



# Spiritual Gifts And The Body Of Christ

## A Study On The Gifts Of The Spirit

What does the Lord want us to know? (1) He brought us into His kingdom because He loves us and wants a relationship with us. (2) He brought us into His kingdom so that we will serve Him as King and do the work of His kingdom with Him. This is where spiritual gifts come into the picture. It is through the gifts that we are enabled to do God's work.

### **Read Ephesians 4:7-13**

1. In verses 7-8, what does it say Christ has given us?
2. What did Jesus give according to verse 11? Why?

Christ gives each one of us gifts to enable us to do His Kingdom work. Verse 8 is a quote from Psalm 68:18, which speaks of God's triumphal ascension to His throne in Jerusalem in the temple. Paul applies this victory scene to Christ's triumphal ascension into heaven after His victory on the cross and His resurrection from the dead. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus has made the fullness of God's grace available to believers. With this giving of God's grace comes the spiritual gifts which enable God's people to do his kingdom work on earth.

*in the Greek, we see that: charis = grace, & charismata = spiritual gifts.*

An example of this is the gifting of church leadership (verses 11-12) to equip the rest of the believers to do ministry all week long. Notice the amazing amount of maturity available to and expected of each believer (verse 13)!

### **Read 1 Corinthians 12:7-11**

1. Why are these gifts given?
2. Where and when are they given?
3. What is your experience with spiritual gifts?

### **Read 1 Corinthians 14:1-33**

The young Christian church in Corinth was inappropriately using the gift of tongues. It seems they were simultaneously speaking in tongues at church (14:27) when non-believers were present (14:23-25), as well as when those who did not yet speak in tongues were present. This was upsetting to these two groups of people and brought confusion to the service (14:33). In essence, Paul says, they were not acting in love (13:1). This is why all of chapter 13 is inserted between chapters 12 and 14, which focus on the issue of tongues.

For much of this section Paul argues that prophecy in the native tongue of the church would be a more effective and loving manner in which to edify one another than simultaneous, uninterpreted tongues. He does this by comparing the positive effects of prophecy with the negative effects of uninterpreted tongues. However, he places **interpreted** tongues on par with prophecy in value for the church.

Something to keep in mind as we try to apply these truths today is that **this is a corrective passage about tongues, not a directive passage.** It is correcting an abusive situation, not laying guidelines for the proper use of tongues as if no abuse had occurred. The proper use for tongues today can only be inferred from the material we are given.



### **Questions:**

1. What do 1 Corinthians 13:1 and 14:1 say about our attitude toward using these gifts?
2. What purposes does Paul give for using these gifts in 12:7, 14:5 & 14:12?
3. What do 12:10 and 14:5 say has to be done?
4. What do we learn about the gift of tongues in 1 Corinthians 14:16-17? In 14:2?
5. What does 1 Corinthians 14:28 allow for?
6. What does 1 Corinthians 14:29-33 say should be done when a spiritual gift is given in the context of a Christian gathering?
7. 1 Corinthians 14:26-27 & 14:39-40 say that speaking in tongues in church should not be forbidden, but should be done in a fitting and orderly way. How might this look in Chi Alpha? What about in our Life Group?

### **Discussion:**

Spend some time discussing spiritual gifts, speaking in tongues, and being used by God.

*Note: God desires most of all that we desire to be used by Him—to encourage people and to draw people into His Kingdom. He wants to give us spiritual gifts so that we will pass them on to others.*

*The gifts of the Holy Spirit are God's way of giving us "the presents (gifts) of His presence." How can we begin praying for God to use us as His "spiritual gift-givers"?*

Spend some time praying as a group about the things you've learned and discussed today.