

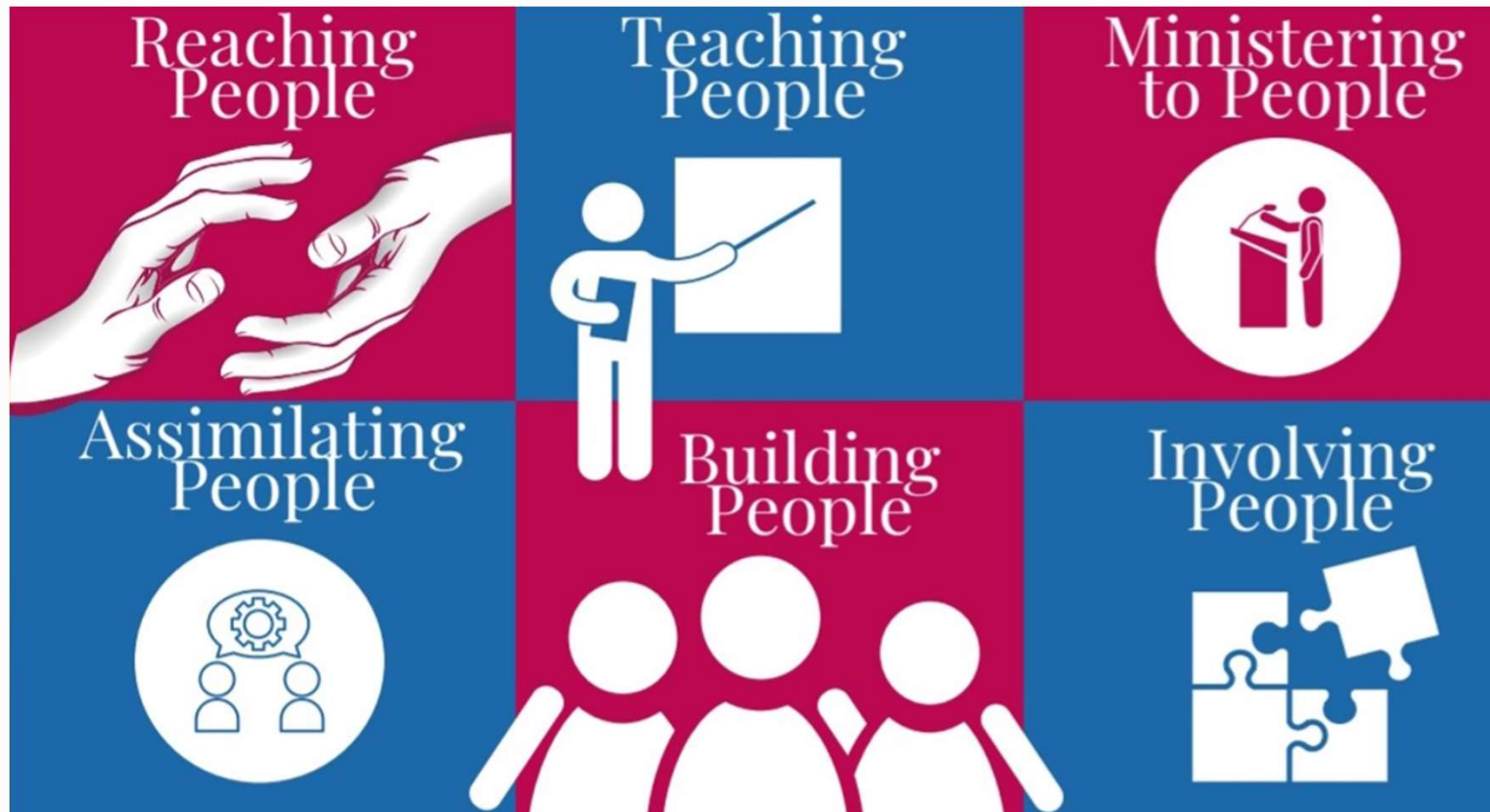


Faith and Love C.O.G.I.C  
Sunday School

Lesson 11 May 11, 2025

GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

# SUNDAY SCHOOL CORE VALUES



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## **SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING**

**Superintendent/Teacher:** Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. **Psalm 133:1**

**School/Class:** But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. **Hebrews 13:16**

**Superintendent/Teacher:** All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. **2 Timothy 3:16**

**School/Class:** Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. **Psalm 119:105**

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## **SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING**

**Superintendent/Teacher:** Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. **Philippians 2:4**

**School/Class:** He who has a generous eye will be blessed, for he gives of his bread to the poor. **Proverbs 22:9**

**Superintendent/Teacher:** Therefore he says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.” **Ephesians 4:8**

**School/Class:** As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. **1 Peter 4:10**

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## **SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING**

**Superintendent/Teacher:** For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. **1 Corinthians 12:12**

**School/Class:** For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function. **Romans 12:4**

**Superintendent/Teacher:** By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. **John 13:35**

**School/Class:** For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. **Gal. 5:13**

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## **SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING**

**ALL:**

But grow in the grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen. **2 Peter 3:18**

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- Bible Basis: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
- Bible Truth: One person does not possess all of the spiritual gifts; therefore, believers must work together for the church's common good.
- Memory Verse: ""But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal" 1 Corinthians 12:7, KJV.
- Lesson Aim: By the end of the lesson, we will: **OUTLINE** the purpose of spiritual gifts according to 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; **APPRECIATE** individual spiritual gifts and the ways they are used; and **UNCOVER** the spiritual gifts of the faith community and the ways they can be used for its benefit.
- Background Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 12:1-1; Romans 12:1-8 – Read and incorporate the insights gained from the Background Scriptures into your study of the lesson.

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**1 Corinthians 12:1-11, KJV**

- 1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.
- 2 Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led.
- 3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.
- 4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.



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**1 Corinthians 12:1-11, KJV**

5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

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**1 Corinthians 12:1-11, KJV**

9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

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## LIGHT ON THE WORD

An idol is anything that is worshiped other than God. In ancient times and in some cultures now, many worship at the feet of statues. These statues represent the deity that they worship and serve. The city of Corinth was full of idolatry, or the worship of idols and the false gods they represent.

Gentiles are non-Jewish people. Initially, God dealt more with the Jews in His plan of salvation.

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## LIGHT ON THE WORD

After the death and resurrection of Christ, the Gentiles were welcomed into the family of God without having to become Jews themselves. The task of preaching this Good News was given to the Apostle Paul. Paul's journeys led him to Corinth, where he preached to a mostly Gentile audience.

Consequently, although some Jews received Paul's message at Corinth, many of the converts were Gentiles.

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## LIFE NEED FOR TODAY'S LESSON:

AIM: We will seek opportunities to become loyal contributing members of our society.

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# INTRODUCTION

## **A Proper Perspective on Spiritual Gifts**

The Corinthian church had been wrapped up in all kinds of immorality and unethical practices. Although it was a very gifted church in one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the Roman Empire, they were lacking in some basic Christian theology and behavior. In order to help them, Paul wrote the letter that we know as 1 Corinthians.

# INTRODUCTION

## **A Proper Perspective on Spiritual Gifts**

In 1 Corinthians, we see Paul address a list of issues in the life of the church. This list of issues included celebrity worship of Christian ministers, sexual immorality, eating foods offered to idols, head covering for women, and the proper way to host communion. Next, he addresses the spiritual gifts and specifically the gift of tongues. To introduce the topic, Paul teaches the Corinthians the proper perspective on spiritual gifts.

## **BIBLE LEARNING**

**AIM: We will respond to the tendency of some  
in the church to boast in their spiritual  
sophistication and power.**



## I. THE TEST OF THE SPIRIT

Spiritual Guidance

1 Corinthians 12:1-3

Paul starts off this chapter by stating that he does not want the Corinthians to be ignorant about spiritual gifts. His desire is that they would be mature in their knowledge about what spiritual gifts are and how they operate in the church. He then reminds them of their life as Gentiles. As Gentiles, they worshiped idols. Many of them probably participated in the worship of Aphrodite and Poseidon, two popular gods. Paul said they were led and guided to worship these mute idols. By a Jewish mindset, these idols were blind and could not speak in the same dynamic way as the God of Israel (Habakkuk 2:18-20; Psalm 135:16).

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## I. THE TEST OF THE SPIRIT

Spiritual Guidance

1 Corinthians 12:1-3

**1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.**

To be "ignorant" (Gk. agnoeo, ag-no-EH-o) means not only a lack of knowledge, but also a lack of understanding that leads to error or even sin through mistake. In this instance, to be ignorant is to be wrong. Often we sin because we do not know or understand correctly. Concerning spiritual matters, this can have grave consequences for the body of Christ. Most disunity, bigotry, and other errors in the body of Christ are committed by well-meaning, devoted Christians who are either ignorant of the truth or wrong, concerning spiritual or other things of God. This is especially true concerning "spiritual gifts".

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## I. THE TEST OF THE SPIRIT

Spiritual Guidance

1 Corinthians 12:1-3

**2 Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led.**

Paul was not impressed by their enthusiastic worship and religious frenzy. Idol worshipers (which many of them were) could boast of the same religious excitement. Spirited worship services are not necessarily evidence of the Holy Spirit. There are many kinds of spirits related to pagan idols. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ. Only one's attitude toward Christ and consideration for those in the body can distinguish which spirit you worship. Some who worship are gifted in music, others with enticing speech, many with elegant liturgical dance, and still others lively praise while paying little attention to the doctrines being taught – whether they are of Christ or not.

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## I. THE TEST OF THE SPIRIT

Spiritual Guidance

1 Corinthians 12:1-3

**3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.**

Under persecution, distress, or religious frenzy, believers were often forced or led to curse the name of Jesus. "Accursed be Jesus" could not come from the lips of one under the influence of the Holy Spirit (the Spirit of Christ). On the other hand, "Jesus is Lord" (Gk. kurios, KOO-ree-ose) was the battle cry of Christians. Kurios was the same title that the Romans demanded everybody who came under their power ascribe to Caesar, saying "Caesar is Lord!" But kurios was also the title given to Yahweh by Jews, God-fearers, and Christians alike. To say "Jesus is Lord" was to commit to ultimate loyalty to Jesus. Thus, those who would not be ignorant or wrong about the Holy Spirit must examine their confession of faith.

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# **LIGHT ON THE WORD**

## **The Gifts from the Holy Spirit**

Paul let the Corinthians know the litmus test of whether someone is speaking by the Spirit of God so they can discern the activity of the Holy Spirit in their gatherings. Paul says that no one can speak by the Spirit of God and at the same time call Jesus cursed. To do so would mean that they were not really speaking by the Spirit of God. In contrast, he says that no one can say that Jesus is Lord except through the Holy Spirit. The purpose of the Holy Spirit is to glorify Jesus (John 15:26, 16:14) and therefore proclaiming His Lordship is the approved sign of the Spirit's activity.

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## II. THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT

One Spirit, Many Gifts  
1 Corinthians 12:4-7

The argument is furthered with a discussion centered on the unity of the Spirit. God grants many different spiritual gifts, which operate and serve the body of Christ in different ways. Paul underscores the fact that they all have the same source and they are all working toward the same purpose under the same leadership.

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## II. THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT

4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

One Spirit, Many Gifts  
1 Corinthians 12:4-7

There are "diversities" of allocations of gifts, but they are derived from the same Holy Spirit. Paul wants to make it plain that there can be unity in diversity. It is the Spirit's function to connect, not divide. These gifts are given not for individual glory, but to glorify or edify the body of Christ as a whole. If one does not want to be ignorant or go wrong, one must understand the underlying unity of the operations of the Holy Spirit, remembering that these people once worshiped many gods according to their function (i.e., war gods, fertility gods, gods of the harvest). This was not so with the Spirit of Christ. **With the Holy Spirit, there is unity in diversity.**

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## II. THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT

**5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.**

One Spirit, Many Gifts  
1 Corinthians 12:4-7

There are a variety or "differences" of "administrations" rendered at the command of the same Lord. As each has a different gift given by the same Spirit, each performs a different service command by the same Lord and Master. Once again, Paul emphasizes unity in diversity because the church was in danger of being fractured by the very instruments of God that should have brought them together. Monotheism (belief in one God) was relatively new outside of the Jewish faith in this region of the world. Thus, among the Corinthian Church, who were largely not former Jews but instead former Greeks who worshiped many gods, it was necessary to emphasize oneness of the Lord and operations of the Holy Spirit.



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## II. THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT

One Spirit, Many Gifts  
1 Corinthians 12:4-7

6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

There is again the same diversities of "operations", but it is the same God that is active in all that happens. The Corinthians were divided by those who brought them to Christ and baptized them (1 Corinthians 3:5-9). Paul faults their immaturity in the faith. Using the metaphor of building a house, he shows how God is the general contractor, and he, Apollos, Cephas (Peter), and others who brought them the Gospel and nurtured them were mere subcontractors in building the temple of God (1 Corinthians 3:10-23). The same principle is at work in Paul's rhetorical argument that all gifts are mere tools put into their hands by God to build up the body of Christ. Each member is a part of God's construction crew.

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## II. THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT

One Spirit, Many Gifts  
1 Corinthians 12:4-7

**7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.**

The spiritual gifts are given by the Spirit to be used in service of the Lord. With power and efficacy made possible by God, they are the manifestation of the Spirit in the Christian community for the good of all. It is not a benefit to the individual, but the whole community. It is a benefit to the individual only insofar as it enhances one's value to the community. However, the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each expressly for the benefit of the whole community, The body of Christ is Paul's metaphor for the functioning Christian community.

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# **LIGHT ON THE WORD**

## **Unity in the Spirit**

Here Paul is highlighting the unity of the spiritual gifts. They are given out to every believer and work in different ways, but they are all for the same purpose of glorifying Jesus as Lord and building up the body of Christ. Different people can exercise the same gifts in different ways, but it is all for one purpose and from one source. God through the Holy Spirit uses the gifts to proclaim Jesus as Lord and build up His church.

### III. THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

Diverse Spiritual Tools  
1 Corinthians 12:8-11

Paul then lists the gifts of the Spirit. These gifts come from the Holy Spirit as opposed to natural talents and endowments. He begins with the word of wisdom. Next is the word of knowledge. After this, Paul mentions the gift of faith. Next Paul lists supernatural healing. Then he goes on to mention the working of miracles. Prophecy is listed after this. Then Paul mentions discerning of spirits. Lastly he mentions the gifts of tongues and interpretation of tongues.

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### III. THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

Diverse Spiritual Tools  
1 Corinthians 12:8-11

**8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;**

Paul begins to list the toolbox of gifts given by the Spirit to build the temple of God, the body of Christ. He painstakingly emphasizes to these newcomers in Christ (1 Corinthians 3:2), who saw their gifts as a source of personal pride, that spiritual unity is the foundation for these diverse spiritual tools that have been given as gifts. The first gifts are the tools for the teaching ministry of the church. The word or utterance of "knowledge" (Gk. gnosis, GNO-sis) is to know what to do in any given situation, and "wisdom" (Gk. sophia, soh-FEE-ah) is the knowledge of the best things to do according to God's will.

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### III. THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

Diverse Spiritual Tools  
1 Corinthians 12:8-11

**8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;**

They both come from the same Spirit and are used to buildup the church with knowledge of what Jesus Christ would do in any given situation (John 14:26), and wisdom to understand the will of God for their mission in the world (2 Peter 3:9). This is the wisdom and knowledge that did not come from academic achievement alone, but from communion with God and the study of His Word.

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### III. THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

Diverse Spiritual Tools  
1 Corinthians 12:8-11

**9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;**

Paul names faith as a gift and tool. Everyone has a measure of faith, especially those who claim personal salvation, which comes by faith. Paul has in mind here an all-encompassing trust in God that can move mountains (Matthew 17:20-21), cause blind people to see (Matthew 9:29), and lame people to walk (Mark 2:5-12). It was the faith of former slaves in America that built institutions of higher learning and great churches while bearing the burden of racism and slavery.

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### III. THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

Diverse Spiritual Tools  
1 Corinthians 12:8-11

**9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;**

This kind of faith is a gift and a mighty tool. The gifts of faith and healing are closely associated throughout the Gospels. The gifts of healing, along with faith and prayer, are important tools in building Christian fellowship because they demonstrate the unity of the mind, body, and spirit. Even more than that, the laying on of hands, anointing with oil, and mutual prayer build intimacy as they bring healing both individually and communally.



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### III. THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

Diverse Spiritual Tools  
1 Corinthians 12:8-11

**10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:**

The Greek word for "miracles" is dunamis (DOO-nah-mis), or power. Miracles were a demonstration of power as evidenced by the Messianic age. When John sent his disciple to inquire whether Jesus was the Messiah or not, Jesus responded with a recitation of His demonstrations of power as evidence (Matthew 11:2-5). The gift of prophecy is the ability to reveal the will of God for our lives and communities. The prophet through the Spirit knows the mind of God and speaks it into the lives of His people.

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### III. THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

Diverse Spiritual Tools  
1 Corinthians 12:8-11

**10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:**

The Spirit works either to rebuke those people or institutions who are not in the will of God by foretelling the dire consequences of their actions, or by advising people or institutions who seek God's guidance to live according to His will. The discerning of spirits is the ability to distinguish whether one's performance of miracles is by the Holy Spirit or some other spirit.

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### III. THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

Diverse Spiritual Tools  
1 Corinthians 12:8-11

**10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:**

It is necessary to understand the source of a demonstration or power to know its intent. Diverse kinds of "tongues" (Gk. glossa, GLOHsah) were not exactly the same as the Pentecost experience (Acts 2:4), where the Spirit enabled them to speak known foreign languages. In Corinth, they spoke unlearned languages that no one understood, except perhaps the one speaking or someone who had the gift of interpreting unknown tongues.

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### III. THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

Diverse Spiritual Tools  
1 Corinthians 12:8-11

**11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.**

Again Paul reminds us that all the diversity of gifts has one source: the Spirit of God, who chooses who gets what gift. Therefore, no one has reason to boast. More importantly, one does not choose a gift; the Spirit chooses the person for the gift. The same Spirit that gives the gift, gives according to the will of God.

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# **LIGHT ON THE WORD**

## **Unite and Glorify Christ**

Paul concludes this list with a reminder that it is the Spirit of God that gives out these gifts. They cannot be possessed at our whim, but are given by the will of the Holy Spirit. They are given to each person as the Holy Spirit sees fit. He also highlights the fact that they all are given by the same Spirit. They are not given to divide the church, but to unite it in glorifying Christ. This is a reminder to us as believers not to be divisive when it comes to spiritual gifts, but to celebrate and receive the gifts of others as they endeavor to build up the body of Christ and testify to His Lordship.

## BIBLE APPLICATION

AIM: We will put the common good of the church above our personal interests.

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**BIBLE APPLICATION**

Those who are gifted often use their talents for their own profit and success. We can see this in the lives of famous entertainers and politicians. The gifts that God has given them are used to glorify themselves and afford extravagant, luxurious lifestyles. This way of thinking has infiltrated the church, and many have sought to use their spiritual gifts to amass wealth and fame. Paul lets us know this is not what the gifts are for. They are for building up the church and serving others. The spiritual gifts are not ours. We are called to steward what the Holy Spirit has given us for the good of others.

# STUDENT RESPONSES

AIM: We will distinguish between spiritual gifts and natural abilities or talents.



## STUDENT RESPONSES

Our spiritual gifts are learned in community and experience. If you are not involved in a ministry of your church, then volunteer for a limited time to serve in a ministry you have been interested in. It could be the children's ministry, hospitality, or outreach to the community. After serving for a while, ask for feedback from the leader of the ministry and others who you have served with about what spiritual gift they may see in you. Be sure to let others know what spiritual gifts you see in them and encourage them as well.

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# Prayer

Dear God,

You continue to bless in so many ways. We want to serve You as we serve others through the gifts and talents that You have given us.

Thank You for allowing us to care for others as You continue to care for us.

In Jesus' Name we pray.

Amen.

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Next Sunday  
May 18, 2025

Lesson 12

The Spirit Creates One Body  
1 Corinthians 12:14-31