

## Abide Part 13: Gifts for One and All (12-2-2018)

**This Series:** Abide - Living in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit

**3 Parts:** Who is the Holy Spirit, Cultivating our relationship with Him, and then how He flows through us.

**Final part of the Series: “The Gifts of the Spirit” – We will focus on 3 primary passages:**

- Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12-14, Ephesians 4. (Also, look at the life of Jesus and the Church in Acts)

**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!

**Today:** A Healthy approach to walking in the Gifts

- 1) **Kneel Down** – Humility, understanding & accepting your limitation

### Romans 12:1-2 (ESV)

(1) I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. (2) Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

**Note:** Sacrifice, Worship, and Renewal – this requires humility, surrender, & help

### Romans 12:3 (ESV)

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

**Note:** The Gifts are acts of God's Grace – So don't make it about you! Be humble before God & others. Trust Him (that's faith) and what He gives, not what you can accomplish!

**Benefit:** Living like this combats – pride, pressure, & looking for your identity in position or power

## 2) Link Up – Strengthen & care for the body by maintaining unity within diversity

### Romans 12:4-5 (ESV)

(4) For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, (5) so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

**Note:** We are different, but connected. We need each other, we directly affect each other.

**Romans 12:9-21** - The 2<sup>nd</sup> half of this chapter discusses practically how to walk in Unity

- Genuine Love – with brotherly affection (9-10)
- Show honor (10)
- Be Patient (11)
- Give – Practical & Personal. Contribute to those in need & welcome them into your home (13)
- Be present with people – rejoice & weep together (15)
- Humble yourself & associate with the humble & lowly (16)
- Live peaceably (18)

**Benefit:** Living like this combats – division (whether intentional or unintentional people teardown the body)

## 3) Step Up – Service, participate, and take responsibility

### 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.

**Note:** Our gifts differ – please use yours!!! And learn to use them well: faith, generosity, joy, passion!

**Benefit:** Living like this combats – feeling worthless (nothing to offer), complacent, or apathetic

## 4) Lift Up – Honor, esteem others

### Romans 12:10 (ESV)

Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

**Note:** We are actually encouraged to be competitive – in lifting others up!

**An in-depth look at this is found in 1 Corinthians 12 – let's take a look . . .**

### 1 Corinthians 12:19-27 (ESV)

(19) If all were a single member, where would the body be? (20) As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. (21) The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." (22) On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are **indispensable**, (23) and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the **greater honor**, and our unrepresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, (24) which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, (25) that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have **the same care for one another**. (26) If one member suffers, all suffer together; if **one member is honored, all rejoice together**. (27) Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

**Note:** View the parts of the body properly - you need other people, and they need you . . .

**Indispensable**, great **Honor**, great **Care**, all as **One**!

**Benefit:** Living like this combats – **isolation** or lone ranger mentality. Instead it gives you a **purpose** and a **place**, and lifts others up!

- Isolation is a dangerous response to unhealthy community.
- Being hurt by unhealthy community shouldn't keep use from being in healthy community.
- The church should be a refuge for the lonely & a hospital for the hurting.
- That takes you playing your part!

**Conclusion:** Let's walk in the Gifts of the Spirit with a proper & intentional approach . . .

- **Kneel Down** (Humility)
- **Link Up** (Unity)
- **Step Up** (Responsibility)
- **Lift Up** (Honor)