

Spiritual Gifts

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1 Corinthians 12:1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

Romans 1:11 For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established;

- I. We need to understand the difference between a gift and a skill.
 - A. A gift is something given, not learned, not acquired through our own efforts, but something gifted to us from God or from someone else.
 - 1. Paul desired to see the Romans so that he could impart some spiritual gift to them.
 - 2. He wanted to be a blessing to their spirit and soul and give them something of value in the spiritual realm, something the world could not take away from them, and something that would help them to be stable and steadfast in their soul.
 - B. A skill is something we have acquired through learning.
 - 1. It literally means “to know.”
 - 2. So to have a skill is to know how to do something, make something, repair something, etc.
 - 3. We know how because we have learned how.
 - C. A spiritual gift keeps on giving, because that is what is given for.
 - D. Everything that comes from God is a gift.
 - 1. God does not teach us skills, He imparts to us gifts.
 - E. Satan desires to have us, and he desires to teach us how to do things without God.
 - F. It is the devil’s goal to get us to depend upon our own hand, our own mind, and our own devices.
 - 1. This is the essence of carnality, and the opposite of spirituality.
 - 2. He wants to move us away from faith in God to confidence in the flesh.

II. What are spiritual gifts?

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

- A. “To profit withal” does not mean for our own increase, but for the body of Christ.
 - 1. The word “profit” means:

PROF'IT, n. *literally to proceed forward, to advance; The primary sense is to urge or drive.*

- B. Spiritual gifts have to do with the Spirit of God, and our spirit.
- C. God gives spiritual gifts, as well, and for the same purposes.
 - 1. The spiritual gifts God gives us are to be used to edify one another and to edify the church we are a part of.
 - 2. Spiritual gifts are to encourage, to motivate, to move and inspire others to move on in their walk with God and spiritual growth.

3. Spiritual gifts are not for entertainment or amusement, or to excite our interest in the supernatural.
4. Spiritual gifts are not for us to boast about, since they are not of our own doing, but were given to us by God or someone else.

1 Corinthians 12:12-14 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many.

5. This is why there are diversities of gifts, differences of administrations, and diversities of operations.
 6. All people are different from one another; people are not all cut out of the same mold or pattern.
 7. All people do not have the same gifts; neither are the same gifts administered the same, or operate the same.
- D. We identify spiritual gifts by what they do for us and what part of our being they speak to and affect.

III. Skills cannot be substituted for spiritual gifts.

- A. In a secular business or organization skills are the thing that make it a success or a failure.
- B. In a church it is the Spirit of God that makes it a true and lasting success.
 1. If the church relies on skills rather than spiritual gifts it will die.
- C. If the preaching is based upon the skill of the preacher then it is not spiritual preaching.
 1. Men go off to school to “learn how” to preach.
 2. If they only needed to learn “the Bible” that is what their local church is for, but they go there to learn the skill of public speaking, and “how to” be a pastor or evangelist.
 3. They acquire a skill and then seek a church to practice it in.
- D. If the singing is based upon skill it is not spiritual singing.
- E. If it is not spiritual then it is carnal, and that puts it outside the realm of God’s work entirely.
 1. These things are spiritual gifts, not skills.
 2. They are for the edification of the church, not for performances, entertainment, or amusement.
- F. The ideal is to have a little skill to go along with the spiritual gift.
 1. But the danger there is that pride uses the skill and tries to take over and exalt self rather than the spiritual wellbeing of others.
 2. The result of that is dead, mechanical performances, instead of anointed, soul-stirring preaching and singing.

1 Corinthians 14:12 Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.

1 Corinthians 14:1 Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.