



## Life in the Spirit

# The Spirit and the Gifts

### Empowered by One

***There is no gift the church needs that God has not given to one of the members.***

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are best seen in relationship to ‘community,’ ‘confession’ and ‘commitment.’

#### **A. Community: Gifts in The Body of Christ** *1 Cor 12:11-13*

*To understand how Spiritual gifts function we must FIRST understand the nature of what is called the ‘Body of Christ.’*

- 1. One body:** [13] One of the things that the Holy Spirit does when we are born again is to ‘baptize us into the Body of Christ.’ In other words when we are indwelt by the Spirit—we are also immersed into the universal body of Christ. All true born again believers are members of the Body of Christ.
- 2. Many members:** Christ has a global-universal presence through all believers. It is impossible to live the Christian life without being IN His church. I find meaning ONLY when I am ‘connected’ in community (communion) with other believers.  
**NOTE:** Paul uses a building, a field, a bride, and the human body to describe how the church functions. *See 1 Cor 12:14-31*

#### **B. Confession: Jesus is Lord—the Ultimate Gift** *1 Cor 12:1-3*

- 1. Concerning spiritual things:** We are NOT to be ignorant of these truths or influenced by the world and our past involvement with it. We are now to be led by the Spirit.
- 2. Our confession:** [3] The only basis for unity in diversity and Spiritual gifting is our confession that “Jesus is Lord.” Pagan practice and influence surrounded the Corinthian church. Paul reminds us that our confession (like our character) precedes the flow of the gifts. Note the presence of the Trinity.

#### **C. Commitment: Ministering the Gifts** *1 Cor 12:4-10*

- 1. Unity in diversity:** [4-6] Unity in the church is not found through conformity but rather diversity.
  - a. Differences:** How and where the gifts are used will be unique to what God is doing. *See verses 4-6*
  - b. Sameness:** The Spirit, the Lord and God—the fullness and unity of God produces the energy or power for the gifts and how they are used and the activity or outcome upon the one being ministered to. *See verses 4-6*
- 2. Commitment to all:** [7] Every ‘baptized in the Spirit’ believer has a gift given by the Spirit for ministry. The purpose of Spiritual gifts is not the elevation of the individual, but for the health of the whole body. We need each other!
- 3. Commitment to receive and use:** [8-11] “**Given**” is the most important word here. It implies that there is a giver and receiver. If none receive what is given—there can be no ministry to one another. We are all one in the Lord through receiving Christ as savior—but we will not be one in ministry without also receiving/using the gifts of the Spirit for ministry.

### Scripture (NKJV)

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

**:1** Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:

**:2** You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led.

**:3** Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the **Spirit of God** calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that **Jesus is Lord** except by the **Holy Spirit**.

**:4** There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

**:5** There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.

**:6** And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.

**:7** But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

**:8** for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,

**:9** to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,

**:10** to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

**:11** But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

**:12** For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.

**:13** For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. **14** For in fact the body is not one member but many.