

Wednesday, March 25 ~ The Purpose of the Gift ~
[1 Corinthians 12:1-11](#)

Paul preaches about spiritual gifts (abilities given to each of us by the Holy Spirit) in many of his letters, but in these verses, he names some spiritual gifts: wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miraculous powers, prophecy, distinguishing between spirits, speaking in tongues, and interpretation of tongues. Unfortunately, the Corinthians had been using these gifts to gain power or privilege. Maybe the most important part of these verses comes right before this list. Paul says, “Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit (spiritual gift) is given for the common good.” That means all of us have spiritual gifts, and the purpose of those gifts is to help each other. These gifts are given to be given.

Sometimes I struggle to identify my spiritual gifts. I don't think I can point to any of Paul's list above and say, “Yes, that's my gift!” But Paul's one-line explanation that gifts are meant to help others really helps me. I know that God gives us plenty of opportunities to show our faith and work with Him, using the Holy Spirit to nudge us into action. So, if I truly wish to use my spiritual gifts, I need to pay attention to the opportunities that God presents to me. Even if I can't “name” my gifts, God can. And He will be faithful to call me into action to use them. What opportunity is God presenting to you? You might not believe that you can do what He is asking. But, trust that He has given you the abilities you will need to accomplish your part in His work for the common good.

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Concerning Spiritual Gifts

12 Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. ²You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. ³Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

⁷Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,^[a] and to still another the interpretation of tongues.^[b] ¹¹All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

Footnotes:

- a. [1 Corinthians 12:10](#) Or *languages*; also in verse 28
- b. [1 Corinthians 12:10](#) Or *languages*; also in verse 28