

Cornerstone Faith of West Liberty
1 Cor. 12:1-7—distribution of gifts
September 15, 2024

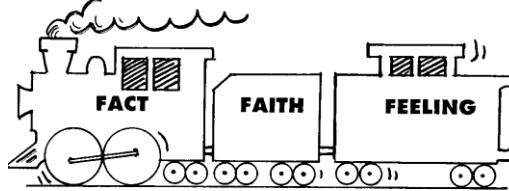
I. Moving beyond spiritual ignorance (12:1-3)

A. Spiritual things are spiritually discerned (12:1) [review of last week]

1 Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV) *But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

B. Do not be carried away (12:2)

- Carried away—to lead away—especially of those who are led off to trial, prison, punishment or death
 - o Satan is willing to imitate what is good and twist it and lead us astray from sound biblical teaching which is called deception (James 1:21-26)



Hebrews 5:13-14 (NKJV) *For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. ¹⁴ But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

C. A test to determine authenticity (12:3)

- The Test of Paul - 12:3
 - o No one speaking by the Holy Spirit can curse Jesus (negative)
 - o No one can say Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit (positive)
- The Test of John – (1 John 4:2-3) confession that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God
- The test of James – the test of which wisdom (James 3:13-18)

II. The distribution of the gifts (12:4-7)

A. Differences of gifts (12:4)

1. They can be imparted from one person to another (Rom. 1:11)
Romans 1:11 (NKJV) *For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established—*
2. They are for the establishment of the believer and the church (Rom. 1:11; 1 Pet. 4:10)
1 Peter 4:10 (NKJV) *As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*
3. Once given they are not taken back (Rom. 11:29)
Romans 11:29 (NKJV) *For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.*
4. They are displayed differently in each believer—will not look the same from person to person (Rom. 12:6; 1 Cor. 7:7)
1 Corinthians 7:7 (NKJV) *For I wish that all men were even as I myself. But each one has his own gift from God, one in this manner and another in that.*
5. They are here until the Lord returns (1 Cor. 1:7)
1 Corinthians 1:7 (NKJV) *so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,*

6. They can be neglected (1 Tim. 4:14)

1 Timothy 4:14 (NKJV) *Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.*

7. They might need to be stirred up from time to time (2 Tim. 1:6)

2 Timothy 1:6 (NKJV) *Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.*

B. Differences of ministries/administrations (12:5)

1. Service towards a master or guest, at table or in hospitality (Luke 10:40; 1 Cor. 16:15)

Luke 10:40 (NKJV) *But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me."*

2. Ministry, ministration, i.e., the office of ministering in divine things, spoken chiefly of apostles and teachers (Acts 1:24-25; Rom. 11:13; Col. 4:17; 1 Tim. 1:12; 2 Tim. 4:5)

Acts 1:24-25 (NKJV) *And they prayed and said, "You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen ²⁵ to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place."*

3. In the sense of aid meaning relief as spoken of alms, contributions (Acts 6:1, 11:29; 2 Cor. 9:1, 12-13)

Acts 11:29 (NKJV) *Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea.*

C. Differences of activities/operations (12:6)

1. To work, to function, be active, produce an effect, spoken of things such as miracles. (Matt. 14:1-2; Eph. 1:20)

Ephesians 1:20 (NKJV) *Which He [God the Father] worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,*

2. To work, to effect, produce, to bring about, to cause to be, grant or have the ability to do. (Gal. 3:5; Phil. 2:12-13)

Philippians 2:12-13 (NKJV) *Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.*

3. To show activity, i.e., to work, be active, operate, spoken only of things. (Rom. 7:5; 2 Cor. 4:12; James 5:16)

James 5:16 (NKJV) *Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*

A suggestion:

Gifts = Word of wisdom, word of knowledge, faith

Ministries = healings, miracles, prophecy

Activities = discerning of spirits, tongues, interpretation of tongues

III. It is not about you (12:7)

- The spiritual gifts are for the edifying and building of God's kingdom not ours!
- Did you also notice through each of these—gifts, administrations and operations there is activity—we must use them!
- God will not do what He has called and empowered us to do!