



The Way, The Truth, and The Life Christian Center, Inc.

SERMON NOTES

“THE GIFTS OF GOD”

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 1 CORINTHIANS 12: 7-11

January 15, 2025

Summary

Apostle continued the teaching on gifts of the Spirit by focusing the nine spiritual gifts outlined in 1 Corinthians 12. Apostle categorized the gifts into three groups: the gifts of utterance, power, and revelation — and explained their significance and proper use. The gifts are from “the same God which work all in all” demonstrating the unity and work of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As a Pentecostal church rooted in the events of Acts 2, Apostle affirmed the active manifestation of the gifts of the Spirit as vital to the life of the church.

Spiritual Gift “Categories” (1 Corinthians 12: 7-11)

- There are three categories of spiritual gifts: gifts of utterance (“say something”), gifts of power (“do something”), and gifts of revelation (“reveal something”).
- In each category there is a “best gift” (1 Corinthians 12:31) - But covet earnestly the best gifts: And yet show I unto you a more excellent way.
- The three categories of gifts remind of us of the constant presence and unity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in the gifts.
- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit work in perfect unity, each playing an equally vital role in accomplishing the purposes of God. The Father is the source, giving the Word and promises; the Son is the mediator, through whom the covenant is established by His blood; and the Holy Spirit is the executor, ensuring that the will and testimony of the Father are carried out.

Gifts of Utterance (1 Corinthians 12:10)

- Gifts of utterance “say something”: prophecy, diverse kinds of tongues, and interpretation of tongues.
- They work together to edify the church when used properly, in alignment with God’s order.
 - Prophecy: a supernatural utterance in a known language, meant to build up, encourage, and comfort the church
 - Prophecy is the “best gift” in gifts of utterance The word “prophecy” comes from the Greek word “propheteuo” (προφητεύω) meaning to speak forth, flow forth, to declare openly, or to proclaim divine truth. It conveys the idea of spontaneous, Spirit-inspired

utterances. Prophecy is not rehearsed but comes directly from the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

- Prophecy builds up the church by providing edification, exhortation, and comfort (1 Corinthians 14:3).
- It is considered greater than tongues (unless tongues are interpreted) because it directly communicates God's message to the congregation so that the others are edified.
- **Diverse Kinds of Tongues:** Speaking in diverse kinds of tongues is a supernatural gift given by the Holy Spirit. It is distinct from speaking a learned or natural language, as it is directly inspired by God for His purposes.
 - When spoken publicly, tongues must always have interpretation, or they do not build up the church (1 Corinthians 14: 27- 28)
 - Private tongues are for personal edification but should not disrupt corporate worship (e.g., during preaching, singing, or other church activities) (1 Corinthians 14:4)
- **Interpretation of Tongues:** a supernatural revelation of the meaning of the message given in tongues. It helps others hearing understand what would otherwise remain a mystery, ensuring that the church is built up.
 - If no one can interpret, tongues should not be spoken publicly to avoid confusion or disruption. (1 Corinthians 14: 28)
- **Guidelines:** The gifts of utterance must operate in order, following God's principles to ensure they glorify God and benefit the church.
 - The Holy Spirit will not interrupt the delivery of God's Word or cause confusion.
 - Operating in these gifts requires stepping out in faith, being sensitive to the Spirit's leading, and ensuring that the setting is appropriate for their use.
 - Always prioritize God's Word and the edification of the church when using these gifts.

Gifts of Power (1 Corinthians 12: 9-10)

- Gifts of power "do something": faith, working of miracles, and healings.
- The gifts of healings highlight the importance of understanding that different illnesses or conditions may require specific prayers.
- The Holy Spirit equips believers to discern these needs and address them appropriately, rather than offering general prayers.
- Healing isn't about outward reactions (e.g., falling out under the power of the Holy Spirit or visible responses) but about the faith and grace imparted by the Holy Spirit. Whether or not there's a physical reaction, God's work is happening, and we must trust in God's power rather than relying on what we see or feel.

- It's essential to stay sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading, ensuring that our prayers are guided by God and not based on assumptions or outward appearances.

Gifts of Revelation (1 Corinthians 12: 8, 10)

- The gifts of revelation “reveal something”: word of wisdom, word of knowledge, and discerning of spirits.

Growth in Faith, Grace, and Spiritual Maturity

- Operating in these gifts requires faith to step out when the Holy Spirit leads, but it also requires wisdom to use them appropriately and in order.
- Believers must invest time in studying the Word of God, prayer, and growing in their relationship with God to be effectively used by the Holy Spirit.
- As believers grow in grace, they become better equipped to discern and operate in the gifts for God's glory.

Key Takeaways

- The Holy Spirit continues to work today as in the early church, bringing honor and glory to Jesus Christ.
- The gifts of power, utterance, and revelation are supernatural and require faith, wisdom, and spiritual maturity to use effectively.
- These gifts are given to edify the church, glorify Jesus Christ, and make the Holy Spirit known to others.
- Believers must prioritize order, biblical alignment, and growth in grace to operate in these gifts faithfully and responsibly.

Reflection Questions

- What does Paul mean by “the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all” (v. 7)? How does this shape our understanding of spiritual gifts?
- How does the gift of faith in verse 9 differ from the general faith that all believers are called to have? How might this gift be used to encourage others?
- The gifts of healings (v. 9) are plural. Why might this suggest that different types of healing (physical, emotional, spiritual) are included? How do you think God uses people in this gift today?
- How can the church ensure that spiritual gifts are used in an orderly and edifying way, as Paul discusses in the broader context of 1 Corinthians 12-14?