

I. Introduction: Paul instructed the Corinthians about the spiritual gifts that God had given to His church, and how each person's gifts were critical to the church's health.

- A. Spiritual gifts are God-given abilities that are entrusted to Christians, which the Spirit empowers to win unbelievers to Jesus and to build up believers in the church.

II. Understanding Spiritual Gifts (1 Cor 12:1-11).

A. The Discernment of Gifts (**vv. 1-3**).

1. Paul wanted them to understand that only believers possess spiritual gifts, and that the test of a true believer is whether they submit to the lordship of Jesus Christ.

B. The Diversity of Gifts (**vv. 4-7**).

1. Paul instructed the Corinthians that there were differences in gifts, differences in their applications, and differences in the effectiveness of each person's gifts.

C. The Description of Gifts (**vv. 8-11**).

1. Paul provided a list of the spiritual gifts that the Holy Spirit gives to the church. They describe how the church is to be built up to reflect the image of Christ.

III. Conclusion: Paul taught the Corinthians that spiritual gifts were given to believers and that there were differences in the gifts, their application, and their effectiveness.

Questions About: Understanding Spiritual Gifts

1. What are spiritual gifts? How many do you have? What is the purpose of the gifts? Should you seek certain gifts? Do the gifts of healing and tongues still apply today? Why or why not?
2. Why did Paul want the Corinthians not to be confused about spiritual gifts? (**1 Cor 12:1-3**) What is a spiritual gift? How does Paul define it? Are Christians confused about them today?
3. Who are the only ones who possess spiritual gifts? (**1 Cor 12:2-3**) How were the Corinthians led astray by idols? (**v. 2**) What did Paul say identified a Christian? (**v. 3**)
4. Why were people in Corinth saying, “Jesus is accursed”? (**v. 3**) What was Paul’s test of faith? (**v. 3**) Why was affirming Jesus’ lordship the key issue? (**v. 3**) What does it indicate?
5. What did Paul say about the variety of spiritual gifts? (**1 Cor 12:4-7**) What are some of the spiritual gifts? (**1 Peter 4:10-11, Rom 12:1-8; 1 Cor 12:8-11, 28**) Are there more?
6. What did Paul mean by “variety of ministries”? (**1 Cor 12:5**) How does every believer have a different measure of gifts? (**1 Cor 12:6**) How does it make each Christian unique?
7. What did Paul say was the purpose of spiritual gifts? (**1 Cor 12:7**) How are spiritual gifts exclusively for the church? (**1 Cor 14:12; 1 Peter 4:10**) Why is this critical to grasp?
8. What are some of the gifts that Paul listed? (**1 Cor 12:8-11**) What are your spiritual gifts? Are you using them for the building up of Jesus’ church? How are you employing them?

Prayer

1. Ask God to show you what spiritual gifts He has given to you through the Holy Spirit.
2. Ask God to help you use them in the church to build up others and to glorify Him.