

# “God’s Spirit Works Through Us”

## *1 Corinthians 12*

The church today has enormous frozen assets. Only when we thaw these assets and release every member for ministry can the work of God be done in the world. After several decades of “gift” teaching, we have made surprisingly little progress. One reason is that gifts have been co-opted by the human potential movement. We view our gifts as part of our development and fulfillment rather than as one more glorious way to be interdependent in Christ. This passage focuses on the true nature and purpose of spiritual gifts.

**Opening Question(s)** – Choose one.

- When have you felt that you were part of a team or unit where all the parts worked together for a common goal?
- What kind of tasks or work do you love being asked to do or be involved with?

**Study Questions**

1) **Read 1 Corinthians 12.** What particular problem in the Corinthian church may have led Paul to offer the "test" in verse 3?

2) What clue does Paul's test give us about the ultimate goal of spiritual gifts?

3) What do verses 4-6 reveal about the unity and diversity of spiritual gifts?

4) Describe yourself as a “part” of the body of Christ (an eye, hand, etc.). Why did you select that part?

What might make some members of your church feel useless or envious of other parts of the body (vv. 12-26)?

5) According to Paul, how can we make every part of the body feel special (vv. 21-26)?

6) Which comes easier to you, suffering with those who suffer or rejoicing with those who rejoice?

7) As you can see from the chart below, Paul does not give us a complete list of gifts in this chapter. What might the words first, second, third and then (v. 28) indicate?

<b><u>1 Corinthians 12:8-11</u></b>	<b><u>1 Corinthians 12:28</u></b>	<b><u>Romans 12:6-8</u></b>	<b><u>Ephesians 4:11-13</u></b>	<b><u>1 Peter 4:10-11</u></b>
Message of wisdom	Apostles	Prophesying	Apostles	Speaking...
Message of knowledge	Prophets	Serving	Prophets	Serving...
Faith	Teachers	Teaching	Evangelists	
Gifts of healing	Workers of miracles	Encouraging	Pastors	
Miraculous powers	Gifts of healing	Giving	Teachers	
Prophecy	Helping others	Leadership		
Distinguishing between spirits	Speaking in tongues	Showing mercy		
Speaking in tongues				
Interpretation of tongues				“...so that in all things

8) What holds people back from using their gifts more fully? What can you/we do to help others in your/our group or church to discover, develop and/or deploy their giftedness more fully?

9) How would you like to develop and/or exercise your spiritual gifts more?