**Spiritual Gifts in the Church**

**Gifts from the Same Spirit**

**1 Corinthians 12:1-11**

**November 6, 2016**

A Spiritual Gift is a special ability given by the Holy Spirit to every follower of Jesus when they place their faith in Jesus, and is to be used to serve others with the result that the Church is strengthened. It is a supernatural ability that God, the Holy Spirit gives us to serve like Jesus served.

**PROMOTE** Jesus for the **BENEFIT OF OTHERS** by the **POWER OF THE SPIRIT**.

1. Spiritual Gifts promote **JESUS AS LORD**. 1 Corinthians 12:1-3

**1 Corinthians 12:1–11 — 1** *Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed.*  ***2*** *You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led.*  ***3*** *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.*

**The Danger of Ignorance—**the danger of ignorance about spiritual gifts is that we end up in misappropriated energy and misguided efforts in our service to Jesus in His church.

**Our Pagan Past**—Paul reminds them of where they have come from in life. They used to spend a lot of energy in their worship of what he called mute idols; gods who couldn’t speak and couldn’t act on their behalf. And he says that they engaged in the worship of those idols is various ways.

**Jesus is the Focus**—before you came to faith in Jesus, I dare say you knew very little if anything about spiritual gifts and you certainly weren’t aware that Jesus really is the focus of spiritual gifts.

…**Romans 10:9 — 9** *…confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. It’s not enough to say Jesus is Lord*

*…***Matthew 7:22–23 — 22** *On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’*  ***23*** *And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’*

So what does spiritual gifts promoting Jesus as Lord have to do with a church budget? First of all, I want you to see that a church budget is not a secular exercise but a spiritual tool.

1. Spiritual Gifts are for the **BENEFIT OF OTHERS**. 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

***4*** *Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;*  ***5*** *and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord;*  ***6*** *and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.*  ***7*** *To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*

**Variety, Commonality, and Humility**.

There are all kinds of gifts. Of the lists of gifts we have in the Bible (Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4 and 1 Peter 4),

**Philippians 2:13 — 13** *for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

1. Spiritual Gifts are **EMPOWERED & DISTRIBUTED** by the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:8-11

***8*** *For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit,*  ***9*** *to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,*  ***10*** *to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.*  ***11*** *All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.*

Wisdom – the ability to understand God’s perspective on life situations and share those insights in a simple, understandable way. The ability to explain what to do and how to do it.

Knowledge – the ability to discover, collect, analyze, and organize information that is vital to individual believers or the entire church family.

Faith – the ability to trust God for what cannot be seen and to act on God’s promise, regardless of what the circumstances indicate. The willingness to risk failure in pursuit of a God given vision, expecting God to handle the obstacles.

Healing – the ability to pray in faith specifically for people who need physical, emotional, or spiritual healing and see God answer.

Miracles – the ability to pray in faith specifically for God’s supernatural intervention into an impossible situation and see God answer.

Prophecy – the ability to publicly communicate God’s Word in an inspired way that convinces unbelievers and both challenges and comforts believers.

Distinguishing of spirits – the ability to distinguish right from wrong, truth from error, and to give an immediate evaluation based on God’s Word.

Tongues/Interpretation of Tongues – the ability to pray in a language understood only by God or one who is given the gift of interpretation at that time.

Spiritual gifts are not self-serving.

Spiritual gifts are useless when they are loveless.

…**Romans 10:9 — 9** because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

**PROMOTE** Jesus for the **BENEFIT OF OTHERS** by the **POWER OF THE SPIRIT**.

Let’s talk about gifts that come from the same Spirit…

1. What questions do you still have about spiritual gifts?
2. What was your religious expression like before you came to faith in Jesus?
3. How was Jesus cursed in this world?
4. What would it mean for you to truly say “Jesus is Lord” by the Holy Spirit?
5. How do the various spiritual gifts mentioned in this passage promote unity among believers and order in the church?
6. Why is it so important for us to know that God is the One who empowers spiritual gifts in every believer?
7. How do spiritual gifts reveal the Holy Spirit?
8. Give an example of how your spiritual gift has been used for the common good?
9. How would you go about identifying a truly spiritual person in the church today?
10. When have you recognized that something that we accomplished in the church was the result of the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit?