

“The manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal” (1 Cor. 12:7).

The Bible clearly shows us that God always endows enough people with the necessary gifts to carry on his work. If everyone would do his or her part, there would never be a shortage of workers in any area of kingdom work. Today, let’s consider the gifts the Spirit gives.

We must discern what our gifts are. The Holy Spirit inspires people and imparts faith. Apart from the working of the Holy Spirit, no one can call Jesus Lord. No one can be saved (1 Cor. 12:3). Unless the Holy Spirit is the giver, all people are ignorant and are subject to idol worship (1 Cor. 12:2). The greatest gift ever given is the gift of the Spirit.

We need to be discerning and find out what the Holy Spirit wants to bestow on us. The gifts are available according to God’s sovereign plan. These gifts often lie dormant because our faith is insufficient to determine them.

God bestows a vast diversity of spiritual gifts. All gifts are from the same God, though the gifts differ in purpose. This is true of gifts other than spiritual ones. Take, for example, a building. One person – an architect – has the gift of planning and another – a contractor – has the gift of construction, but the end result is a building. The end result of spiritual gifts is the work of God, although some people have one type of gift and others another type.

All gifts are given for the purpose of serving God. There are different ways of serving God (1 Cor. 12:5). Some can sing, some can give, some can teach, and so on.

These differences are the ways through which the Lord works (1 Cor. 12:6). All gifts are for a common good. We all should determine our gifts and use them for God’s glory.

This diversity of gifts is partially enumerated. This enumeration is to teach that there are sufficient gifts for every cause. Some are given the gift of wisdom and others the gift of knowledge (1 Cor. 12:8). There are gifts for such offices as pastors and teachers. There are other gifts of healing, miraculous power, prophecy, discernment of spirits, tongues, and interpretation of tongues.

The use of these spiritual gifts makes for unity in the church. True spiritual unity makes jealousy impossible (1 Cor. 12:14-26). All Christians form a body through the working of God for a purpose and plan (1 Cor. 12:18). Each part of the body has a special function, as do the various parts of the human body.

True spiritual unity excludes pride and contempt. There should be no division in the body. Each member should have concern for the others. An arrogant attitude or a feeling of importance over another is not in keeping with spiritual gifts.

True spiritual unity involves mutual dependence (1 Cor. 12:27-30). This is illustrated by reference to the human body. The foot is dependent on the leg. The tongue is dependent on the ear. If one part of the body is honored, then all parts are honored.

Exercise the use of the gift or gifts God has given you. Use them for unity in the church and for the building up of the kingdom.

May God bless you in all things.