

“Growing Together through Gifting”
1 Corinthians 12-13

3 Biblical Principles of Spiritual Gifts

- Spiritual gifts begin with the victory of God in Christ and are distributed by His Holy Spirit. (1 Cor. 12-1-6)

But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift.⁸ Therefore it says, “When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men”....¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. (Ephesians 4:7-8, 11-14)

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. (John 14:12)

This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.³³ Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. (Acts 2:32-33)

- Spiritual gifts are varied in expression but identical in purpose. (1 Cor. 12:7-31)
 - God gifts His people with tremendous variety. (vv. 7-11)
 - God gifts His people with singular focus. (vv. 12-31)

Ability to speak or act in a particular way—performing ability, as we may call it—is only a charisma [gift] if and as God uses it to edify. Some natural abilities [talents] that God has given he never uses in this way, while sometimes he edifies through performances that to competent judges seem substandard... What constitutes and identifies a gift is not the form of the action but the blessing of God. (J.I. Packer)

Let all things be done for building up. (1 Corinthians 14:26)

- Spiritual gifts are meaningless unless exercised with love. (1 Cor. 13)
 - Not... “What can I get here?”
 - But... “What can I give here?”

3 Basic Applications on Spiritual Gifts

- Consider how the Lord has gifted you.
 - Pray and ask the Lord for guidance.
 - Think through your passions, interests, talents, and experience.
 - Look for particular ways to serve others.
 - See where the body is being built up and people edified.
- Serve the Lord in a local church.
 - *Find a gospel-preaching local church as quickly as you can, join it as happily as you can, and serve it as faithfully as you can with the gifts you have.*
 - *God has so ordered the body that your inactivity will matter and that your service—no matter how seemingly small but empowered by His Spirit—will matter as well.*

A mosaic is a glorious picture. But it is made up of tiny pieces of colored glass. Each one is pretty, but meaningless in isolation. So, all Christians together, show the world Jesus Christ in all the glory of his mediatorial ministry. (Tim Keller)

- Give all the glory to God.

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹ whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 4:10-11)