

Spiritual Gifts



I CORINTHIANS 12:1-11

Review – Eph. 4 (titles/positions)



- ***Apostles*** – founders of early church; saw & walked with Jesus; performed signs and wonders
- ***Prophets*** – messengers of OT; localized ministry; not the gift of prophecy
- ***Evangelists*** – one who proclaims the good news; NT were missionaries/church planters
- ***Pastor/Teachers*** – shepherd, teacher, overseer, proclaim & exhort sound doctrine

Review – Romans 12 (practice)



- ***Prophecy*** – ability to “speak forth”/preach the Word of God
- ***Ministry (Service)*** – serving physically and spiritually in every area of the church
- ***Teaching*** – ability to interpret and present the Word of God understandably
- ***Exhortation*** – coming alongside one to encourage, edify, guide, advise, comfort, warn, strengthen, etc.

Review – Romans 12 (practice)



- ***Giving*** – ability to give/share out of one’s own personal possessions with generosity, openheartedness, and simplicity
- ***Leadership*** – ability to “stand before” the church and family and earnestly lead
- ***Mercy*** – showing sympathy towards someone and using resources to comfort and strengthen

Spiritual Gifts – I Corinthians 12:8



- ***Wisdom***

- “word” = refers to speaking ability
- “wisdom” = ability to understand God’s will and make practical application to every day life
- Characteristics of wisdom - James 3:13-17

Spiritual Gifts – I Corinthians 12:8



- ***Knowledge***

- Ability to perceive and understand the truths of God's Word
- Special ability to study and discover the full meaning of Scripture (text, context, historical, archeological)
- Foundational gift for all teaching and preaching

Spiritual Gifts – I Corinthians 12:9



- ***Faith***

- Ability to trust God in the most dire of circumstances and beyond human abilities
- Special ability to lay hold on the promises of God Acts 27:22-24
- Jesus, Abraham, Noah, Moses, Joseph, Joshua, Elijah, George Mueller, Hudson Taylor, Lottie Moon

Spiritual Gifts – I Corinthians 12:9b



- ***Healings***

- Temporary sign gift
- Gifts for Jesus (Matt.8:16-17), apostles (Matt.10:1), the 70 (Lk.10:1-9) Philip (Acts 8:5-7), Peter (Acts 3:1-10)
- No one today can heal as Jesus and the apostles did.
- Purpose – authenticate the message

Spiritual Gifts – I Corinthians 12:10a



- ***Working of Miracles***
 - Temporary sign gift
 - Supernatural event that defies natural laws, explainable only by divine intervention.
 - “miracle” = power; same term used in casting out demons (Luke 4:36, 6:18, 9:42)
 - Demonstrated by Stephen and Philip (Acts 6:8, 8:7)

Spiritual Gifts – I Corinthians 12:10b



- ***Prophecy***

- Temporary sign gift??? Maybe in presenting new revelation???
- Prophecy = to speak forth or proclaim
- Prophecy is a superior gift. 14:1
- The best definition may have been given by Paul (I Corinthians 14:3)

Specific Guidelines – I Corinthians 14



1. Only 2 or 3 were to speak at a service, one at a time. v.29a, 31a
2. When one prophet speaks, the others were to judge/evaluate the validity of the message. v.29b, 32
3. New revelation took precedent over frequented teaching. v.30
4. Prophets were to speak one at a time. v.31a

General Guidelines – I Corinthians 14



1. Women are not to ***prophesy*** in the churches. v.33-34
2. Women are to ask their husbands if they have questions. v.35
3. We are to subject ourselves to God's order of the church – “as the law also says”.
v.34, I Timothy 2:11-14
4. Reflects a spirit of submission (Gen. 3:16) and humility before God and others.

Spiritual Gifts – I Corinthians 12:10c



- ***Discerning of spirits (discernment)***
 - Discerning = to separate out through examination/judging to decide what is biblical
 - Able to recognize lying spirits
 - I John 4:1, Acts 17:11 (Bereans)
 - “watchdog” or church’s protector
 - Especially needed in the early church

Spiritual Gifts – I Corinthians 12:11



• ***Tongues & Interpretation of Tongues***

I. Nature of Tongues

- Acts 2:4,6,8 dialekto = languages
- Acts & I Cor. (tongues) are the same.
- “lesser gift” I Cor. 12:28-31
- Temporary sign gift I Cor. 13:8, Heb. 2:3-4
- Corinthians were abusing tongues. 12:28-31

Spiritual Gifts – I Corinthians 12:11



II. Biblical Purpose of Tongues

- Authenticate the messenger and the message, affirming that Jesus is the Messiah.
- A sign to the Jews. Acts 2:5, 10:45, 19:8
- A sign to unbelieving Jews. I Cor. 14:21-22 & Isaiah 28:11-12
- Used to verify that Samaritans and Gentiles were receiving the Holy Spirit.
- Edify the church. 14:26

Spiritual Gifts – I Corinthians 12:11



III. Strict Rules – 14:27-34

- No more than 3 speak at a service. 14:27
- Only one was to speak at a time. 14:27
- Tongues were to be interpreted. 14:27-28
- Women were not to speak in tongues. 14:34
- Tongues must promote peace and be done in an orderly fashion. 14:33,40

Should Christians seek tongues?



- Scripture nowhere commands to seek the gift of tongues. As spiritual gifts, they are given by the Holy Spirit. 12:7,11
- Gifts are given at the moment of conversion. 12:4-13
- No one has all the gifts. Rom. 12:4-8, I Cor. 12:4-13
- Scripture forbids babbling in repetitious sounds. Matthew 6:5-8
- If it takes tongues to be spiritual, then most believers are not spiritual at all.
- Modern tongues is not the sign of the Spirit's indwelling, that's the fruit of the Spirit. Gal. 5:22-25

Reasons to believe tongues as a temporary sign gift



- The canon is closed and there is no need for further revelation.
- Jesus never spoke in tongues, nor did He teach His disciples to speak in tongues.
- Scripture says “tongues will cease”. I Cor. 13:8
- It was specific to the apostles and their listening audiences.
- Tongues are so misused today. Rules not followed.
- Tongues briefly mentioned in Scripture and early church fathers did not mention them in writings.