

1 CORINTHIANS 12 SERMON

Spiritual Gifts for the Common Good

Discovering, Manifesting, and Serving in Unity

1 Corinthians 12:1-2

1 Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters,
I do not want you to be uninformed.

2 You know that when you were pagans,
somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute
idols.

Key Scripture Passage

“Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.”

— 1 Corinthians 12:7

Three Core Focus



Now to Each One



The Spirit



Common Good

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How We Look at Gifts

Secular View

Focuses on status, public display, and personal recognition. Views gifts as markers of self-worth and individual maturity.

Biblical View

Gifts are God's grace given to serve others. They exist to reveal the Holy Spirit and strengthen the entire body of Christ.

First Core Focus



Now to Each One

Universal Distribution.
Every believer is entrusted
with a spiritual gift.

NOW TO EACH ONE

1 Corinthian 12:8, 11

8 To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit,

11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts – Timothy Keller



Opportunity

What doors has God opened? Where are the immediate needs around you?



Affinity

What draws your heart?
What ministries or people do you joyfully care for?



Ability

Where is there fruitfulness? What do others affirm in your service?

Affirmation by the Community

“Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means 'son of encouragement').”

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— Acts 4:36

Gifts are often recognized by the community while serving rather than sitting back and searching in isolation.

Second Core Focus



Now to Each One

Universal Distribution.
Every believer is entrusted
with a spiritual gift.



The Spirit

Giver-Centered. Using gifts
reveals the presence of the
Holy Spirit.

Focus on the Giver

Manifesting the Spirit

We do not display our gifts to showcase personal talent or capability.

When we serve faithfully, we manifest the Holy Spirit's grace, power, and presence in our church community.

THE MANIFESTATION OF THE SPIRIT

John Piper

“A manifestation is a showing. When you manifest something you bring it to light. You put it forward for people to see.”

THE MANIFESTATION OF THE SPIRIT

Gifts are not badges of honor for display
of our greatness
They are blessings of the Holy Spirit for
display of His grace.

THE MANIFESTATION OF THE SPIRIT

John MacArthur

“The Holy Spirit does not give gifts to make us extraordinary people, but to enable ordinary people to serve Christ extraordinarily well.

Third Core Focus



Now to Each One

Universal Distribution.
Every believer is entrusted
with a spiritual gift.



The Spirit

Giver-Centered. Using gifts
reveals the presence of the
Holy Spirit.



Common Good

Outward Focus. Gifts exist
to build up the church
body, not self.

GIVEN FOR THE COMMON GOOD

John Piper said

The Spirit is manifest for this purpose: the common good. The Spirit does not give gifts and ministries so that we can boast in our spiritual prowess. He gives gifts and ministries for two reasons: to manifest himself and to help us do good to each other in the church. Gifts are for the glory of God and the good of the church.

UNITED FOR THE COMMON GOOD

1 Corinthians 12:12

The Body Picture

Just as a body, though **one**, has **many** parts, but all its **many** parts form **one** body, so it is with Christ.

UNITED FOR THE COMMON GOOD

1 Corinthians 12:15, 21

The Double Danger

15 Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.

21 The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!”

UNITED FOR THE COMMON GOOD

1 Corinthians 12:17-18

The Needed Mixture

17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be?

Unity in Diversity

One Interconnected Body

No part is independent. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you." Every single part is vital to total health.

The Potluck Illustration

A church where everyone brings the same gift is incomplete. Diverse gifts combined create a rich feast for the kingdom.

Contributor Vs Consumer

Healthy Body Cells

Receives nourishment from the body and gives back by executing its specific duty to strengthen the whole organism.

Self-Serving Cells

Consumes resources purely for itself without contributing, ultimately weakening the body it depends upon.

Three Core Focus



Now to Each One

Every believer is entrusted with a spiritual gift.



The Spirit

Using gifts reveals the presence of the Holy Spirit.



Common Good

Gifts exist to build up the church body, not self.

Equipping Every Member

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"The church cannot be all that God wants it to be until every member is doing what God equipped him or her to do."

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— Rev. Benny Ho

Concerning Spiritual Gifts

Just Use It • Don't Hide It • The Body Needs It

Ministry from the pews.
Not the ministry of the few.

"Take a Look at Our Hands"

May God help us examine what He has placed in our hands, and use it for His Plan.