Great Variety Of Spiritual Gifts!
 - This Is Not An Exhaustive List Of Gifts!
 - Because There Are Other Lists, Like In Romans 12 As Well, That Describe Other Gifts!
 - There Are Many Other Gifts That God Gives To His People Through His Spirit!
 - Some May Be Listed, But Many, And Probably Most Are Not!
 - These Were Some Of The Most Visible Gifts, That Were Causing Some Difficulty & Even Discord Within The Church!
 - Some Being Proud! Others Being Discouraged!
 - This Is Not A Permanent List Of Gifts!
 - Because Later On, We See That Gifts Can & Do “Cease!”
 - 13:8 - “But whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away!”
 - So, We Are Not To Be Looking For All Of These Gifts In Every Church & In Every Time Period!
 - Remember - All Gifts Are Given By The Spirit To Accomplish His Plan / Purpose / Goal!
 - Different “Operations” / Different “Accomplishments” In Different Churches!
 - God Had A Special Purpose For The “Sign Gifts” Given To The Corinthian Church!
 - And God Has A Special Purpose For The Other Gifts He Has Given To Our Church!
 - So What Is The Lord Teaching Us Through This List?
- The Differences Of His Provision!
 - He Is Illustrating For Us What He Said In 12:4:
 - “Now There Are Diversities Of Gifts, But The Same Spirit!”

- He Says: “To One / To Another / To Another / To Another!”
 - So, Every Christian Has A Different Gift!
 - Different In What Is Given!
 - Different In The Measure / Degree Given!
 - Some Might Have Similar Gifts:
 - But The Gifts Given Are Like The Snowflakes That Fall To The Ground! No Two Christians Are Alike!
 - Some Are Common & Some Are Very Unique!
- There Are 9 Gifts Mentioned Specifically!
 - 12:8 - “The Word Of Wisdom!”
 - One Who Has Been Gifted In A Special Way To Share The Wisdom Of God Through The Gospel! Likely A Gift Used By An Evangelist Or An Effective Soul-Winner!
 - 12:8 - “The Word Of Knowledge!”
 - One Who Has Been Gifted In A Special Way To Explain The Doctrines Of God & His Word! A Teacher’s Gift!
 - 12:9 - “Faith!”
 - A Special Measure Of Trust, That Can Provide The Strength, Courage & Boldness To Serve & Witness For The Lord, Even Through Danger & Difficulty!
 - 12:9 - “The Gifts Of Healing!”
 - A Special Ability To Help Others With Their Physical Problems - Like What We Saw In The Apostles As Jesus Sent Them Out - To “Heal The Sick!”
 - 12:10 - “The Working Of Miracles!”
 - A Special Ability To Accomplish Great Feats For The Lord! But This Does Not Speak To The Greatness Of The Person, But The Greatness Of The Lord! Again, Like What We Saw In The Apostles!
 - 12:10 - “Prophecy!”
 - A Gift To Not Only Predict (Which God Did Through Prophets & Apostles In The Past), But Also To Proclaim God’s Truth To Others!
 - 12:10 - “Discerning Of Spirits!”
 - A Special Ability To Discern Even The Hearts Of Men / Their Attitudes & Motives! Like When Peter Was Able To Discern In Acts 8 The Very Heart Of Simon The Sorcerer!
 - 12:10 - “Divers Kinds Of Tongues!”
 - Which Are Languages! We See This In Acts 2:4-11, When The Disciples Where Able To Speak Languages They Were Untrained In, And Shared With Many: “The wonderful works of God!”
 - 12:10 - “The Interpretation Of Tongues!”
 - Or The Ability To Translate Other Languages For The Benefit Of Those Who Do Not Know Them! Corinth Was A City With Many People & Many Languages!
 - These Gifts Were In Use In That Church At That Time!
 - But Does This Mean That These Gifts Are Universal? No, The Point Of These Verses Is That There Are Many, Many Different Gifts! As Diverse As The People Who Make Up The Church!
- The Design Of His Provision!
 - 12:11 - “But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will!”
 - As Amazing As Some Of The Gifts Given To The Corinthian Church Were:
 - The Point Is That It Is The Holy Spirit That Is Working In & Through That Church!
 - No Matter What Gifts Have Been Given & No Matter What Gifts Are Being Used!
 - He Is Still Working!
 - And He Works As He Wills!
 - And He Provides What He Wills!
 - To Accomplish His Own Will!
- So, Do Not Neglect Your Gift!
 - No Matter What Your Gift Is!
 - He Has Provided Every Christian With A Special Gift Or Even A Special Assortment Of Gifts!
 - And He Has A Plan & A Purpose For Each One!
 - So Use The Gifts God Has Given To You!
 - And We Need To Use The Gifts God Has Given To Our Church!
 - Like The Gift Of Compassion / The Gift Of Prayer / The Gift Of Giving / The Gift Of Hospitality / The Gift Of Encouragement / The Gift Of Service / The Gift Of Teaching! We Could Come Up

- With Our Own List!
- Whatever Gift Or Gifts You Have!
 - And Whatever Measure In Which You Have Them!
 - Use Them! Do Not Neglect Them!

Conclusion:

1. Why?
 - Because Using Your Gifts Bring Glory To God!
 - They Bring Glory To The Holy Spirit!
 - As The Ultimate Source Of Your Gifts!
 - They Bring Glory To The Lord Jesus!
 - As The Ultimate Servant!
 - Our Gifts Will Mirror His Gifts, As He Continues His Ministry In This World Through His Body, The Church!
 - They Bring Glory To The Father!
 - Who Is Sovereign!
 - And He Shows His Sovereignty & His Power In How He Can Accomplish His Will Through The Great Variety & Differences:
 - Of Christians!
 - Of Gifts!
 - Of Ministries!
 - Of Results!
2. So, As Paul Told Timothy:
 - "Neglect Not Your Gift!"

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