



The Gathering



MARCH 12, 2023 / KNOW AND USE YOUR GIFTS / 1 CORINTHIANS 12:1-11

SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE DEMONSTRATIONS OF GOD'S GRACE EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGH INDIVIDUALS. 1 CORINTHIANS 12:1-11 CONTINUES THE FOCUS ON THE CHURCH GATHERING AND RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS FROM THE CHURCH (1 CORINTHIANS 7:1). PAUL SHIFTS ENGAGES THEIR QUESTION TO INSTRUCTING THE CHURCH ON THE PURPOSE AND MOTIVATION FOR THE GIFTS. THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH HAD TREATED SPIRITUAL GIFTS AS A HAVE-OR-HAVE-NOT FOR "SUPER-SPIRITUAL" INDIVIDUALS. THIS INTRODUCTION SECTION TO SPIRITUAL GIFTS (1 CORINTHIANS 12-14) REDEFINES HOW CHURCHES OPERATE AND SHARE GIFTS. AS WE ALL GROW IN THE HABIT OF KNOW AND USE YOUR GIFTS, WE WANT PEOPLE TO EXPERIENCE LIFE-CHANGE IN JESUS AND THEN IDENTIFY THE WAYS GOD HAS GIFTED THEM.

Before coming to the group, have everyone take the spiritual gifts test at <https://hi.switchy.io/CepL>

1. What has been your experience with spiritual gifts? How were they talked about or taught? Did you identify them before Sunday's message?
2. **Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11.** How did understanding spiritual gifts in terms of "before following Jesus" (1 Corinthians 12:2) impact the Corinthian church and churches today? (See 1 Corinthians 1:7, 10)
3. In the original language, 1 Corinthians 12:1 starts by using *pneumatikos* (spiritual things or people). Then Paul uses the word *charismaton* (grace gifts) in 1 Corinthians 12:4. How does this language shift your understanding of spiritual gifts?
4. We believe every person has been created with "common gifts," but "spiritual gifts" are given by God to followers of Jesus empowered by the Holy Spirit. In what ways do common gifts and spiritual gifts overlap? How do you understand the differences?
5. In 1 Corinthians 12:4-6, Paul uses the Trinity to illustrate the unity and diversity of the church exercising spiritual gifts. So why do you think it's important for followers of Jesus to recognize spiritual gifts in terms of "unity in diversity?" In what ways would this matter in the church today?
6. On the second page of this Group Guide is a list of gifts derived from 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, Romans 12:6-8, Ephesians 4:11-13, and 1 Peter 4:11. What stands out to you about these gifts?
7. Take a moment to have each group member share the results of their spiritual gifts test. Identify ways in the past and future how they have utilized their gifts to serve the common good of the church and community.
8. For prayer time, pair up in groups of two. Start by encouraging the other person in what spiritual gifts you see in them. Then identify one way you can pray for each other to grow in your spiritual gifts.

The Spiritual Gifts of the New Testament

Below are brief descriptions of each of the 20 gifts mentioned in the N.T.

Administration - Organizing multiple tasks and groups of people to accomplish these tasks.

Apostleship - Pioneering new churches and ministries through planting, overseeing, and training.

Discernment - Being able to identify falsehood and distinguish between right and wrong motives and situations.

Encouragement - Using written and spoken words with biblical truth to encourage others.

Evangelism - Having a passion and ability to help non-Christians take the necessary steps to become Christ-followers

Faith - Believing God for unseen supernatural results in every area of life.

Giving - Being driven to produce wealth and giving it through the church for the purpose of advancing the kingdom of God on earth

Healing - Acting as an intermediary in faith, prayer, and the laying on of hands to see healings of physical and mental illness

Helping - Having a passion to act in a support role for the accomplishment of tasks in Christian ministry.

Interpretation of Tongues - Translating or explaining a message that has been delivered through the gift of Tongues.

Leadership - Influencing people to focus on the big picture, vision, or idea to accomplish a mission.

Mercy - Feeling empathy and caring for those who are hurting in any way.

Miracles - Having the power to alter the natural outcomes of life supernaturally through prayer, faith, and divine direction.

Pastoring - Caring for the personal needs of others by nurturing and mending life issues with God's guidance.

Prophecy - Boldly speaking or bringing clarity to scriptural and doctrinal truth, and in some cases foretelling God's plan.

Serving - Passionately accomplishing small or large tasks in working for the overall good of the body of Christ.

Teaching - Effectively sharing truths learned from the Scriptures to bring understanding and growth to other Christians.

Tongues - Having the ability to pray in a heavenly language to encourage your spirit and to commune with God. If it were to happen publicly, this must be accompanied by interpretation.

Word of Knowledge - Receiving and sharing a Word from God that brings understanding and clarity to situations and circumstances.

Word of Wisdom - Understanding and speaking biblical truth in such a way as to apply it to life situations with all discernment skillfully.