

The Spiritual Gifts 1: A Bountiful Diversity (12:1-11)

I. Introduction

- A. The charismatic movement: Every Christian is a charismatic!
- B. Read text / pray
- C. Review Background: Unity is an overall theme in 1 Corinthians
 - 1. Division is the main theme of the first four chapters
 - 2. Divisions continue to be manifested through the rest of the epistle
 - a. We must read chapters 11-14 in light of chapters 1-4
 - 3. The conciliatory “*yes-but*” formula of argument (1 Cor 14:18-19)
 - 4. The “love chapter” (1 Cor 13) is central in this section

II. 1 Corinthians 12:1-3 Introduction: Setting the stage

- A. *Now concerning the things of the Spirit ...*
 - 1. He is now addressing a new topic raised by the Corinthians letter
 - 2. “*The spiritual*” puts the focus on *the Spirit*, not *the gifts*
- B. The Corinthians’ pagan past
 - 1. Perhaps a reminder that they still may be misled
- C. But now you *confess ‘Jesus is Lord’*
 - 1. Levels the playing field: all Christians possess the Holy Spirit and are equally “Spiritual”
 - 2. Application: church conflict between *spiritual* and *non-spiritual*

III. 1 Corinthians 12:4-10: The Spiritual Gifts

- A. **verses 4-7** – the allotment of gifts
 - 1. Involvement of the Trinity in the giving of gifts
 - 2. A variety of gifts
 - 3. Greek = *charis*, these are *grace-gifts*, not reward for human effort
 - 4. For the service of others (1 Pet 4:10)
 - 5. Visibly or outwardly manifested
 - 6. All of the gifts are needed – including yours!
 - 7. The Spiritual gifts manifest or show the Spirit
 - 8. The Spiritual gifts are for the common good
 - a. Application: what is missing in your church?
- B. **verses 8-10** – a sample list of gifts
 - 1. *The forest*: a bountiful diversity that glorifies God
 - a. This is not a complete list
 - b. It is not given merely for you to identify your gift
 - 2. *The trees*:
 - a. What about *tongues* and *prophecy*? Hang on, we’ll get to it!
 - b. The *word of wisdom* and *word of knowledge*
 - c. *Gift of faith*
 - d. *Gifts of healing* and *working of miracles*
 - e. *Discerning of spirits*

IV. 1 Corinthians 12:11: Conclusion and Application

- A. This is a text that exalts the Holy Spirit, not you or your gifts
- B. How do I go about identifying my spiritual gift?