

I. Introduction: Paul provided a list of the spiritual gifts that the Holy Spirit distributes to the church. He describes how the church is to be built up through these gifts.

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

II. The Description of Spiritual Gifts (1 Cor 12:8-10).

A. The Gift of Prophecy (v. 10).

1. Prophecy means to proclaim something publicly before an audience; it can also mean to reiterate truth, and it does not necessarily mean predicting future events.

B. The Distinguishing of Spirits (v. 10).

1. The distinguishing of spirits is a spiritual gift of discernment that certain individuals use to determine whether something is from God or another spirit.

C. The Gift of Tongues (v. 10).

1. This gift is the ability to speak a human language that the speaker had not previously learned, so that people could understand them in their native tongue.

D. The Interpretation of Tongues (v. 10).

1. The interpretation of tongues is understanding people who are speaking a foreign language and conveying the meaning of that language to a group of people.

III. Conclusion: Paul taught the Corinthians that spiritual gifts were given to believers by the Holy Spirit, and he described some of these gifts that God had given to His people.

Questions About: Describing Spiritual Gifts

1. What are the nine spiritual gifts that Paul mentions? **(1 Cor 12:8-10)** What general lessons about the gifts have you learned so far? **(1 Cor 12:1-7)** Do you possess any of these gifts?
2. What is the “gift of prophecy”? **(1 Cor 12:10)** How is it misunderstood as predicting future events? Why did Paul say we should desire it? **(1 Cor 14:1)** Do you see it being used today?
3. What is the “gift of distinguishing spirits”? **(1 Cor 12:10)** Why is discernment needed in the church? **(Eph 4:13-15; 1 John 4:1; 2 Cor 11:13-15)** Who might have this gift? **(Acts 20:28)**
4. What is the “gift of tongues”? **(1 Cor 12:10)** How was it described in the book of Acts? **(Acts 2:1-13; 10:46; 19:6)** What was the purpose of tongues in the book of Acts?
5. What was the future of the gift of tongues according to Paul? **(1 Cor 13:8)** How did Paul indicate that tongues would cease on their own? **(1 Cor 13:8)** Why is this significant?
6. How had the gift of tongues been causing trouble in Corinth? **(1 Cor 14:1-40)** What rules did Paul give to the Corinthians about its use? **(vv. 20-40)** What does this indicate about this gift?
7. What is the gift of the “interpretation of tongues”? **(1 Cor 12:10)** What did Paul say about the need for interpretation of tongues? **(1 Cor 14:5, 13, 27)** How does this limit its abuses?
8. Do you think that all the gifts mentioned are for today? Why or why not? What are the other gifts? **(Rom 12:4-8)** Which spiritual gifts do you possess? How are you using 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 to serve the church with your own unique blend of gifts.