

**SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY #25:  
Spiritual Gifts, Part 1: Introduction  
1 Cor. 12:1-14  
Grace Community Church  
Kingston, Tennessee  
Wednesday, July 3, 2019**

**1. INTRODUCTION:**

a. Have you ever been in the:

i. **WRONG PLACE/WRONG TIME**

ii. **WRONG PLACE/RIGHT TIME**

iii. **RIGHT PLACE/WRONG TIME**

b. **By being at Grace, you are in the RIGHT PLACE at the RIGHT TIME**

**2. TEXT: 1 Cor. 12:1-14, (1) Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant: (2) You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led. (3) Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. (4) There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. (5) There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. (6) And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. (7) But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: (8) for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, (9) to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, (10) to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. (11) But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. (12) For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. (13) For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. (14) For in fact the body is not one member but many.**

**3. REMARKS:**

a. **You are not at Grace by chance. You are here because God has put you here and particularly equipped you to be here.**

b. **That divine “equipping” is a spiritual gift(s).**

**I. SPIRITUAL GIFTS (1 Corinthians 12:1, “Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant ....”)**

**A. ABILITIES IN THE PHYSICAL REALM—(special abilities in the PHYSICAL REALM are called “talents”)**

**B. ABILITIES IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM (special abilities in the SPIRITUAL REALM are called “spiritual gifts”)**

**1. Spiritual gifts equip and empower God’s people to do what He has called them to do for the Kingdom’s sake.**

**2. A supernatural empowerment by the Spirit of God that equips believers to perform a task in the spiritual realm is akin to how a talent works in the physical realm.**

**C. SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

**1. Are NOT enlargements of a person’s natural abilities.**

**a. EX: EVAN ROBERTS**

**2. A TALENT has to do with one’s PHYSICAL ABILITIES. A SPIRITUAL GIFT has to do with SPIRITUAL ABILITIES.**

**3. An individual with little natural talent is often used mightily of God through the exercise of their spiritual gifts, while those with great natural talent are not similarly used.**

**a. EX: D. L. Moody**

**b. 1 Corinthians 1:27, “But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty ....”**

**c. 2 Cor. 12:10, “For when I am weak, then I am strong.”**

**II. SUPERNATURAL GIFTS (1 Corinthians 12:4, “There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.”)**

**A. The Greek word translated as GIFTS is: *charisma* (χαρισμα)**

**1. The Greek word *charis* (χαρις) means “grace.”**

**2. The “ma” (μα) ending means, “the result of.”**

**3. So, the GIFTS (*charisma*) of the Spirit are given to us as “as a result of grace.”**

#### 4. Spiritual gifts are GRACE gifts.

- a. Grace is what God does for us, not what we do for ourselves.
- b. Grace is not earned or learned.
- c. At the same time God bestowed His grace upon us, He also endowed us with the gifts of the Spirit.

### III. SERVICE GIFTS (1 Corinthians 12:7, "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit [of all] ....")

#### A. Spiritual gifts are bestowed upon believers to "profit all" within the church fellowship.

- 1. God expects you to bless and minister to others with your spiritual gift(s).
- 2. Your spiritual gift is A SERVICE gift.

#### B. Spiritual gifts are Christ-centered, NOT Holy Spirit-centered.

- 1. John 14:25-26, (25) "These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. (26) But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I SAID TO YOU."
- 2. John 16:12-15, (12) "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. (13) However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. (14) He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you
- 3. John 15:26, "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, HE WILL TESTIFY OF ME."
- 4. Therefore, according to the very words of Jesus, if someone's alleged spiritual gift is NOT lifting up Jesus, but is accentuating the Holy Spirit, then it is not of God.
- 5. If saints draw attention to themselves by the exercise of their spiritual gift, then they are not exalting Christ.

### IV. SOVEREIGN GIFTS (1 Corinthians 12:11, "But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.")

#### A. SPIRITUAL GIFTS are SOVEREIGN GIFTS because you do not decide which gift(s) you receive.

#### B. The Holy Spirit decides which SPIRITUAL GIFT you should have, according to the needs of the local church.

**C. Romans 12:6-8, (6) Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; (7) or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; (8) “he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”**

**D. QUESTION: “Doesn’t v. 31 contradict the principle that God SOVEREIGNLY assigns SPIRITUAL GIFTS?” (1 Corinthians 12:31, “But earnestly desire the best gifts.”)**

**1. In order to properly understand what Paul meant in 1 Cor. 12:31, there are some things you need to REMEMBER:**

**a. #1 YOU NEED TO REMEMBER:** In 1 Cor. 12-14, Paul is addressing the Corinthians’ misuse of the gift of tongues within their church.

**b. #2 YOU NEED TO REMEMBER:** Paul has gone to great lengths in this passage to say that God SOVEREIGNLY ordains WHO gets WHAT SPIRITUAL GIFT—so whatever he is saying here will not contradict what he has already said.

**2. Explanation of 1 Cor. 12:31**

**a. #1:** the expression EARNESTLY DESIRE comes from the Greek word *zeloo* (ζηλω), can be used in a positive sense, or a negative sense, but is usually used in a negative connotation in Scripture.

**1) It means, “to burn with zeal, to be heated or to boil with envy, hatred, anger; in a good sense, to be zealous in the pursuit of good.”<sup>1</sup>**

**2) EX:**

**a) Acts 7:9, “And the patriarchs [i.e., Joseph’s brothers], becoming ENVIOUS, sold Joseph into Egypt.”**

**b) James 4:2, “You lust and do not have. You murder and COVET and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.”**

**3) Paul used this same Greek word in the next chapter (13:4) in a negative way.**

**a) 1 Corinthians 13:4, “Love suffers long and is kind; love does not ENVY; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up ....”**

**b. #2** the Greek verb translated as EARNESTLY DESIRE, can be either in the INDICATIVE MODE (a statement), or the IMPERATIVE MODE (a command). The

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<sup>1</sup> *Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*, ζηλω.

word is spelled the same way in both modes. Context determines the proper mode.

1) The word translated as BEST in 1 Cor. 12:31 (BEST gifts), as used in the term BEST GIFTS, comes from the Greek word stem for “power, might: mighty with great power.”<sup>2</sup>

2) Translating the verb EARNESTLY DESIRING in the INDICATIVE MODE makes more sense in the context.

3) Rather than condoning that activity, as he would be doing if he used the IMPERATIVE MODE (as in the NKJV), Paul, by using the INDICATIVE MODE is telling the Corinthian people that they were jealously and enviously coveting something that they should not.

## V. SALVATION GIFT

**A.** 1 Cor. 12:12-13, (12) For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. (13) For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

**B.** When do we receive our spiritual gifts?

1. AT SALVATION, not subsequently to it.

2. QUESTION: “Don’t I have to be ‘baptized’ in the Holy Spirit before I get a spiritual gift?”

3. Rm. 8:9, “But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.”

4. (NOTICE how many are baptized in the Spirit) 1 Cor. 12:12-13, (12) For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. (13) For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

**C.** WHAT IS THE *BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT* TO WHICH THE CHARISMATICS REFER?

1. In the same way new converts are baptized BY the minister into water, so believers are baptized BY the Holy Spirit into Christ.

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<sup>2</sup> *Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*, κρατος.

2. The word BAPTISM comes from the Greek word *baptizo* (βαπτίζω) which carries the idea of being placed INTO something.

## VI. SHARED GIFT

**A.** Spiritual gifts are to be SHARED with all the other members of the church

**B.** 1 Cor. 12:14-17, (14) For in fact the body is not one member but many. (15) If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? (16) And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? (17) If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling?

1. A body has many members, yet it is a unit.

2. All members of the body do not have the same work to do, but all are necessary.

a. 1 Corinthians 12:22, "No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary."

**C.** Each one of us is to use our spiritual gifts for Grace's ministries to be effective.

## VII. CONCLUSION