

Lesson 10

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Prepare for Your Assignment

1. Download message #10, "Miracles, Healing, and Tongues," from www.gty.org/fof.
2. Use your notebook to take notes on the message.
3. Work through the questions and tasks on the following pages.

Memorize 1 Corinthians 12:7

But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

God gives spiritual gifts to believers for the purpose of ministry within the church. The English term comes from two Greek words, *charismata* and *pneumatika*. The root of *charismata* is *charis*, which means "grace" and speaks of something undeserved or unearned. The second word, *pneumatika*, means "spirituals," or things given by the Spirit of God. In this lesson, you will look at various spiritual gifts and how they should be used in the body of Christ.

I. The Nature of Spiritual Gifts

A. Who is the source of spiritual giftedness?

1. 1 Corinthians 12:11 _____ the Holy Spirit _____
2. 1 Corinthians 12:28 _____ God _____

B. Who possesses spiritual giftedness (1 Peter 4:10)?

_____ every believer _____

C. What is the purpose of spiritual gifts?

1. 1 Corinthians 12:4–7 _____ for the common good _____
2. 1 Corinthians 14:12 _____ for the edification of the church _____
3. 1 Peter 4:10–11 _____ to serve one another _____

II. The Provision of Spiritual Gifts

A. Spiritual gifts are referred to in Scripture.

List them below:

1. Romans 12:6–8

_____ prophecy _____ exhortation _____ mercy _____
_____ service _____ giving _____ teaching _____
_____ leading _____

2. 1 Corinthians 12:8–10

wisdom	healing	distinguishing of spirits
knowledge	effecting of miracles	various kinds of tongues
faith	prophecy	interpretation of tongues

3. 1 Corinthians 12:28b (second half of verse)

healing	administrations	miracles
helps	various kinds of tongues	

B. Understanding the gifts—temporary gifts

For a better understanding of how the spiritual gifts function, we have classified the gifts into two categories: temporary (special) and permanent.

The Holy Spirit gave temporary gifts to confirm the testimony of the apostles and prophets. These gifts were prevalent in the early church but ceased to be evident as the church became established.

1. Miracles

This gift is the ability to do “wonders” and “signs.” Christ performed many miracles, as recorded in Scripture. Paul used this gift to affirm his apostleship, as described in 2 Corinthians 12:12.

2. Healing

Peter had this gift (see Acts 3:6–8; 5:15–16), which affirmed his message and helped to establish the foundation for the church.

3. Tongues and interpretation of tongues

This gift is manifested by the speaking of a language unknown to the speaker (see Acts 2:1–11). This gift had to be accompanied by the gift of interpretation (1 Corinthians 14:27–28).

C. Understanding the gifts—permanent gifts

The Holy Spirit gave gifts for the building up of the church. These were prevalent in the early church and still are in the church today.

1. Prophecy

To prophesy is to preach or to tell forth or declare the Scripture. Prophecy does not necessarily mean to foretell the future.

2. Teaching

This gift is the ability to teach the Word of God and help the hearers to understand the Scriptures as the author intended.

✓ **3. Faith**

This gift is a consistent, enabling faith that truly believes God in the face of overwhelming obstacles and human impossibilities, and for great things. John MacArthur calls this the “gift of prayer” because the gift is primarily expressed toward God through prayer.

✓ **4. Wisdom**

This is the ability to apply wisdom, gained from spiritual insight, to believers; knowing what is right and what is wrong, applied knowledge.

✓ **5. Knowledge**

This is an understanding of the facts of Scripture. From the human perspective, it is scholarship or the ability to know the truths of Scripture both broadly and deeply.

6. Discernment

Discernment is the ability to tell which things are from the Spirit and which are not, distinguishing truth from error. This gift serves as protection for the church.

7. Mercy

This is the ability to show deep compassion to those who have spiritual, physical, or emotional needs.

✓ **8. Exhortation**

Exhortation is the ability to encourage and motivate. A person with this gift can come alongside another to comfort him with love, to encourage him to a deeper spiritual commitment and growth, or to exhort him to action. This is the gift that qualifies people to exercise a counseling ministry in the body.

✓ **9. Giving**

This gift is a direct reference to the material ministry of giving food, clothes, money, houses, etc., in response to the needs of the church.

10. Administration/Leadership

This gift is the ability to oversee the flock. This gift should be exhibited by pastors and elders, as well as leaders of missionary societies, youth ministries, evangelistic associations, etc.

✓ **11. Helps**

This gift is the ability to aid in a time of need or bear one another’s burdens as the situation arises.

12. Service

The gift of service is working for the body of Christ in areas of physical ministry, such as serving food or performing maintenance.

III. The Exercise of Spiritual Gifts

A. State the principle(s) expressed in Romans 12:6–8.

“Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly; if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”

Exercise your gift

B. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1–7 and answer the following questions:

1. How can your gifts be abused and without benefit (verses 1–3)?

“If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging symbol. If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.”

If your gift is not exercised in love.

2. Since your spiritual giftedness is to be exercised in love, what are some guidelines that will ensure the profitability of your gifts?

List 15 guidelines (verses 4–7).

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|--|---|
| a. _____ patience _____ | i. _____ not taking account of wrongs _____ |
| b. _____ kindness _____ | j. _____ not rejoicing in unrighteousness _____ |
| c. _____ no jealousy _____ | k. _____ rejoicing with the truth _____ |
| d. _____ no bragging _____ | l. _____ bears all things _____ |
| e. _____ no arrogance _____ | m. _____ believes all things _____ |
| f. _____ no rudeness (acting unbecomingly) _____ | n. _____ hopes all things _____ |
| g. _____ not insisting on one's own way _____ | o. _____ endures all things _____ |
| h. _____ not irritable or resentful (provoked) _____ | |

C. First Corinthians 12 reveals the importance of each spiritual gift within the body of Christ.

According to 1 Corinthians 12:25, what should your attitude be in the use of your spiritual giftedness?

“No division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.”

D. Read Ephesians 4:11–16. What causes the growth of the body of Christ (verse 16)?

“The proper working of each individual part causes the growth of the body.”

IV. Application

Discovery of Your Giftedness	
Each member of the body is commanded to minister in many of the gifted areas, whether he possesses that particular gift or not. For example, all Christians are to function in the following areas:	
Faith	2 Corinthians 5:7
Wisdom	James 1:5
Knowledge	2 Timothy 2:15
Exhortation.....	Hebrews 10:25
Giving	2 Corinthians 9:7
Care for one another (helps)	1 Corinthians 12:25

The Bible does not explicitly explain how to determine one’s spiritual giftedness. However, you can begin by being obedient in the areas mentioned above. Look for open doors, and pray for opportunities to serve. Seek the counsel of other believers; they may be more aware of your gifts than you are.

In order to discover your giftedness in the body and in submission to the elders of your church, in what areas would you be willing to serve?

1. _____ (Answers will vary)
2. _____
3. _____

Each of us needs to exercise his or her giftedness in ministry for the common good of the church.

“As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” —1 Peter 4:10
