

DISCOVERING AND DEVELOPING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

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The Importance of Unity in the Body of Christ

1 Corinthians 12-14

1 Corinthians 12:1-7, 11

It is important to study this (v.1). Previously we were influenced and controlled by worldly things (v.2). No one can be controlled by the Holy Spirit and say bad things about Jesus Christ. One must have the Holy Spirit to confidently declare that Jesus is Yahweh (v.3). There are many gifts, but only one Spirit who distributes them (v.4,11). There are many ways to serve in the Body of Christ, but all serve the same Lord Jesus Christ (v.5). There are many manifestations of God's power, but there is only one Sovereign who is the source of all that power (v.6). All the gifts of the Holy Spirit are for the edification of the Body of Christ. They are not designed to be used selfishly or solely for personal benefit (v.7).

1 PETER 4:9-11

TWO MAJOR DIVISIONS OF GIFTS

	Those related to speaking:	Those related to serving:
Rom. 12:6-8	• Prophecy • Teaching • Exhortation	• Service • Financial giving • Mercy • Supervision/leadership (1 Thess. 5:12)
1 Cor. 12:8-10	• Wisdom • Knowledge • Prophecy • Tongues • Interpretation of tongues	• Faith • Healing • Miraculous works • Discernment
1 Cor. 12:28-30	• Apostles • Prophets • Teachers • Tongues • interpretation of Tongues	• Miraculous works • Healing • Helps • Administration

Ephesians 4:11-12

Special gifts to equip everyone in the Body for the work of ministry:

- Apostles • Prophets • Evangelists • Pastors and Teachers

1 Corinthians 12:12-27, 29-31

We are all members of the Body of Christ and each one is of equal importance. All gifts are necessary and important. We must care for and support one another as members of one family. There should not be competition and division among us. Not everyone has the same gifts. We may desire certain gifts, but God ultimately determines who will have which gift and how we will serve in the Body (v.11, 18, 24, 28).

1 Corinthians 12:31 – 13:1-13

We must love one another. Those with certain gifts may come to despise others who do not have them. Sometimes there are quarrels and rivalries between different members of the Body... and that should not be! That is why exercising love is so important.

1 Corinthians 14

We should seek to build up others... we should not be focussed on our own edification and personal benefit. Here there seems to have been confusion regarding the gift of tongues, and Paul gave guidelines regarding its use: one at a time, maximum three, and with an interpreter (v.27-28). Do everything in an orderly manner.

Reflection Questions:

- What gift (or gifts) has God given you? Spend time with God in the Word and prayer. Attend church and look for ways to serve. Develop friendships in a discipleship group in your church and ask them what gifts they see in you.
- How can you contribute to the building up of the Body of Christ?
- How are you supporting and watching out for your brothers and sisters in the faith?
- How are you contributing to the unity of the Body of Christ?

Watch the movie Cessationist,
by Broken Stone Studio and Grace Abounding Productions.

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