

**Chapter 12 – Concerning Spiritual Gifts, Part 1**

Yet another area of division in the Corinthian church was based on the use of spiritual gifts. More specifically, because the gift of speaking in tongues was as outwardly impressive as the ecstatic speech of their former pagan worship, it was being overly valued and misused. Thus, Paul begins with his usual transition phrase, “Now concerning...,” and then addresses spiritual gifts.

To begin with, Paul defines several aspects of spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12:1-11. Match each of the following passages with its correct description below:

1 Cor. 12:1    1 Cor. 12:2-3    1 Cor. 12:4-6    1 Cor. 12:7    1 Cor. 12:8-10    1 Cor. 12:11

_____	<i>Spiritual gifts are:</i>
_____	Dispensed by God’s choice
_____	Given to edify others
_____	Recognized by godliness and orthodoxy
_____	Intelligible and knowable
_____	Varied in type but identical in origin
_____	Empowered by the Holy Spirit

In 1 Corinthians 12:4-6, Paul goes on to use Trinitarian language to describe the divine nature of spiritual gifts.

Based on 1 Corinthians 12:4, which member of the Trinity gives varieties of “gifts” (indicating that spiritual gifts are graciously given rather than selfishly sought)? \_\_\_\_\_

Once we understand that there are a variety of gifts, how should that help with unity in a local church?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Based on 1 Corinthians 12:5, which member of the Trinity gives varieties of “ministries” (related to the Greek word for “deacon” and referring to service to others)? \_\_\_\_\_

Once we understand that there are a variety of ministries, how should that help with unity in a local church?

\_\_\_\_\_  
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Based on 1 Corinthians 12:6, which member of the Trinity gives varieties of “effects” (describing the outcome when we use our spiritual abilities)? \_\_\_\_\_

Once we understand that there are a variety of effects, how should that help with unity in a local church?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Spiritual gifts can be defined as a supernatural ability, sovereignly given to believers, to minister to the body of Christ. According to that definition, explain why being a good singer, dynamic public speaker, or highly-motivating leader is not a spiritual gift:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter 12 – Concerning Spiritual Gifts, Part 1 (continued)**

Match each of the following spiritual gifts, found in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, with its correct definition:

\_\_\_\_\_ *word of wisdom*

A. Ability to speak a foreign language never before learned by natural means (cf. Acts 2:1-11, Acts 19:6-7, 1 Cor. 14:6-11)

\_\_\_\_\_ *word of knowledge*

B. Extraordinary ability to trust God in the face of enormous obstacles (cf. Matt. 17:20, 1 Cor. 13:2, Matt. 21:21)

\_\_\_\_\_ *faith*

C. The infallible reception and declaration of new revelation (cf. Acts 21:9-10, 2 Pet. 1:20-21, 1 Tim. 4:14)

\_\_\_\_\_ *gifts of healings*

D. Authority and ability to cast out demons (cf. Luke 4:36, Luke 9:1, Acts 13:6-12, Acts 19:14-16)

\_\_\_\_\_ *effecting of miracles*

E. Infallible application and declaration of existing revelation (cf. Acts 6:10, 2 Pet. 3:16, Eph. 3:3)

\_\_\_\_\_ *prophecy*

F. Immediate, comprehensive, and non-medicinal power over illnesses (cf. Acts 19:12, Matt. 8:16, Acts 3:6-8)

\_\_\_\_\_ *distinguishing of spirits*

G. Ability to translate a foreign language never before learned by natural means (cf. 1 Cor. 14:5, 12-13, 26-28)

\_\_\_\_\_ *various kinds of tongues*

H. Ability to determine if a person is demonically controlled and/or influenced (cf. Matt 16:23, Acts 5:3, Acts 16:16-18)

\_\_\_\_\_ *interpretation of tongues*

I. Infallible interpretation and declaration of existing revelation (cf. 1 Cor. 13:2)

According to Ephesians 4:11-12, the office of apostleship is also a spiritual gift given to the church. List the marks of a true apostle, based on the following passages:

_____	(Acts 1:22, Acts 10:39-41)
_____	(Gal 1:1, Rom 1:1)
_____	(Eph. 2:20, Rev. 21:14)

Based on those characteristics, explain why the gift of apostleship was limited to the first century instead of continuing to our present time.

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**Chapter 12 – Concerning Spiritual Gifts, Part 1 (continued)**

According to Hebrews 2:4, 2 Corinthians 12:12, and Mark 3:14-15 what was the purpose of miraculous spiritual gifts (also called “sign gifts”)?

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Based on the fact that the gift of apostleship ceased, what do Hebrews 2:4, 2 Corinthians 12:12, and Mark 3:14-15 imply about the miraculous spiritual gifts, such as all of those listed in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10?

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Rather than relying on the gift of prophecy, words of knowledge, or words of wisdom, what should modern-day believers do instead (cf. 2 Tim. 3:16-17, 1 Pet. 1:19)?

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Rather than relying on the gift of healings, what should modern-day believers do instead (cf. 1 Tim. 5:23, James 5:15, 1 Cor. 11:27-32)?

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Rather than relying on the gift of distinguishing spirits, what should modern-day believers do instead (cf. 1 John 4:1-6, Acts 17:11)?

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Rather than relying on the gift of faith, what should modern-day believers do instead (cf. 2 Cor. 5:7, Heb. 12:1-2)?

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Rather than relying on the gifts of speaking in tongues and interpretation of tongues, what should modern-day believers do instead (cf. Titus 1:5)?

Many people wrongly believe that “discernment” is a spiritual gift, based on the gift of “distinguishing spirits.” Explain why general discernment (as described in Hebrews 5:11-14) is not the same as the gift of distinguishing spirits (as described in 1 Corinthians 12:10).

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The doctrine of *cessationism* asserts that the miraculous spiritual gifts, such as the gift of healings, fulfilled their purpose in the first century and ceased to continue past the apostolic age. This is in contrast to *continuationism*, which asserts that the miraculous spiritual gifts continue today. Explain why passages like 2 Timothy 4:20 and Philippians 2:27 support cessationism and refute continuationism.

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Based on that, how should we respond when someone today claims to be a faith-healer?

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Name a person in our current time who claims to be a faith-healer: \_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter 12 – Concerning Spiritual Gifts, Part 1 (continued)**

Paul goes on to compare the church to a human body, in order to further explain why unity must be pursued. Complete and explain the following implications based on the analogy of the body:

*In a body, all parts are one together (cf. 1 Cor. 12:12), therefore in the church...*

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*In a body, there are multiple kinds of parts (cf. 1 Cor. 12:13-14), therefore in the church...*

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*In a body, no part is a lesser part (cf. 1 Cor. 12:15-17), therefore in the church...*

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*In a body, God has constructed its parts (cf. 1 Cor. 12:18), therefore in the church...*

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*In a body, multiple kinds of parts are needed in order to function (cf. 1 Cor. 12:19-20), therefore in the church...*

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*In the body, no part is a superior part (cf. 1 Cor. 12:21-24a), therefore in the church...*

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*In the body, all parts give attention to each other (cf. 1 Cor. 12:24b-27), therefore in the church...*

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In 1 Corinthians 12:28, Paul returns back to the specific issue of spiritual gifts. After ranking apostles first, prophets second, and teachers third, Paul ends the list of spiritual gifts with speaking in tongues to emphasize that it should not be so highly prized above other gifts. The point is further highlighted by the fact that speaking in tongues is preceded by two other gifts not previously mentioned: “helps” and “administration.” These two stand out as non-miraculous gifts that continue to operate in the church today (confirmed by the fact that they are not grouped with the others in Paul’s rhetorical questions found in 1 Corinthians 12:29). Define the spiritual gift of helps: \_\_\_\_\_

Define the spiritual gift of administration: \_\_\_\_\_

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The Greek phrase in 1 Corinthians 12:31 can be interpreted either as a command (“earnestly desire the greater gifts”) or as a statement of fact (“you are earnestly desiring the greater gifts”). Based on the purpose of the entire chapter, explain why this verse should be understood as a statement of fact:

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