

Now concerning spiritual gifts

June 27, 2021	1 Corinthians 12:1-31	The Body of Christ at Work	Phil
July 4, 2021	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	God's Greatest Gift	Dave J
July 11, 2021	1 Corinthians 14:1-25	The Priority of Prophecy	Cary
July 18, 2021	1 Corinthians 14:26-41	The Practice of Prophecy	David H

Problem 1: We don't understand what a spiritual gift is

Question asked of Paul
Their lack of understanding

1. **Definition not given**
2. **Recognizes from where they came**
3. **Gently leads them from their unknown**

V 1: Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.

Problem 2: We don't know who to listen to

Paul lays the foundation for evaluating the spiritual against their pagan background before Christ:

The Spirit of God:
never inspires "Jesus be cursed"
only inspires "Jesus is Lord"

Principle 1: Be influenced by God's Spirit

V 2-3: You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. Therefore I tell you that no-one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no-one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

Problem 3: We don't know how to value the gifts

Principle 2: Diversity and unity is of God

Diversity	Unity
Gifts	All by the same Spirit
Service	Of the same Lord
Working	By the same Lord

V 4-6

Problem 4: We don't know who receives these gifts or when they are given

What about me?

1 Corinthians 12:7	Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.
1 Corinthians 12 :11	All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one , just as he determines.
Ephesians 4:7	But to each one of us..
1 Peter 4:10	Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

V 7, 11

Problem 4: We don't know who receives these gifts or when they are given

So, when do I receive mine?

1. **By context**
For we were all baptised by one Spirit into one body – whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.
2. **By inference**
Principle 3: Every Christian has been gifted by God's Spirit to serve in unique, diverse and empowered ways

V 13

Problem 5: We don't know how they are distributed

Ephesians 4

7 But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.

8 **This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men."**

9 (What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions?

10 He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)

11 It was he who gave some to be ...

Quoted from Psalm 68:15....

V 11-13, 18

Principle 4: Spiritual gifts are sovereignly given by our Risen Lord, via the Spirit of God, to each one in the Body of Christ

Problem 5: We don't know how they are distributed

Implications of God's sovereign distribution of gifts

IS:

- given by His choice
- developed for His purpose
- often interleaved with natural talent
- additional for new needs ahead

NOT:

- by gender
- by desiring the show gifts
- by the pressure of a church leader
- based on achievement

Problem 6: We don't know the purpose of these gifts

1 Corinthians 12:7	... is given for the common good.
1 Corinthians 12:11	All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.
1 Corinthians 12:18	But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.
Ephesians 4:12,13	It was he who gave some to be...to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.



Principle 5: The gifts are given for the common good, for building up the Body of Christ

Problem 7: We don't know what these gifts look like!

Definition: Our risen Lord's endowment of a special ability and power for service upon each member of the Body of Christ by the Holy Spirit.

Problem 7: We don't know what the gifts look like

- Every Christian is in the ministry
- Generally, each has been given personal talents, competencies, skills, experience.. for God's use
- Generally, every Christian has the indwelling Spirit of God, and bearing fruit is the external witness of being truly His
- Specifically, every Christian has been given spiritual gift(s) added to his/her natural gifts from God to uniquely serve Him for the common good

Problem 7: We don't know what the gifts look like!

1 Corinthians 12
v 8-10
LOVE
wisdom
knowledge
faith
healings
miracles
prophecy
discernment
tongues
tongues interpretation

1. This list reinforces diversity in the Church

2. It also demonstrates that that there is not just one gift that represents the manifestation of the Spirit of God in the meeting

Gifts included in both lists of 1 Cor 12

healings
prophecy
tongues
tongues interpretation

Problem 7: We don't know what the gifts look like!

1 Corinthians 12
v 28-30
LOVE
apostle
prophecy
teaching
miracles
healings
helps
administration
tongues

1. The second list again reinforces diversity in the Church
2. Note two groupings of gifts
 First group of four: first, second, third, then followed by also...second group
 Sequence of church foundation
 Rebutting some who are teaching this gift or group of gifts is the thing
 Setting the stage for further correction in following chapters

Gifts included in both lists of 1 Cor 12
LOVE
prophecy
teaching
miracles
healings
helps
administration
tongues

References external to 1 Corinthians 12 of note

Romans 12	1 Corinthians 12	Ephesians 4	1 Peter 4
LOVE	LOVE	LOVE	LOVE
exhortation	administration	apostle	hospitality
giving	apostle	evangelism	speaking
leadership	discernment	pastor	servicing
mercy	faith	prophecy	
prophecy	healings	teaching	
service	helps		
teaching	knowledge		
	miracles		
	prophecy		
	teaching		
	tongues		
	tongues interpretation		
	wisdom		

Other main list references for the gifts - LOVE foundational to every gift!

References external to 1 Corinthians 12 of note

Possible additions to the spiritual gifts specifically listed, and whatever combinations or additional gifts are weaved into the tapestry the Holy Spirit sovereignly chooses

1. Celibacy (1 Cor 7:7)
2. Martyrdom (1 Cor 13:3)
3. Missionary (Eph 3:6-8)
4. Voluntary poverty (1 Cor 13:3)
5. Creative support (Exodus 31:1-11)
 1. The Lord said to Moses, "I have chosen Bezalel."

Problem 7: Do we know what these gifts look like here?

Definitions

1 Corinthians 12	first list
LOVE	
wisdom	To understand and apply the whole system of truth revealed by God
knowledge	The ability to understand the wisdom of God as revealed to the apostles correctly
faith	Faith of a visionary to pursue and lead others to join in specific works of God
healings	The supernatural ability given by God to heal a person physically
miracles	The supernatural ability to perform the miraculous
prophecy	Receive and communicate God's truth for the present or for the future given by direct revelation
discernment	The spiritual capacity to distinguish a presenter of spiritual matters as to whether it is of God, him or herself, or evil spirits.
tongues	The granted capacity to speak in a known language which is not known by the speaker
tongues interpretation	The capacity to interpret the unlearned language spoken into his own language

1 Cor 12: 8-10

Problem 7: Do we know what these gifts look like here?

Definitions

	2nd list
apostle	Eyewitness of the resurrection, receiver of direct revelation, and speaks/writes under the authority granted
prophecy	Receive and communicate God's truth for the present or for the future given by direct revelation
teaching	Making clear to others the truth of God from apostles, scripture
miracles	The supernatural ability to perform the miraculous
healings	The supernatural ability given by God to heal a person physically
helps	Assisting in the work of the Lord in a way that encourages and strengthens others; can be combined with serving
administration	Administering and inspiring others to find their place in God's plan
tongues	The granted capacity to speak in a known language which is not known by the speaker
tongues interpretation	The capacity to interpret the unlearned language spoken into his own language

1 Cor 12: 28-30

Problem 7: Do we know what these gifts look like here?

Definitions

Romans 12	
LOVE	
prophecy	Receive and communicate God's truth for the present or for the future given by direct revelation
service	Unusual capacity to help and serve others
teaching	Making clear to others the truth of God from apostles, scripture
exhortation	Moving others to the right path and action
giving	Seeing needs and sacrificially giving to meet them as God gives
leadership	Administering and inspiring others to find their place in God's plan
mercy	Moving to provide for those who are undeserving or incapable of aid required

Rom 12:6-8

Problem 7: Do we know what these gifts look like here?

Definitions

Ephesians 4	
LOVE	
apostle	Eyewitness of the resurrection, receiver of direct revelation, and speaks under the authority granted
evangelism	To understand and present the gospel with persuasive clarity, and to equip other with the same passion to see others come to Christ
prophecy	Receive and communicate God's truth for the present or for the future given by direct revelation
pastor and teacher	To shepherd and feed the people of God

Eph 4:11-13

Problem 7: Do we know what these gifts look like here?

Definitions

LOVE	
hospitality	..and whatever gift God provides
speaking	As one who is speaking the very words of God
servicing	As one who is serving under the strength that God provides

1 Peter 4:8-11

Problem 7: Do we know what these gifts look like here?

Dimensions to consider

- Biblical language meaning is important
 - Ex 1. Baptism of the Spirit
 - Ex 2. Tongues and their interpretation
- Nature
 - speaking (tongues, prophecy, teaching,...)
 - servicing (helps, administration, mercy, giving,...)
- Sphere
 - invisible Body of Christ (apostle, prophet, wisdom, knowledge)
 - local church

V 14
Acts 2:4-11
1 Peter 4:11

Problem 7: Do we know what these gifts look like here?

Dimensions to consider

- Function
 - a. preparing the saints within the Body
 - repairing (mending broken nets)
 - preparing (making ready a vessel for the journey)
 - b. God confirming the messenger and the message via signs, wonders, & miracles
 - c. Foundational (apostles, prophets)
- Primary and secondary meaning/usage in scripture
 - Examples: apostle Barnabas
 - prophet and prophets
 - word from God

a. Eph 4: 11-13
b. Heb 2:4; Mark 16:17-20
c. Eph 2: 19-21
Acts 14:14
Eph 2:20; 3: 5
1 Cor 14

Problem 7: We don't know what the gifts look like!

6. Duration

Synthesis of all relevant references
Biblical definitions of each gift
Foundational
Confirmation by God of the messengers and their message
Paul and the imminent return context
1 Cor 12,13,14

Problem 8: Paul: You are all in need of changing your valuation of yourself and others in the Body of Christ!

- All are baptized by one Spirit into one Body
- Some of you say "I am not needed"
 - I am not as important as that person
 - I do not belong
 - Corrections:
 - Value your individual gifts and calling
 - Many parts in one Body

V 11-20
V21-26
V27-31

Problem 8: Paul: You are all in need of changing your valuation of yourself and others in the Body of Christ!



1. All are baptized by one Spirit into one Body
2. Some of you say "I am not needed"
3. Some of you say "I don't need you"

Corrections:

*All are to be valued as indispensable
All are treated to be with equal honour
All with special needs in serving are to be given special treatment*

V 11-20

V21-26

V27-31

Problem 8: Paul: You are all in need of changing your valuation of yourself and others in the Body of Christ!



1. All are baptized by one Spirit into one Body
2. Some of you say "I am not needed"
3. Some of you say "I don't need you"

4. V 31:

But eagerly desire the greater gifts. And now I will show you the most excellent way. (NIV)

But you are eagerly desiring the greater gifts. And now I will show you the most excellent way. (NIV footnote)

V21-26

V27-31

Problem 9: US at BFA??



1. What is knowledge level of the Spiritual gifts of the Spirit of God in my/our life from ignorance to mature?
2. Are we thinking of ourselves with sober judgment of God's placing of us in His Body?
3. Are we appreciating in others their gifting and calling of God?
4. Are we all aligned with the goal of God: being and serving together to attain to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ?