

## **1 Corinthians Part Two**

### **Lesson #12, Chapter 12:1-11**

Please read all of chapter 12 before beginning your lesson. Ask the Lord for wisdom to study His living Word.

1. Verse 1 opens the chapter for us with these words, *Now concerning spiritual gifts*. For clarity, translators supply the word “gifts,” but literally it reads, *Now concerning spirituals*. It might be better understood by saying, “Now concerning spiritual things, or spiritual matters.” What is the purpose of this chapter according to verse 1?
2. In order to enlighten the Corinthians, what topic does Paul tackle first? See verse 2. What do you learn about the Corinthians in verse 2?
3. What does Paul make known to the Corinthians in verse 3?
4. What is the connection between verses 2 and 3 (note the *therefore*)?
5. And now, here's the million-dollar question: What's the connection between spiritual gifts and Paul's comments in verses 2-3? What misconceptions did the Corinthians seem to have about spiritual gifts? See also Matt. 6:16-17; Jn. 4:24; 1 Cor. 14:37-38; 1 Jn. 4:2-3.
6. Even unbelievers can believe in the Lordship of Jesus Christ, yet still live in unrepentance. So when someone says, “Jesus is Lord,” what heart and life response is implied? See also Luke 6:46-49; Jn. 8:24; Rom. 10:9-10.

7. Paul continues his instructions about things related to the Holy Spirit. What point does he desire to make in verses 4-6?
  
8. What encouragement for your own life do you derive from your observation of verses 4-6?
  
9. As mentioned in verse 7, how is the Holy Spirit made manifest in a believer's life? See verses 4-6.
  
10. What purpose is given about the manifestation of the Holy Spirit in verse 7? What does that purpose imply about the use of our spiritual gifts?
  
11. How you are fulfilling the purpose of those gifts of the Spirit in your life? Do you need to make any adjustments, changes, or commitments?
  
12. What has been given to each believer according to verses 8-10?
  
13. How might the gift of the *word of wisdom* function? See Ex. 31:3; Prov. 2:6; Acts 6:3; 1 Cor. 2:6; Eph. 1:17-18; Col. 1:9-10.
  
14. What are some times or ways you've seen this gift in use for the common good?

15. How might the gift of the *word of knowledge* be revealed? See 1 Cor. 1:5; Rom. 15:14; 2 Cor. 8:7.
  
16. What are some times or ways you've seen this gift in use for the common good?
  
17. How might the gift of *faith* show up in someone's life? See Matt. 17:20; 21:21; 1 Cor. 13:2; Heb. 11:33.
  
18. What are some times or ways you've seen this gift in use for the common good?

Why is it that some of the gifts like healings, miracles, or tongues no longer seem to be at work in believers today? While more can be said on the topic, John MacArthur sums it up this way: "The temporary sign gifts were limited to the apostolic age and therefore ceased after that time. Those gifts included miracles, healing, languages, and the interpretation of languages. The purpose of temporary sign gifts was to authenticate the apostolic message as the Word of God, until the time when the Scriptures, His written Word, were completed and became self-authenticating."<sup>1</sup>

19. What caution is given after Paul lists the different gifts given to believers by the Holy Spirit? See verse 11.
  
20. Why does Paul emphasize that the gifts are given by the same Spirit in verses 4-6, 8-9, and 11? See also 1 Cor. 1:10; 3:3-6; 10:31; 11:18-19; 12:11.

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<sup>1</sup> John MacArthur, *1 Corinthians* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1996), pgs. 297-298.

21. Apparently, the believers in Rome were tempted in similar ways when it came to spiritual gifts. What do you learn about spiritual gifts from Romans 12:3-8?
  
22. Why are these truths from Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12 essential for every believer to understand and put into practice?
  
23. What do you need to remember any time you're tempted toward discontentment with your gifts and calling from God? See Romans 12:6; 1 Cor. 12:7, 11, 18.
  
24. What encouragement have you received in this lesson about the gifts you have received from the Holy Spirit?
  
25. Based on this passage, what is the ultimate purpose for how you use your spiritual gifts? See verses 1-3, 7, and 11.

For a helpful and informative article on the temporary nature of the sign gifts visit:  
[http://thecripplegate.com/what\\_cessationism\\_is\\_not/](http://thecripplegate.com/what_cessationism_is_not/).