

LESSON
06

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

SUNDAY – Varieties of Gifts

1. Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-6. What is the emphasis of this passage?

A: Diversity and unity. The same divinity bestows different gifts.

Diversity	Person
Gifts [<i>charisma</i>]	Spirit
Service [<i>diakonia</i>]	Lord (Son)
Workings [<i>energma</i>]	God

1 Corinthians 12:1-6

¹Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant. ²Ye know that when ye were Gentiles ye were led away unto those dumb idols, howsoever ye might be led. ³Wherefore I make known unto you, that no man speaking in the Spirit of God saith, Jesus is anathema; and no man can say, Jesus is Lord, but in the Holy Spirit.⁴ Now there are diversities of **gifts** [χάρισμα - *charisma*], but the same Spirit. ⁵And there are diversities of **ministrations** [διακονία - *diakonia*], and the same Lord. ⁶And there are diversities of **workings** [ἐνέργημα - *energema*], but the same God, who worketh all things in all.

MONDAY – Unity Through Diversity

2. Read again 1 Corinthians 12:12-31. Why is the analogy of a body with its many parts appropriate to represent the church and its members?

A: The members are united, but they are different. Each has a role. All are useful.

1 Corinthians 12:12-19

¹²For as **the body is one, and hath many members**, and **all the members of the body, being many, are one body; so also is Christ**. ¹³For in one Spirit were we all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether bond or free; and were all made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴For the body is not one member, but many. ¹⁵If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; it is not therefore not of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; it is not therefore not of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? ¹⁸But now hath God set the members each one of them in the body, even as it pleased him. ¹⁹And **if they were all one member, where were the body?** ²⁰**But now they are many members, but one body.**

MONDAY – Unity Through Diversity

2. Read again 1 Corinthians 12:12-31. Why is the analogy of a body with its many parts appropriate to represent the church and its members?

A: The members are united, but they are different. Each has a role. All are useful.

Hierarchy of gifts. Apostles, prophets, and teachers. Then miracles, healings, tongues, etc.

1 Corinthians 12:28-31

²⁷Now **ye are the body of Christ**, and severally members thereof. ²⁸And God hath set some in the church, **first apostles**, **secondly prophets**, **thirdly teachers**, then **miracles**, then gifts of **healings**, **helps**, **governments**, divers kinds of **tongues**. ²⁹Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? ³⁰have all gifts of healings? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? ³¹But **desire earnestly the greater gifts**. And moreover a most excellent way show I unto you.

TUESDAY – “A More Excellent Way”

3. Read 1 Cor. 13:1-7 and 1 Pet. 4:8-11. What is the role of love as far as spiritual gifts are concerned?

A: Love directs a person to use the gifts properly.

Without love, gifts have no value. Love covers a multitude of sins (Prov 10:12; 17:9).

1 Corinthians 13:1-7

¹If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am become sounding brass, or a clanging cymbal. ²And 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 have not love, I am nothing. ³And if I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and if I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profiteth me nothing. ⁴Love suffereth long, and is kind; love envieth not; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, ⁵doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not its own, is not provoked, taketh not account of evil; ⁶rejoiceth not in unrighteousness, but rejoiceth with the truth; ⁷**[love] beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.**

Consult with **1 Peter 4:8-11** and **Romans 13:8-10**. He who loves keeps the law. The fulfillment of the law is love.

WEDNESDAY – The Gift of Tongues

4. Read 1 Corinthians 14:5, 13, 26, 27; 12:10, 30. What particular instruction did Paul give concerning the gift of tongues?

A: It would be good for everyone to speak (but not everyone will speak). An interpreter is required. It's just another gift among many others. No more than 2 or 3 per meeting.

1 Corinthians 14:5, 13, 26, 27;

¹Follow after love; yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy. [...] ⁵Now **I would have you all speak with tongues**, but rather that ye should prophesy: and greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying. ¹³Wherefore let **him that speaketh in a tongue pray that he may interpret**. ²⁶What is it then, brethren? When ye come together, each one hath a psalm, hath a teaching, hath a revelation, hath a tongue, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying. ²⁷**If any man speaketh in a tongue, let it be by two, or at the most three**, and that in turn; and let one interpret:

1 Corinthians 12:10, 30

¹⁰and to another workings of miracles; and to another prophecy; and to another discernings of spirits: **to another divers kinds of tongues**; and to another the interpretation of tongues: ³⁰have all gifts of healings? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?

THURSDAY – The Gift of Prophecy

5. Read Ephesians 4:11-13; 1 Corinthians 14:3, 4. What do these passages say about the purpose of spiritual gifts in general and the gift of prophecy in particular?

A: To perfect the saints, to serve the master, to build up the Church.

The gifts of the Spirit have not ceased (Acts 2:38-39). Everyone should seek the gift of prophecy.

Ephesians 4:11-13

¹¹And he gave some to be apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹²**for the perfecting of the saints, unto the work of ministering, unto the building up of the body of Christ:** ¹³till we all attain unto the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a fullgrown man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

1 Corinthians 10

¹Follow after love; yet **desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.** ²For he that speaketh in a tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God; for no man understandeth; but in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. ³But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men edification, and exhortation, and consolation. ⁴He that speaketh in a tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth **edifieth the church.**

Numbers 11:29

Would that all Jehovah's people were prophets, that Jehovah would put his Spirit upon them!