

## Spiritual Gifts - Part 2

1 Cor 12:8-10

Last week we began to look at spiritual gifts. As we continue to look at these, I want us to remember that the context of these chapters is dealing with Worshipping God. So when we think about each gift and its function, demonstration and importance, we must look at it from a worship point of view. When we do that, it begins to bring a different light to the subject. All my life, I had only heard about the spiritual gifts, and never knew much about them. I never knew what they for, nor what good they could do. As we said last week, the purpose of each spiritual gift is for service, to building up the church, and to bring unity to the body of Christ. I'm going to repeat some things because they are so important to remember concerning gifts.

Before we look at specific gifts, look at some special instructions Paul gave to the Corinthian church concerning gifts. 1 Cor. 12:3

1. *No one under the leading of the Holy Spirit could say "Jesus is Accursed"!* Now this may seem like a no brainer to you, but the Corinthian church had been pagan up to Paul coming and they use to induce wild frenzies and loud incantations, and various other outcries. But Paul was determined to show them the difference.
2. *Does the Gift serve to exalt Christ and His Kingdom?* A person could not say that "Jesus is Lord" in the face of persecution unless lead by the Holy Spirit. Does the gift of the spirit in this person lift up Christ and His cause or does it divide and cause disharmony among the believers? Dr. Lewis Sperry defines a gift as "a capacity for service." Paul reminds us again the purpose of a gift is to build up the church and to glorify God.

Now let's look at the gifts Paul mentions. First we must say that this list is probably not complete and it should not be thought of as the only list of gifts. We will see later that there are other gifts mentioned in other places in scripture.

1. **Word of Wisdom** The special ability to convey to others an insight into, and an understanding of, God's truth. 1 Cor. 12:8 This gift is often the one seen in preachers and teachers of the Word. It is used by God to bring light to dimly lit passages of scripture and to help us grow in our understanding of Who and What God is. These people are the authors that we read so often and quote when asked to give our views on subjects. 1 Tim. 3:16-17
2. **Word of Knowledge** The special ability to teach believers the principles and methods for making practical application of God's truths in their own everyday lives. These are also the folks who write and author books and are preachers and teachers, but they differ in how they present the Gospel and the emphasis they put on application and understanding. We need both. We

should seek out both in our lives to help us bring about the balance that comes only for knowing, understanding, and applying God's truth. Paul also is careful to put these two gifts first and gives them the greatest importance in the entire list. Col. 1:25-27

3. **Faith** This is not the faith that is required for salvation, repentance, or belief in God. Rather it is the wonder-working faith that is demonstrated by Jesus Christ Himself. Matt. 17:20 The faith that moves mountains. Matt. 21:21. Modern day example is George Mueller, who ran an orphanage in England in the early 1900's. Had no food for the children, but had them all sit at the table and thank God for the food they were about to eat. Before he finished praying, a knock came to the door. A stranger brought food for the children. That's faith.
4. **Healing** A special gift that allowed a person to effect healing in another because of their own faith. James 5:14-15 Laying on of hands. Acts 3:6-16 ; 9:34; 14:9-10 This is a joining of the faith of one believer with another to petition the throne of God for His healing touch.
5. **Effecting of Miracles** Much of what we think here was limited to the early church. This is not a gift that the guy on TV has who is going to wave some magic wand or give you some special cloth, and you will become rich. It is, instead, the ability to trust God for things that are beyond our own human finite ability. Acts 5:8-10 ; Acts 13:8-11