

# CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

## SERIES: THE HOLY SPIRIT

### SPIRITUAL GIFTS

#### SCRIPTURE READING:

<sup>3</sup> For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. <sup>4</sup> For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: <sup>5</sup> So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. <sup>6</sup> Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; <sup>7</sup> Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; <sup>8</sup> Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness” (Rom 12:3-8).

#### INTRODUCTION:

**A. Spiritual Gifts are divine abilities, services or offices bestowed by the Holy Spirit upon Believers for the common good and building up of the church and to spread the Gospel of Christ to the whole world, rather than for personal gain.**

1. Spiritual Gifts are the tools Believers use to serve and Glorify God and minister to others.
2. Spiritual Gifts are unearned and undeserved. They are given to Believers based on God’s Grace (v. 3).

**B. According to verses 4-5, the church as the Body of Christ is to function as a body.**

There is “**one body**” (unity), “**many members**” (diversity), and “**members one of another**” (interdependency).

1. All members do not have the same spiritual gifts. Therefore, we should not compare ourselves to others nor think highly (pride, arrogance) of ourselves as being better than others (v. 3).
2. Every Believer has a spiritual gift (s) – use it to glorify God – be a good steward of your spiritual gifts.
3. Every Believer is as important to God as any other Believer. No one has a monopoly on any spiritual gift. Believers are one Body in Christ – fulfill your duty to perfect it (do not handicap it by not fulfilling your duty).

#### **C. Spiritual Gifts**

The Christian Church is composed of many different kinds of people with different gifts and different ministries. The manner in which these are combined is not like a melting pot but like a salad bowl. Within the church, there is no loss of individual identity, but rather the complementing of distinct elements to create a new, special, and united body (Source: Illustrations for Biblical Preaching – Michael P. Green).

## **PROPOSITION:**

**In this Bible Study, we will mediate on seven (7) Spiritual Gifts as recorded in the Scriptural Reading - Romans 12:3-8.**

### **I. THE GIFT OF PROPHECY (v. 6)**

○ **“Let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith”**

**A. “Prophecy” refers to any message from God to instruct, admonish, warn, rebuke, correct, challenge, comfort, and encourage others.**

**B. “Prophecy” is proclaiming the Truth about Christ and what He has revealed concerning future events.**

#### **1. Christ stated that He is the way, truth and life**

○ **“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6).**

Salvation is only through a relationship – Born Again – with Christ, not through human efforts.

#### **2. Christ states that He is equal with God**

○ **“Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am” (John 8:58).**

○ **“I and my Father are one” (John 10:30).**

**3. Christ referred to Himself as the “Good Shepherd” who lays down His life and the “Door” through which a person is saved (John 10:7-11).**

#### **4. Christ declared His Second Coming**

○ **“But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only” (Matt 24:36).**

○ **“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” (John 14:3).**

### **C. Prophecy is telling the Truths of the Bible**

**1. God created Heaven and Earth (Gen 1:1)**

**2. God created Man (Gen 1:26-28)**

**3. God knows the number stars and their names (Ps 147:4; Isa 40:26)**

**4. The Word of God shall stand forever (Isa 40:8)**

#### **D. Charles Spurgeon**

When Charles Spurgeon was pastor at New Park Street in London, God used his words to bring about amazing changes in the lives of people. A man who was on his way to get some gin saw the crowd at the church door and pushed his way in to see what was going on. At that moment, Spurgeon turned and faced the man and said that there was a man in the gallery who had a gin bottle in his pocket and had come with no good motive. The startled man listened to the rest of the message and was converted. One evening a prostitute, on her way to Blackfriars Bridge to commit suicide, stopped at the church, hoping to hear some word that would prepare her to meet her maker. Spurgeon was preaching from Luke 7:36-50, the story of the prostitute who wiped Jesus feet with her tears. His text was verse 44; “Seest thou this woman?” As Spurgeon preached, the woman saw herself but also saw the grace of God and trusted Christ – (Source: Wycliffe Handbook of Preaching and Preachers, W. Wiersbe, (Moody Press, Chicago; 1984), p. 231).

#### **THOUGHT TO PONDER:**

**Spiritual Gifts are meant to edify the church and glorify God. They are not to be used for personal gain or status.**

#### **II. THE GIFT OF MINISTRY (v. 7)**

○ **“Let us wait on ministering”**

**A. “Ministering” means to be a servant; a person who serves others for the Glory of God.**

1. It is helping others when help is needed.

2. Ministering to others is an act of humility and obedience, echoing the servanthood of Christ, who washed the Disciples’ feet (John 13:1-17).

**B. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stated in his sermon titled “The Drum Major Instinct,” that serving others define true greatness when it is done through love, humility, and service rather than the desire to be “out front,” recognized and to lead the parade.**

**Examples of a Servant Heart:** Volunteering Time (assisting in food pantries, nursing home), active listening (to someone who is struggling), giving resources (clothing to community projects and charities).

#### **THOUGHT TO PONDER:**

**Believers are to have a servant heart and seize opportunities to be of service to others. Our service must be done with a genuine desire to serve without expecting reward or recognition.**

#### **III. THE GIFT OF TEACHING (v. 7)**

○ **“He that teacheth on teaching”**

**A. “Teaching” refers to the ability to explain, root, and ground people in the Truth (Word of God); to explain God’s Word with clarity.**

**B. Preachers/Teachers are commanded to “Preach the Word ..” (2 Tim 4:1-4).**

1. We are to Preach/Teach the pure unadulterated Gospel (Word of God), not personal opinions.
2. **We are to Preach/Teach “All the Counsel of God” (The Whole Counsel)**
  - “For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God” (Acts 20:27).

Paul said, we are to Preach – Tell the full uncompromised message of salvation, biblical truth, and God’s will rather than picking and choosing comfortable topics.

**POINTS TO PONDER:**

- Tell people what they need to know rather than what they want to hear. Tell the truth with love.
- “It is better to be divided by truth than to be united in error. It is better to speak the truth that hurts and then heals, than falsehood that comforts and then kills.” – Pastor Adrian Rogers

**C. Warning From God**

- **“My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation” (James 3:1).**

The Bible warns that those who teach or preach the Word of God will face stricter judgment, as they are held to a higher standard of accountability for leading others; Our words can lead others toward or away from God; it can cause harm in the church.

**IV. THE GIFT OF EXHORTATION (v. 8)**

- **He that exhorteth, wait on exhortation”**

**A. “Exhortation” involves uplifting, advising, encouraging, and motivating others.**

**B. Ways to Exhort Others**

1. **Tell another Believer when he/she does or says something that was godly or encouraging to you or others.**
2. **Offer to pray with someone on the spot or share with them that you are praying for them.**
3. **Make telephone contact or visit those who are sick, grieving the loss of a loved one, marital or family problems, loss of a job, difficult situation.**
  - “Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ” (Gal 6:2).
  - “<sup>11</sup> Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do. Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men” (1 Thess 5:11, 14).

- “But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin” (Heb 3:13).

**STUDY QUESTION:**

**In what ways can you practice the Gift of Encouragement in your daily interactions with others?**

**V. THE GIFT OF GIVING (v. 8)**

- **“He that giveth, let him do it with simplicity”**

**A. “Giving” refers to the giving of one’s earthly possessions, such as clothing, food, and money.**

1. We are to give generously with sincerity.
2. We are to give with singleness of heart and without show or for recognition (Matt 6:1-4; 2 Cor 9:7).

**B. Give generously as it is a characteristic of Christian living. This reflects God’s own generosity in giving His Son for the sins of humanity.**

- “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).
- “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Cor 5:21).
- “He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay him again” (Prov 19:17).
- “He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his bread to the poor” (Prov 22:9).
- “He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse” (Prov 28:27).

**C. Penalty of Not Giving**

A lady who refused to give, after hearing a charity sermon, had her pocket picked as she was leaving church. On making the discovery she said, “The preacher could not find the way to my pocket, but the devil did” (Source: Biblehub - Biblical Illustrator).

**VI. THE GIFT OF RULING (v. 8)**

- **“He that ruleth with diligence”**

**A. “Ruling” refers to the ability of leadership, authority, administration.**

1. The leader must lead with diligence – zeal, desire, haste, carefully.
2. The leader must not be lazy, complacent, and unconcerned about God and His Church.

## **B. Leadership By Example**

1. Church leaders must lead by being living examples of Christlikeness, prioritizing character, service, and integrity over mere authority.
  - “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ” (1 Cor 11:1).
2. Church leaders must live out biblical principles in speech, conduct, and purity, rather than just teaching them. Leaders must be doers of the Word.
  - “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves” (James 1:22).
  - **The Makings of a President**  
Dwight Morrow, the father of Anne Morrow Lindbergh, once held a dinner party to which Calvin Coolidge had been invited. After Coolidge left, Morrow told the remaining guests that Coolidge would make a good president. The others disagreed. They felt Coolidge was too quiet, that he lacked color and personality. No one would like him, they said. Anne, then age six, spoke up: “I like him.” Then she displayed a finger with a small bandage around it. “He was the only one at the party who asked about my sore finger.” “And that’s why he would make a good president,” added Morrow. – (Source: Ministry 127, Just for Today, James Keller).

## **VII. THE GIFT OF MERCY (v. 8)**

- **“He that showeth mercy, with cheerfulness”**
- A. “Mercy” refers to the person who is full of forgiveness and compassion, pity, and kindness towards others.**
- B. The Christian with the Gift of Mercy”**
  1. **Does not forgive grudgingly**
    - “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you” (Eph 4:32).
    - “Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye” (Col 3:13).
  2. **Does not keep count of wrongdoing**
    - “<sup>21</sup> Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? <sup>22</sup> Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven” (Matt 18:21-22).
- C. Does not forgive with an irritable or resentful spirit.**
  - “Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil” (1 Cor 13:5).

○ **Gracious Forgiveness**

- A survivor of a concentration camp during the Holocaust, Corrie ten Boom dedicated her life to traveling and preaching about forgiveness. She told the stories of losing her family members in the war and how she had to release the bitterness and anger toward those who harmed them. She is quoted as saying, “There is no pit so deep that God’s love is not deeper still,” and “God will give us the love to be able to forgive our enemies” (“The Ten Boom Family,” Ten Boom Museum, accessed January 4, 2021, <https://www.tenboom.org/about-the-ten-booms/>). Later in life, Corrie met one of the concentration camp guards when he attended one of her meetings. After initially struggling, she graciously forgave, embraced, and wept with him. “I forgive you, brother!’ I cried. ‘With all my heart.’ For a long moment we grasped each other’s hands, the former guard and the former prisoner. I had never known God’s love so intensely, as I did then. But even so, I realized it was not my love. I had tried, and did not have the power. It was the power of the Holy Spirit” (Source: Corrie ten Boom, *Tramp for the Lord*, with Jamie Buckingham [New York: Jove Books, 1978], 55).
- “It is a great thing to be a good forgiver” – F.W. Borehaur
- A Christian will find it cheaper to pardon than to resent. Forgiveness saves the expense of anger, the cost of hatred, the waste if spirits.” – Hannah Moore

**MEMORY VERSE:**

“Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy” (Matt 5:7).

**Note:**

**Review: Understanding the Holy Spirit – Made Easy/Gifts of the Spirit (pp. 62-71).**

**CONCLUSION:**

**A. The Seven Spiritual Gifts: The Gifts of Prophecy, Ministry, Teaching, Exhortation, Giving, Ruling and Mercy.**

**B. Spiritual Gifts**

On Christmas morning, the children in a family do not usually all receive the same gifts, One gets a football, one a puzzle, another receives a dollhouse, and another a table game. Yet, although each child does not receive the same gifts as the others, the parents intend the gifts to be enjoyed by all the children as they use them together. The same is true of the gifts God gives His children. We do not all have the same gift, but we are all to use our gift for the good of all in God’s family – (Source: *Illustrations for Biblical Preaching* – Michael P Green)

**C. Romans Road (Rom 3:10, 23; 5:8; 10:9, 13)**

**From the Teaching Ministry of:**

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**“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).**