

# The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

**What is the purpose of the Spiritual gifts?** For the common good of the body of Christ (*1 Cor. 12:7*) to build up the church (*1 Cor. 14:12*) for works of service that we might be united in faith and knowledge of God, reaching the maturity of fullness in Christ (*Eph. 4:12–13*).

## SPIRITUAL GIFTS

- Every believer receives the Holy Spirit as a seal of salvation *Eph. 1:12-14*
- The Spirit gives each believer gifts to do the work of God *1 Cor. 12:4-6*
- The purpose of spiritual gifts is to promote “the common good” of the body of Christ... *1 Cor. 12:7*
- ...to build up the church... *1 Cor. 14:12*
- ...and to prepare us each for works of service. *Eph. 4:12–13*
- The temptation of spiritual gifts is to use them to draw attention to ourselves. *1 Cor. 14:4*
- This is a particular problem with the gift of languages because it can be faked. *1 Cor. 14:23*

## PAUL'S TEACHING TO THE CORINTHIANS

- Spiritual gifts are a reality that Paul wants the church to understand. *1 Cor. 12:1*
- Spiritual gifts are varied because the service to God is varied, but one Spirit. *1 Cor. 12:4-11*

## A DIVERSITY OF GIFTS

- God is both one and three. Like one body has many members so too with the church. *1 Cor. 12:12-13*
- The Spirit empowers all member of the church for ministry. Priesthood of all believers. *1 Peter 2:9*
  - The church is not restricted to a few professionals.

## ONE BODY

- Jesus has a specific task for each church member, and each is equipped for that role. *1 Cor. 12:14-19*
  - *Reductio ad absurdum* – taken to its logical conclusion
  - To favour one gift reduces the church to have only one ability at the expense of others.
- To each is given a gift so that the church functions properly. *1 Cor. 12:27-30*

## THE GIFT OF PROPHECY

- There are higher gifts to strive for *1 Cor. 12:31*
- Love needs to be the foundation of all gifts *1 Cor. 13:1*
- Love does not end as other gifts will. *1 Cor. 13:8-10*
- But that does not mean they are unimportant. *1 Cor. 14:1*

## THE GIFT OF TONGUES

- There is no profit to the church if we speak a language not understood *1 Cor. 14:2-6*
- We must be wary we are not faking it and babbling like pagans *Matt. 6:7*

God is a God of order and clarity for the building up of the church not the puffing up of the believer in a false sense of super-spiritual superiority.