



Sermon #9: Spiritual Gifts

June 18, 2023

Text: [1 Corinthians 12:1-11](#)

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Sermon Open

In the 9th sermon of the 'Family of God' series, we explore the topic of spiritual gifts and their significance in the lives of believers. It is critical that we again visit our foundation for this lesson. The strength of the fellowship we have with one another in the church will be determined by the maturity of our fellowship with Jesus. If we remember the picture of Abiding, the branches (followers of Christ) are only connected to one another through the vine as the Father cares for us all. As each Christian is living in Jesus, then our life with one another is through Him. And finally, we remember in the picture of the Body, that we are so connected to one another through Jesus (the head) that if one part suffers, we all do. And if one part is strong, we are all stronger. And to this end, it is the plan of the Father to give each believer a manifestation of the Spirit – spiritual gifts – for the common good of the body ([1 Corinthians 12:7](#)) - to equip the Saints for ministry ([Ephesians 4:11-12](#)) and to BuildUp the church ([1 Corinthians 14:12](#)).

Categories of Gifts

As intriguing as they are, spiritual gifts should never be pursued over God who gives the gifts. But we should seek to understand the gifts and specifically what ours may be. In [1 Corinthians 12:4-6](#), we see 3 categories – or descriptions - of gifts indicated by three different Greek words. In [v4](#), the word **Charisma** (gifts) which we can define *as a grace gift of divine power*. In [v5](#), the word **Diakonia** (Service) refers to *acts of service toward others*. And in [v6](#), the word **Energema** indicates *a function, effect, or operation*. We can bring this together by saying that various manifestations of God's power is granted to his people, to help each person perform a variety of services, for various effects and operations in the church. Anything we can do for God's glory & the good of the church, we should do as we depend on the power of His Spirit.

Phases of Physical Gifts

There are 3 phases believers will walk through with their spiritual gifts, although not in a particular order. It is possible that all of these will occur simultaneously and throughout the journey of maturing in their faith. There is the **Discover** phase, as the individual is coming to understand what their gifts are. While tests or confirmation of others can be helpful, it is important for a believer to go straight to the source of the gifts and ask God to give them and show them their gifts ([Luke 11:13](#)). If you are good at something, it's God's power for you. Each believer must also **Develop** their gifts, learning how to use them at a higher level. Development in your gifts will require that you have a teachable spirit. You must be willing to receive instructions from others as you are learning how to serve in various ways with your gifts ([Proverbs 15:33](#)). And all believers are to **Disciple** other believers to use their own gifts. Do not shortchange what God has given you. You do not have to have it all down in order to help others. We should all be learning and leading in our gifts ([Luke 6:40](#)).

Through the Myths

A powerful spiritual gift does not always mean the person operating in the gift is a mature believer ([Romans 11:29](#)). We should not even assume that just because someone seems to operate in a spiritual gift that they are indeed a Christian ([Matthew 7:22-23](#)). Spiritual maturity is measured by the fruit of the Spirit, not the gifts of the Spirit. So in conclusion, we must pursue Jesus with our whole heart, desire His gifts, and be faithful to walk in them for the common good, equipping the Saints for ministry, and the building-up of the church through discovery, development, and discipling of one another.