

“Built Together Part 7 - Spiritual Gifts” (10-8-23)

Key Verse: Eph. 2:22 - “In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”

Series Review: Living in Community - Worship, Connected, Joy, Healing, rooted in Love

New Section: Built up by the Spirit (God-given gifts and abilities are used in love to build up His Church)

Today: Spiritual Gifts

Some Opening thoughts:

- **The Gifts are for today**
 - Jesus, Disciples, early church, letters to the churches, historical & current witness
 - People argue that the gifts aren’t for today
 - Those same people don’t argue that the fruit isn’t for today
 - God doesn’t change (that’s a primary characteristic) - His Spirit produces fruit & gives gifts!

- **How do we use the Gifts?**
 - In combination with the fruit. **Love** is central . . . **literally:** 1 Corinthians 13 is purposely placed.
 - This means that the gifts are motivated by love for others
 - The gifts are activated by faith in God (not in my ability to be gifted!)
 - The gifts flow out of an abiding life. I receive the gifts from the one I am walking with!

1 Corinthians 12:1 (ESV)

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed.

Notes: Uninformed means – **Unknown** or Ignorant. Also, to **not Understand**, or to **Ignore**.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 11 (ESV)

(4) Now there are **varieties** of gifts, but the **same Spirit**; (5) and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; (6) and there are varieties of activities, but it is the **same God who empowers** them all in everyone. (7) To **each** is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the **common good**. . . (11) **All these are empowered** by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one **individually as he wills**.

Notes: Unity in Variety, & all are from God, for the common good. We are empowered by God as He wills.

***Gifts are given in the moment (as needed), gifts are area of strength, even roles or positions you hold.**

The Primary Passages Listing the Spiritual Gifts

Romans 12:6-8 (ESV)

(6) Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if **prophecy**, in proportion to our faith; (7) if **service**, in our serving; the one who **teaches**, in his teaching; (8) the one who **exhorts**, in his exhortation; the one who **contributes**, in generosity; the one who **leads**, with zeal; the one who does acts of **mercy**, with cheerfulness.

1 Corinthians 12:8-10 (ESV)

(8) For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of **wisdom**, and to another the utterance of **knowledge** according to the same Spirit, (9) to another **faith** by the same Spirit, to another gifts of **healing** by the one Spirit, (10) to another the working of **miracles**, to another **prophecy**, to another the ability to **distinguish between spirits**, to another **various kinds of tongues**, to another the **interpretation of tongues**.

1 Corinthians 12:28 (ESV)

And God has appointed in the church first **apostles**, second **prophets**, third **teachers**, then **miracles**, then gifts of **healing**, **helping**, **administrating**, and various kinds of **tongues**.

Ephesians 4:11-12 (ESV)

(11) And he gave the **apostles**, the **prophets**, the **evangelists**, the **shepherds** and **teachers**, (12) to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ

The Gifts (We are beginning in Romans 12:6, and connecting with other passages where they overlap)

1) Prophecy

- **Prophecy** (Propheteia G4394) – Romans 12:6, 1 Corinthians 12:10 (also see Role of Prophet)
 - **Meaning:** A discourse emanating from divine inspiration and declaring the purposes of God, whether by reproving and admonishing the wicked, or comforting the afflicted, or revealing things hidden; or by foretelling future events

Prophecy is: God inspired speech or action that is either **Fore-telling** (future) or **Forth-telling** (now)

- **Examples:** 1 Thess. 5:20 – despise not prophesy, 1 Timothy 4:14 – Timothy commissioned by prophecy, 2 Peter 1:20-21 – Scripture came by prophecy

1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 (ESV)

(19) Do not quench the Spirit. (20) Do not despise prophecies, (21) but test everything; hold fast what is good.

- **Word of Wisdom** (Logos G3056 “word” & Sophia G4678 “wisdom”) – 1 Corinthians 12:8
 - **Meaning:** Wisdom, understanding, insight, skill, tact, expertise. Practical wisdom, and management, including the idea of sound judgment and good sense.
- **Word of Knowledge** (Logos G3056 “word” & Gnosis G1108 “knowledge”) – 1 Corinthians 12:8
 - **Meaning:** Knowing, to know something, general knowledge and understanding
- ***The Role of a Prophet*** (Prophetes G4396) – 1 Corinthians 12:28, Ephesians 4:11
 - **Meaning:** One who, moved by the inspiration of God speaks to instruct, comfort, encourage, rebuke, convict, and stimulate, their hearers. They can speak concerning future events.
 - **Examples:** Luke 7:26-28 (John the Baptist), Acts 15:32 (Judas & Silas – prophets who comfort & strengthen the church @ Antioch)

Acts 15:32 (ESV)

And Judas and Silas, who were themselves prophets, encouraged and strengthened the brothers with many words.

2) Serving and Helps

- **Serving** (Diakonia G1248) – Romans 12:7
 - **Meaning:** The most literal translation means to serve or wait a table. The same Greek word is translated as minister, serve, or deacon in the NT.
 - **Examples:** Matthew 20:28 – Jesus came to serve not to be served, Matthew 23:11 – greatest shall be a servant

- **Helps** (Antilepsis G484) – 1 Corinthians 12:28
 - **Meaning:** Help, relief, aid. Implying duties toward the **poor** and **sick** even as the deacons were appointed to give attention to them. Think: **Nursing** or **Homeless Ministry** as examples.
 - **Example:** Acts 20:35 – Paul reminds the Ephesian elders to labor to support the weak, and he encouraged them to remember Jesus words: “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

3) Teaching and Exhortation

- **Teaching** (Didasko G1321) – Romans 12:7 (See also Role of Teacher)
 - **Meaning:** To hold discourse with others in order to instruct them, to impart instruction, instill doctrine into one, to explain or expound a thing
 - **Examples:** Matthew 5:2 – Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5:19 – Jesus said to do & teach the commandments, Matthew 7:29 – Jesus taught with authority unlike scribes

- **Exhortation** (Parakaleo G3870) – Romans 12:8
 - **Meaning:** To call for, invite, aid, help, comfort, encourage, admonish, console, beseech.
 - **Examples:** Matthew 5:4 – Blessed are those who mourn, they will be comforted (exhorted), Acts 2:40 – Peter exhorted the crowd at Pentecost to be saved. Acts 14:22 – Paul exhorts the believers to continue in their faith in the midst of tribulation.

- ***The Role of a Teacher*** (Didaskalos G1320) – 1 Corinthians 12:28, Ephesians 4:11
 - **Meaning:** Instructor, Master, Doctor, Teacher - In the NT one who teaches concerning the things of God, and the duties of man.
 - **Examples:** Used to describe Jesus over 40 times (master or teacher), Hebrews 5:12 – we should grow into being teachers, not just those being fed milk.

To Be Continued: We will cover more gifts/roles from 1st Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4 next Sunday

Conclusion: Let’s not be ignorant of these gifts, but open to the Spirit of God to use us as He chooses to walk in His Power, motivated by His Love, in order to Build Up and encourage others!