

The Spirit's Endowment

Romans 12:1-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-13; Acts 11:15-17

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Duck, Squirrel, Rabbit, Eagle?
- Finding one's niche
- The Great Commission and the Holy Spirit
 - Holy Spirit **EMPOWERS**
 - 2 Corinthians 4:7-- *"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us."*
 - 2 Corinthians 12:9-- *"My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."*
 - Holy Spirit **ENLIGHTENS**
 - 2 Corinthians 4:3-- *"But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God should shine on them."*

The Spirit's Endowment

A. How do we find our "niche"?—Romans 12:1-6

1. **Foundation**—Consecrated Life
 - Romans 12:1-2-- *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."*
 - a. Dedicate your life to God
 - b. Live a separated life
 - c. Renew your mind constantly with God's Word
2. **Discovery**—Examined Life
 - Romans 12:2-- *"that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."*
 - a. **Beware of inflated view of oneself**
 - Romans 12:3-- *"For I say through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly that he ought to think, but to think soberly as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith."*
 - b. **Look for the measure of faith God has given you**
 - Romans 12:4-5-- *"For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another."*
 - c. **Our niche is determined by the "gift"**
 - Romans 12:6-8-- *"Having then gifts differing, according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: If prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness."*

B. What are "Spiritual Gifts"?—1 Corinthians 12:1-13

- 1 Corinthians 12:1-13-- *"Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant: You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led. Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. For as the body is one and has many members, but all the*

members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”

1. Observations
 - a. **It is a “gift”—based on grace, not earned**
 - Romans 12:6-- *“Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us.”*
 - b. **It is “spiritual” in that it is a...**
 - 1) “manifestation” of the Spirit—v. 7
 - 2) “distributed” by the Spirit—v. 11
 - c. **It is “gifts”—plural**
 - 1) **Two general categories—“Speaking and Serving”**
 - 1 Peter 4:11-- *“If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God might be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.”*
 - 2) **Five Categories according to Function**
 - a) **Special Gifts**—Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastor-Teacher for EQUIPPING GOD’S PEOPLE to do the work of ministry.
 - b) **Speaking Gifts**—Prophecy, Teaching, Exhortation, Word of Wisdom, Word of Knowledge for EXPLAINING GOD’S TRUTH..
 - c) **Serving Gifts**—Leadership, Administration, Service, Showing Mercy, Faith, Discernment for ENABLING GOD’S WORK to function and move forward.
 - d) **Support Gifts**—Helps, Giving, Hospitality for ENABLING GOD’S PEOPLE to minister effectively.
 - e) **Sign Gifts**—miracles, healings, tongues, interpretation of tongues for ESTABLISHING GOD’S AUTHORITY.
 - d. **Given for the “profit of all”**
2. **Definitions:** *“God-given, special ability for service”*

C. Are Spiritual Gifts enhanced natural talents?

1. **A talent is given at birth; a Spiritual gift at the new birth!**
2. **Spiritual gifts are specifically given by the Holy Spirit.**
 - 1 Corinthians 12:12-13-- *“For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit”.*
3. **The endowment occurs at the moment of salvation**
 - Acts 11:15-17-- *“And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning. Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, “John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ If therefore God gave them the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?”*
 - Acts 10:44-- *“while Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word.”*
 - Acts 10:43--- *“ To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.”*
4. **Relationship between Natural Talents and Spiritual Gifts**
 - a. **God may use a natural talent to express a spiritual gift.**
 - b. **The presence of a natural talent does not mean that the person has the corresponding spiritual gift.**