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PURPOSE OF THE GIFTS

Every Gift Must Serve Christ's Purpose

1 CORINTHIANS 14:12 KJV

Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.

EPHESIANS 4:12-13 KJV

For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

1 PETER 4:10-11 KJV

As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

BUILDING UP THE BODY



CHRIST IS EXALTED

Purpose of the Gifts

is defined by God rather than by personal ambition. Spiritual gifts are given to serve others, strengthen the church, advance maturity, and bring glory to Christ Jesus. A gift used for pride, control, confusion, or self-promotion has departed from its biblical purpose.

TO EDIFY BELIEVERS

means to build them up in truth, faith, love, wisdom, and obedience. First Corinthians 14 tells believers to seek to excel in edifying the church. The value of a gift is therefore measured by whether it strengthens others rather than by how impressive it appears.

TO ESTABLISH BELIEVERS

means to help them become mature, stable, equipped, and rooted in the knowledge of Christ. Ephesians 4 shows gifted ministry preparing the saints for service and protecting them from spiritual instability. Gifts should help believers stand firmly in sound doctrine and faithful living.

TO EXALT CHRIST JESUS

is the highest purpose of every gift. The Holy Spirit glorifies Christ, and Spirit-directed ministry must do the same. First Peter 4 teaches that speaking and serving should be exercised so that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. No genuine use of a spiritual gift should draw greater attention to the servant than to the Lord.

LOVE GOVERNS

Love governs the use of every gift. First Corinthians 13 stands between the chapters addressing spiritual gifts because ability without charity becomes empty and destructive. Gifts must be practiced in humility, truth, order, and love.