

## **1 Corinthians 12 New American Standard Bible**

### **The Use of Spiritual Gifts**

Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brothers *and sisters*, I do not want you to be unaware. <sup>2</sup> You know that when you were pagans, *you were* led astray to the mute idols, however you were led. <sup>3</sup> Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed"; and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

<sup>4</sup> Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup> And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all *persons*. <sup>7</sup> But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

<sup>8</sup> For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another *various* kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup> But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

<sup>12</sup> For just as the body is one and *yet* has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. <sup>13</sup> For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

<sup>14</sup> For the body is not one part, but many. <sup>15</sup> If the foot says, "Because I am not a hand, I am not *a part* of the body," it is not for this reason any less *a part* of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear says, "Because I am not an eye, I am not *a part* of the body," it is not for this reason any less *a part* of the body. <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole *body* were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup> But now God has arranged the parts, each one of them in the body, just as He desired. <sup>19</sup> If they were all one part, where would the body be?

<sup>20</sup> But now there are many parts, but one body. <sup>21</sup> And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again, the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." <sup>22</sup> On the contrary, it is much truer that the parts of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary; <sup>23</sup> and those *parts* of the body which we consider less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor, and our less presentable parts become much more presentable, <sup>24</sup> whereas our more presentable parts have no need *of it*.

But God has *so* composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that *part* which lacked, <sup>25</sup> so that there may be no division in the body, but *that* the parts may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup> And if one part *of the body* suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if a part is honored, all the parts rejoice with it.

<sup>27</sup> Now you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it.

<sup>28</sup> And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, *and various* kinds of

tongues. <sup>29</sup> All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not *workers of miracles*, are they? <sup>30</sup> All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they? <sup>31</sup> But earnestly desire the greater gifts.

And yet, *I am going to show you a far better way.*

**We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions**

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

1. Spiritual gifts are not the same as natural gifts. Natural gifts are a part of your journey, a part of the journey you make and the investment that has gone in to your emotions, spirit, physical, social, etc.
2. Spiritual gifts are gifts of the spirit given by God the Holy Spirit, to the church, the body of Christ, to advance and enhance the Christian and the establishing of the Kingdom of God.
3. They are not rewards or merit badges, you can't earn them, they are given to you freely.
4. God has called us all to be effective members of the body of Christ. Jesus operated out of the gifts of the Holy Spirit given to Him.
5. Christians have contested this chapter from the beginning of the Church, some have said a test of authenticity to salvation from sin and judgement is an inability to curse Jesus Christ, no one can say Jesus Christ is Lord unless the Holy Spirit is living in him.
6. Christians play a different role in the life of the Church but all are inspired spiritually by the Holy Spirit, the giver of gifts.
7. Paul makes a declaration - To each one, meaning everyone gathered is able to receive and be used by God in expressing gifts of the Holy Spirit.
8. The manifestation of the Holy Spirit is the outworking of the Spirit by the use of gifts expressed.
9. The purpose for this, Paul declares, is for the common good, the benefit of everyone gathered.
10. The nine gifts of the Spirit are represented as follows in this chapter, this is not an exhaustive list:
11. Word of wisdom is the ability to speak the truth into a situation that will lead to well-being in a broken damaged situation.
12. A word of knowledge is the ability to know something about a person or situation that you have not been told but you know it anyway, because God the Holy Spirit, in your spirit, has revealed it to you;
13. The gift of faith has been given to Christians for the purpose of receiving God's blessings for others and for themselves.
14. The gift of healing is to have the ability to minister health and well-being to sick people in all the facets of their identity, bringing to them God's recovery.
15. The effecting of miracles is to work into being what is not there and yet bring it there, it bring into things that are not as is.
16. The gift of prophecy is the ability to have insight into what God is thinking about a situation right now and to say what He is thinking, it also includes the ability to foresee the future as God sees and reveals to the person prophesying.
17. A distinguishing of spirits is to have the ability to know what type of Spirit a person is operating in at that time, whether from God or from the camp of the enemy.
18. The gift of tongues is to speak in a language you have not learnt, it is given by God the Holy Spirit, to bring adoration, worship and exaltation to God. It is also used in prayer standing firm against strongholds, principalities and powers in the heavenly realm that are in opposition to the purposes of God.
19. Interpretation of tongues is to have the ability to know what is being said by yourself, or another, using the language of tongues, even though you do not know that language you know what is being said.
20. It is not a translation but an interpretation.
21. It is the Holy Spirit who gives the gifts to us when we gather to worship God, He will use anyone who is available to Him in the using of the gifts.

22. The union of the body of Christ has happened because we have been joined together by the blood of Jesus Christ.
23. God's connection to us all is through Jesus' blood, there is no distinction, we are all one in Him. Our value is not based upon our race or gender, God freely connects to us all through Jesus' blood.
24. The same Holy Spirit in you, is the same Holy Spirit in me, as is in everyone else.
25. Paul says we may represent different aspects of the body but we are of unique value to God. Everyone in the body has been called to honour and serve one another and to not miss out on the high watermark of God's royal law of love.
26. Ministers within the body are those whose calling is to take up the role of leading the body, by investing their anointing into the body of Christ they serve. So, if a prophet - prophesy, if an apostle - oversee, if an evangelist -teach the church to evangelise, etc.
27. When Paul asks a rhetorical question - Do all prophesy? Do all speak in tongues? – He is pointing out that all have a role to play within the body but they are not all fulfilling the same role.
28. To earnestly desire means to really want it, so ask God to give you His gifts to minister to God's people, God's way for the edification of the saints in Christ.