

**March 21, 2021**  
**I Corinthians 12:1-11 “Gifted Spiritually”**

**PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION**

“A thorough examination will yield the truth that spiritual gifts fill two major purposes: the permanent gifts edify the church and the temporary gifts are signs to confirm the Word of God. God will continue to give the permanent gifts to believers for the duration of the church age, and those gifts are to be ministered by His people at all times in the life of the church. Those gifts include first the speaking or verbal gifts-prophecy, knowledge, wisdom, teaching, and exhortation, and, second, the serving or nonverbal gifts-leadership, helps, giving, mercy, faith, and discernment. The temporary sign gifts were limited to the apostolic age and therefore ceased after that time. Those gifts included miracles, healing, languages, and the interpretation of languages. The purpose of temporary sign gifts was to authenticate the apostolic message as the Word of God, until the time when the Scriptures, His written Word, were complete and became self-authenticating. “ *John MacArthur*

There are twenty-one (21) spiritual gifts mentioned specifically in the New Testament. . . . the New Testament does not specify if there are other spiritual gifts besides these. *Paige Patterson*

God gives the gift and also provides the energy, faith, and power to make them effective. God’s people and God’s gifts are like snow flakes; no two are exactly alike.

John MacArthur along with several other commentators wrote a list of questions to be considered as the serious student of the Bible navigates through the spiritual gifts of the New Testament, “Judging by the apostle’s teaching in this section, the questions included those such as: What are spiritual gifts? How many are there? Does every believer have them? How can a person know which one or ones he has? How important are they to individual Christian living and to the life of the church? What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit and how does it relate to spiritual gifts? Are all of the gifts given for every age of the church, or were some given only for a special purpose and a limited time? Can the gifts be counterfeited and, if so, how can believers tell the true ones from the false? Those and many other questions Paul carefully answers.” So, beloved, hold on to your seats as we take off on this great biblical adventure.

**12:7–10.** Paul listed some of the gifts here. Others, along with some of these, are given in **Romans 12:6–8; 1 Corinthians 12:28–31; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Peter 4:10–11.** This list includes 9 gifts. (1)Wisdom (2)Knowledge(3)Faith(4)gifts of healing(5)Miraculous powers(6)Prophecy(7)Ability to distinguish between spirits(8) Tongues (9) Interpretation

Natural talents and abilities are God given. A Christian or an atheists may be a great conductor or song writer for example. There are many gifted artists who are in both camps, those who are lost in their sins without a Redeemer and those who are born again followers of Christ. The spiritual gifts in our pericope today are gifts that come only as a result of salvation. Spiritual gifts are not natural, they are supernaturally given by the Holy Spirit, see verse seven. These gifts fall in to two general groups or types, speaking and serving gifts, see **I Peter 4:11**. Praise the Lord, not everyone has the same gift! It takes a variety of gifts to accomplish what the Lord wills among His people. God made us to all need one another. Some people are strong in only one area, others may be

moderately gifted in several areas. One author put it like this, believers using the gift or gifts they have been given are as unique as fingerprints. They are the perfect blend of what God has for them in order to accomplish what He desires. God gives His gifts to us but for the benefit of others. The blessing one gets from faithfully using one's spiritual gift/gifts is only a by-product of gifts, certainly not the purpose.

**APPLICATION:** Beloved, in verse seven one finds the "key verse" of our passage today. Simply put: (1)every believer has at least one spiritual gift. (2)the Holy Spirit is the giver of these gifts. (3)these "gifts" are given for the common good.

Some important take-aways for us today are to understand that of the 21 gifts listed in Scripture not all of them are in effect for believers today. Those that are not were used by the apostles and a few others during this time period to authenticate their message that Jesus is the Savior of the world. We will learn that some of them have ceased in chapter 13. Since the completion of Scripture there has been no further need for some gifts.

Another take-away is to understand that "every" believer has at least one spiritual gift. Do you know what your spiritual gift is? Examine your life, the way God made you, and discover what gift(s) He has blessed you with so that you may bless others!