



Ps 63:1-8

THIRST



The Gifts of the Holy Spirit



HOLY SPIRIT

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Recently, we have been focusing on teaching and equipping our church about who the Holy Spirit is, what He does and how we live by His power. In tonight's Thirst session, we are going to look at the **gifts of the Holy Spirit**.

Exercising the Gifts of the Spirit is vital for the health and effectiveness of the church and its mission.

These gifts, bestowed by the Holy Spirit, equip believers to serve one another, build up the body of Christ, and fulfill God's purposes in the world. By understanding and applying these gifts, believers demonstrate God's power, promote unity, and facilitate spiritual growth within the community of faith.

Through the proper exercise of the Gifts of the Spirit, believers engage in ministry that glorifies God, edifies others, and bears witness to the transforming work of Christ. As each member contributes their unique gifts, the church becomes a vibrant and impactful expression of God's love and grace to the world.

Here is a helpful video by Impact Video Ministries <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cWK5BRzFymQ>.

COMING UP

- 1 Corinthians 12 - what is it about?
- List of the Gifts of the Spirit - quick view
- Key Scriptures
- Why should we seek and apply the Gifts of the Spirit?
- What are Gifts of the Spirit and what gifts do I have?
- How do I discover my spiritual gifts?

What is 1 Corinthians 12 about?

1 Corinthians 12 sets out to show us the **Gifts of the Spirit** and how the church is **One Body But Many Parts**.

This pivotal passage addresses the diversity and unity of the Gifts of the Spirit within the body of Christ. The passage emphasises that while believers possess different gifts and functions, they are all interconnected and essential for the functioning of the church. Paul highlights the importance of unity, mutual dependence, and love among believers, regardless of their individual roles or giftings. He emphasizes that spiritual gifts are given by the Holy Spirit for the common good and the edification of the church. The chapter encourages believers to honour and value one another's gifts, avoiding pride and jealousy, and working together harmoniously for the advancement of God's kingdom.

List of spiritual gifts - quick view:

Prophecy	Teaching	Exhortation
Miracles	Leading	Giving
Evangelism	Service	Administration
Tongues	Helps	Word of Knowledge
Interpretation of Tongues	Faith	Word of Wisdom
Healing	Discerning Spirits	Apostleship
Pastoring	Mercy	

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Key Scriptures

1 Corinthians 12

Spiritual Gifts

12 "Now, dear brothers and sisters, regarding your question about the special abilities the Spirit gives us. I don't want you to misunderstand this. 2 You know that when you were still pagans, you were led astray and swept along in worshipping speechless idols. 3 So I want you to know that no one speaking by the Spirit of God will curse Jesus, and no one can say Jesus is Lord, except by the Holy Spirit.

4 There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. 5 There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. 6 God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.

7 A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. 8 To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. 9 The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. 10 He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. 11 It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.

One Body with Many Parts

12 The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. 13 Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.

14 Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. 15 If the foot says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear says, "I am not part of the body because I am not an eye," would that make it any less a part of the body? 17 If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything? 18 But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. 19 How strange a body would be if it had only one part! 20 Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. 21 The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you." The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you."

22 In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary. 23 And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So we carefully protect those parts that should not be seen, 24 while the more honorable parts do not require this special care. So God has put the body together such that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity. 25 This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. 26 If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad.

27 All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it. 28 Here are some of the parts God has appointed for the church: first are apostles, second are prophets, third are teachers, then those who do miracles, those who have the gift of healing, those who can help others, those who have the gift of leadership, those who speak in unknown languages.

29 Are we all apostles? Are we all prophets? Are we all teachers? Do we all have the power to do miracles? 30 Do we all have the gift of healing? Do we all have the ability to speak in unknown languages? Do we all have the ability to interpret unknown languages? Of course not! 31 So you should earnestly desire the most helpful gifts. But now let me show you a way of life that is best of all."



Why should we seek and apply the Gifts of the Spirit?

Seeking and exercising the gifts of the Spirit as outlined in 1 Corinthians 12 is crucial for the health and vitality of the church, the empowerment of believers for ministry, and the advancement of God's kingdom agenda on earth. It is a means by which God equips His people for effective service, builds up the body of Christ, and manifests His presence and power in the world.

Biblical Mandate: The apostle Paul emphasises the importance of spiritual gifts and their proper use within the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:1, 4-7). As followers of Christ, studying and applying these gifts aligns with biblical teaching and obedience to God's Word.

Unity and Edification: The gifts of the Spirit are given for the common good and the building up of the church (1 Corinthians 12:7). By understanding and utilising these gifts, believers can contribute to the unity, growth, and spiritual maturity of the body of Christ.

Equipping for Ministry: Each believer is uniquely gifted by the Holy Spirit for specific tasks and roles in the church and in the world (1 Corinthians 12:11). Believers identify and develop their God-given abilities, empowering them to fulfill their calling and purpose in ministry.

Manifestation of God's Power: The exercise of spiritual gifts demonstrates the presence and power of the Holy Spirit at work in the lives of believers (1 Corinthians 12:4-11). Through the proper use of these gifts, God's supernatural intervention and provision are made evident, leading to the glorification of His name.

Effective Evangelism: The manifestation of spiritual gifts can serve as a powerful witness to unbelievers, pointing them to the reality of God and His kingdom (1 Corinthians 14:24-25). When exercised in love and with proper order, spiritual gifts can draw others to Christ and lead them into a deeper relationship with Him.

Counteracting Spiritual Gifts Abuse: Helps guard against misuse, misinterpretation, or manipulation of these gifts within the church (1 Corinthians 14:40). Proper knowledge and application of spiritual gifts promote order, accountability, and discernment in their exercise.

Empowering Ministry Effectiveness: Believers are equipped to serve effectively in various ministry contexts, meeting the diverse needs of individuals and communities (1 Corinthians 12:28-30). Each gift plays a unique role in fulfilling the mission of the church and advancing God's kingdom.

Encouraging Spiritual Growth: As believers exercise their spiritual gifts in obedience to God, they experience personal growth and spiritual maturity (1 Peter 4:10-11). The use of spiritual gifts fosters dependency on God, reliance on His strength, and an ongoing pursuit of His purposes and will.

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Group Discussion:

What gifts do you think you have? Share a time when you exercised any of the gifts of the Spirit and how people's lives were changed or impacted by your willingness to be used by God.

Exploring Questions:

What are the Gifts of the Spirit and what gifts do I have?

Let's explore the gifts outlined, their purpose, how they reflect God's character, along with relevant Bible verses and thought-provoking questions.

Prophecy:

To communicate God's message, edify believers, and bring conviction or encouragement (1 Corinthians 14:3).

God is the ultimate source of truth and revelation, and prophecy reflects His desire to communicate with His people (Amos 3:7, Hebrews 1:1-2).

1 Corinthians 12:10 - "To another the working of miracles, to another prophecy."

How can we discern and faithfully communicate God's message through the gift of prophecy in our churches?

Miracles:

To demonstrate God's power and authenticate His message, often resulting in signs and wonders (Acts 14:3). Miracles reveal God's sovereignty over nature, sickness, and spiritual forces, highlighting His compassion and authority (Acts 2:22, Luke 7:22).

1 Corinthians 12:10 - "To another the working of miracles."

How do miracles serve to affirm God's presence and power in our lives and how should we respond to them?

Evangelism:

To proclaim the Gospel, lead others to faith in Christ, and disciple new believers (Matthew 28:19-20).

God desires all people to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth, and evangelism reflects His heart for the lost (1 Timothy 2:3-4, Luke 19:10).

Ephesians 4:11 - "So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers."

How can we faithfully fulfill the call to evangelize, sharing the good news of salvation with boldness and compassion?

Tongues:

To speak in languages unknown to the speaker, often as a sign of God's presence or as a form of prayer or praise (Acts 2:4, 1 Corinthians 14:2).

Tongues demonstrate God's ability to transcend language barriers and communicate with His people in diverse ways (Acts 10:44-48, Acts 19:6).

1 Corinthians 12:10 - "To another different kinds of tongues."

How does the gift of tongues foster intimacy with God and build up the individual believer and the church?

Interpretation of Tongues:

To interpret messages spoken in tongues, allowing the congregation to understand and be edified (1 Corinthians 14:5, 13).

Interpretation of tongues reflects God's desire for clarity and understanding in His communication with His people (1 Corinthians 14:33).

1 Corinthians 12:10 - "To another the interpretation of tongues."

How does the interpretation of tongues contribute to the edification and unity of the body of Christ in corporate worship settings?

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Healing:

To bring physical, emotional, or spiritual healing to individuals, demonstrating God's compassion and power (James 5:14-15).

Healing reflects God's nature as the Great Physician and the source of wholeness and restoration (Psalm 103:3, Exodus 15:26).

1 Corinthians 12:9 - "To another gifts of healings by the same Spirit."

How can we cultivate faith and reliance on God's healing power, trusting Him for physical, emotional, and spiritual restoration?

Pastoring:

To shepherd and care for the spiritual well-being of God's people, providing guidance, support, and teaching (Ephesians 4:11-12, 1 Peter 5:2-3).

Pastoring reflects God's heart as the Good Shepherd, who leads, protects, and nurtures His flock (John 10:11, Psalm 23:1-3).

Ephesians 4:11 - "So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers."

How can pastors effectively shepherd God's people, leading them into deeper relationship with Christ and equipping them for ministry?

Teaching:

To instruct and impart knowledge of God's Word, enabling believers to grow in faith and maturity (Ephesians 4:11-13, 2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Teaching reflects God's desire for His people to know and understand His truth, enabling them to live in obedience and freedom (John 8:32, Psalm 119:105).

Ephesians 4:11 - "So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers."

How can teachers effectively communicate God's Word with clarity, relevance, and accuracy, guiding others into deeper understanding and application?

Leading:

To provide direction, vision, and oversight within the church or ministry context, guiding others toward God's purposes (Romans 12:8, Hebrews 13:17).

Leading reflects God's role as the ultimate authority and guide, who leads His people in righteousness and truth (Psalm 23:2-3, Isaiah 58:11).

Romans 12:8 - "If it is to lead, do it diligently."

How can leaders humbly and effectively steward their authority and influence for the advancement of God's kingdom and the welfare of His people?

Service:

To serve and meet the practical needs of others, demonstrating Christ-like humility and compassion (Mark 10:45, Galatians 5:13).

Service reflects God's heart for the marginalized and vulnerable, as well as His call for His people to love and serve one another (Matthew 25:35-40, John 13:14-15).

Romans 12:7 - "If it is serving, then serve."

How can we cultivate a servant's heart and faithfully serve others with joy and humility, following Jesus?

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Helps:

To assist and support others in various tasks and responsibilities, contributing to the effectiveness and unity of the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:28).

Helps reflects God's concern for community and mutual care, as well as His provision of resources and assistance to His people (Philippians 2:4, Psalm 46:1).

1 Corinthians 12:28 - "And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues."

How can we embrace the gift of helps and actively support others in their ministries and responsibilities, fostering unity and collaboration within the body of Christ?

Faith:

To trust God confidently and wholeheartedly, even in the face of challenges or uncertainties, inspiring others to trust in God's faithfulness (1 Corinthians 12:9).

Faith reflects God's reliability and trustworthiness, as well as His desire for His people to walk by faith and not by sight (Hebrews 11:6, 2 Corinthians 5:7).

1 Corinthians 12:9 - "To another faith by the same Spirit."

How can we cultivate and exercise faith in God's promises and purposes, even when circumstances seem contrary to His Word?

Discerning Spirits:

To discern between truth and deception, recognizing the presence and activity of spiritual forces, both good and evil (1 Corinthians 12:10).

Discernment reflects God's desire for His people to walk in wisdom and spiritual discernment, avoiding deception and embracing truth (Proverbs 3:21-23, 1 John 4:1).

1 Corinthians 12:10 - "To another discerning of spirits."

How can we develop discernment and spiritual sensitivity to recognize God's voice and discern His leading amidst competing influences and voices?

Mercy:

To extend compassion, forgiveness, and assistance to those who are suffering or in need, reflecting God's heart of mercy and compassion (Romans 12:8, Luke 6:36).

Mercy reflects God's abundant compassion and grace, as well as His call for His people to show mercy and kindness to others (Psalm 145:8, Micah 6:8).

Romans 12:8 - "If it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully."

How can we demonstrate mercy and compassion to those who are hurting or in need, reflecting God's love and grace in tangible ways?

Exhortation:

To encourage, challenge, and motivate others toward spiritual growth and obedience, inspiring hope and perseverance (Romans 12:8, Hebrews 10:24-25).

Exhortation reflects God's desire to build up His people and spur them on toward love and good deeds, as well as His commitment to encourage and strengthen His followers (1 Thessalonians 5:11, Isaiah 41:10).

Romans 12:8 - "If it is to encourage, then give encouragement."

How can we effectively exhort and encourage others in their faith journey, pointing them toward Christ and His promises with boldness and compassion?

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Giving:

To generously share resources, time, and talents with others, demonstrating God's generosity and provision (Romans 12:8, 2 Corinthians 9:7).

Giving reflects God's abundant provision and generosity, as well as His call for His people to be cheerful and generous givers (Matthew 6:19-21, 2 Corinthians 9:11).

Romans 12:8 - "If it is giving, then give generously."

How can we cultivate a spirit of generosity and stewardship, faithfully stewarding the resources God has entrusted to us for His kingdom purposes?

Administration:

To organize, plan, and manage various aspects of ministry and church life, ensuring efficiency and effectiveness (1 Corinthians 12:28).

Administration reflects God's orderliness and wisdom, as well as His desire for His people to conduct their affairs with diligence and excellence (1 Corinthians 14:40, Proverbs 16:3).

1 Corinthians 12:28 - "And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues."

How can we effectively steward the gift of administration to serve and support the ministries and mission of the church, bringing order and clarity to God's work?

Word of Knowledge:

To receive supernatural insight or understanding about a situation, person, or truth, revealing God's wisdom and guidance (1 Corinthians 12:8).

The word of knowledge reflects God's omniscience and His desire to reveal truth and understanding to His people (Psalm 139:1-6, Daniel 2:20-22).

1 Corinthians 12:8 - "To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit."

How can we discern and faithfully steward the word of knowledge to edify and build up the body of Christ, aligning with God's purposes and truth?

Word of Wisdom:

To receive divine insight and guidance for making decisions or understanding God's will, demonstrating God's wisdom and counsel (1 Corinthians 12:8).

The word of wisdom reflects God's wisdom and sovereignty, as well as His desire to lead and guide His people in righteousness (James 1:5, Proverbs 3:5-6).

1 Corinthians 12:8 - "To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom."

How can we seek and apply the word of wisdom in our lives and ministries, relying on God's guidance and wisdom for every decision and circumstance?

Apostleship:

To pioneer, establish, and oversee the expansion of the Gospel and the planting of churches, demonstrating God's commission and authority (Ephesians 4:11-12, Matthew 28:19-20).

Apostleship reflects God's missionary heart and His desire for all nations to know and worship Him (Acts 1:8, Revelation 7:9-10).

*Ephesians 4:11 - "So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers." **How can we embody the principles of apostleship in our mission and ministry endeavors, boldly proclaiming the Gospel and making disciples of all nations?***

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Here is another helpful video by Impact Video Ministries

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k-ukY1pTMtQ&list=PLNSOoTgNfSunIkUcS9DHnf5mIvFazgysI&index=15>

Actions Questions:

What steps are you going to take to discover your spiritual gifts?

How Do I Discover My Spiritual Gifts?

Discovering your spiritual gifts involves a combination of self-reflection, prayer, and seeking guidance from others in your Christian community.

Here are some steps to help you discern your spiritual gifts:

Pray for Guidance: Begin by praying and asking God to reveal your spiritual gifts to you. Invite the Holy Spirit to work in your life and guide you in understanding how you can best serve God and others.

Self-Reflection: Reflect on your interests, passions, and talents. Consider what activities or areas of ministry bring you the most joy and fulfillment. Pay attention to the ways in which God has already been using you to bless others and further His kingdom.

Spiritual Gifts Assessments: Take advantage of spiritual gifts assessments or inventories available online or through church. These tools can help you identify areas of strength and potential spiritual gifts. However, remember that these assessments are not definitive but can serve as helpful starting points for self-reflection and discussion.

Seek Counsel from Others: Talk to trusted leaders or friends in church about your desire to discover your spiritual gifts. They may offer insights based on their observations of your strengths and experiences working alongside you in ministry.

Experiment and Serve: Get involved in different areas of ministry within your church. Volunteer for various tasks or roles to gain hands-on experience and discern where your strengths and passions lie. Pay attention to how you feel when serving in different capacities and where you sense God's affirmation and empowerment.

Evaluate Feedback: Be open to feedback from others regarding your strengths, areas for growth, and the impact of your service. Sometimes, the perspectives of others can provide valuable insights that you may not have considered on your own.

Stay Connected to God: Continually seek God's guidance and wisdom as you discern your spiritual gifts. Stay connected to Him through prayer, Bible study, and worship, allowing Him to shape and mold you according to His purposes.

Remember that discovering your spiritual gifts is a journey, and it may take time to fully understand how God has uniquely gifted you for His kingdom work. Be patient, persistent, and open to the leading of the Holy Spirit as you seek to serve God and others with the gifts He has entrusted to you.