

Chad Hester
**SESSION 3 | God Working Through Us –
Spiritual Gifts**

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

–1 Corinthians 12:1-7 (ESV)

“If the church is going to be effective in our postmodern world, we need to stop paying mere lip service to the Spirit and to recapture Paul’s perspective; the Spirit as the *experienced, empowering* return of God’s own *personal presence* in and among us, who enables us to live as a radically *eschatological* people in the present world while we await the consummation.” –Gordon Fee, *Paul, the Spirit, and the People of God*, xv.

I. Reason, Reminder, and Rejoicing

Reason:

- *“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed.”* –1 Cor. 12:1
- *“Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts...”* (1 Cor. 14:1)
 - We pursue an understanding and practice of these grace-gifts because we are called to from Scripture.

Reminder:

- *“He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”* –John 16:14
 - The Spirit highlights and glorifies our Savior, Jesus Christ.
 - The Spirit’s main goal is to glorify Jesus, not to cause people to speak in tongues.
 - “Spiritual gifts are divine enablements for ministry, characteristics of Jesus Christ that are to be manifested through the body corporate just as

they were manifested through the body incarnate.” –John MacArthur, *I Corinthians*, 284.

Rejoicing:

- *“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”* –Ephesians 2:4-9
- If you can say this morning that Jesus is Lord then you have experienced the most profound, powerful, and beautiful work of the Holy Spirit.
 - The other gifts from the Spirit are temporary – this is an eternal gift!

II. What are Spiritual Gifts?

- They are God-given which means they are gracious and they are given for the good of the Church which means they require serving.
- “A spiritual gift is any ability that is empowered by the Holy Spirit and used in any ministry of the church.” –Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 1016.
- *“Now there are **varieties** of gifts, but the **same** Spirit; and there are **varieties** of service, but the **same** Lord; and there are **varieties** of activities, but it is the **same** God who empowers them all in everyone.”* –1 Cor. 12:6
 - There are many gifts that are explicit in Scripture (see chart at end of outline)

III. Do I Have Them??

- *“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”* –1 Cor. 12:7
- *“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace...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
- No Christian is unused or ungifted but you are undeserving.
 - charismatōn (gifts) : root of this Greek word is charis which means **grace**.
- We have no place for boasting – the emphasis by Paul is not on the **spirituality** element of the gifts but onto the **gracious giver** of the gifts.

- All gifts are evidencing God's undeserved favor resting on redeemed sinners.
 - Not a tool to measure spirituality
 - Not an avenue to glorify or display oneself
 - Not an addition to God's Word
- You **have** grace-gifts. You **have no** place for boasting.
 - "Love is the infallible measure of the Spirit's presence and work." –Jeff Purswell

IV. What is the Purpose of the Gifts?

- The care for, building up of, and furtherance of God's church.
 - *"For the upbuilding and encouragement and consolation"* –1 Cor. 14:3
 - *"but the one who prophesies **builds up the church**"* –1 Cor. 14:4b
 - *"so that the church may be **built up**"* –1 Cor. 14:5b
 - *"So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, **strive to excel in building up the church**"* –1 Cor. 14:12
 - *"For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is **not being built up**"* –1 Cor. 14:17
 - *"**Let all things be done for the building up.**"* –1 Cor. 14:26
 - *"For you can all prophesy one by one, so that **all may learn and all be encouraged.**"* –1 Cor. 14:31
- There is a goal of unity for the church even in a variety/diversity of gifts.
 - This is a reflection of our Trinitarian God!
 - We reflect the Godhead in our unity, pursuit, and use of the variety of gifts he has given.
 - Each gift serves a different role and functions uniquely but there is perfect unity within said diversity.
 - "The Triune God loves diversity – so much so...that when he sends a snowstorm he makes each flake different. We manufacture ice cubes. Doubtless the church is in some sense like a mighty army, but that doesn't mean we should think of ourselves as undifferentiated khaki. We should be more like an orchestra: each part making its own unique contribution to the symphonic harmony. Dictators of the right and the left seek to establish their brand of harmony by forcefully imposing monotonous sameness, by seeking to limit differentiation. God establishes his brand of harmony by a lavish grant of highly diverse gifts, each contributing to the body as a whole." –D.A. Carson, *Showing the Spirit*, 32.
- The spiritual gifts provide a foretaste of the future inheritance we have in Christ. If we want to know in part what the coming age will be like we should look to the presence of the Spirit in his comfort, empowering, and gifts.

V. How Do I Pursue Them?

- “God has given you a spiritual gift, and it is not the same as a natural ability. That natural talent, rightly sanctified for God’s use, often points toward the identity of your spiritual gift. But you should find out the special gift God has given you while you’re serving as diligently as you can without that definite information. In fact, in addition to the study of Scripture, the best way to discover and confirm which spiritual gift[s] is yours is through serving.” – Donald Whitney, *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*, 124.
 - We serve God’s church.
 - We ask for God’s gifts.
 - We read God’s word.
 - We pray for a deeper desire for the gifts.
 - Study Romans 8 and 12; 1 Corinthians 12-14; book of Acts.
 - Ask questions.
 - Read and listen to good teaching on the gifts.

“Any public use of the gifts needs to be an overflow of a private pursuit of God.” –Mark Prater

Romans 12:6-8	1 Cor. 7:7	1 Cor. 12:8-10	1 Cor. 12:28	Ephesians 4:11	1 Peter 4:11
1. Prophecy 2. Serving 3. Teaching 4. Encouraging 5. Contributing 6. Leadership 7. Mercy	1. Marriage 2. Singleness	1. Utterance of wisdom 2. Utterance of knowledge 3. Faith 4. Healing 5. Miracles 6. Prophecy 7. Distinguishing between the spirits 8. Tongues 9. Interpretation of tongues	1. Apostle 2. Prophet 3. Teacher 4. Miracles 5. Gifts of healing 6. Helps 7. Administration 8. Tongues	1. Apostle 2. Prophet 3. Evangelist 4. Pastor 5. Teacher	1. Speaking 2. Serving