



1 Cor 12—Spiritual Gifts

June 23

OVERVIEW: [1 Corinthians](#)

CONTEXT: Paul continues to deal with issues in the church brought about by the Corinthians not making a complete break with their past lives, in this case their spiritual practice and how that brought many unhelpful things into their assembly. This is of great significance as it relates to contemporary controversial subjects of great significance. Chs. 12–14 deal with this issue.

FIRST, A.M. SERMON RECAP (Eric Watson)

- Discuss notable points, aspects or questions arising from the sermon.

READ: 1 Cor 12:1–11

**This will only introduce us to a very large subject!*

QUESTIONS:

1. **What natural gifts do you have?**
2. **If we are born with natural gifts, what does “spiritual” and “gift” imply?**
3. *These opening verses (1–3) must not be rushed through to get to 4+.*
4. The Corinthians had written Paul about these (e.g. 7:1)—they had many questions!—and he responded, he did not want them to be “uninformed/ignorant.” **What great risk would naivety have on this subject?**
5. V. 2- This verse is important (“led astray” is the passive term for slaves). The Corinthians had great experience with disorderly and demonic worship. Their mystery religions often focused on personal ecstatic and enthusiastic states, not to mention idolatry (yet 14:6, 9 & 33)
 1. **Why is the draw of intense religious experience? Can this be counterfeited (even today?).**
 2. If Corinth was just like the other mystery religions, both in uncontrolled ecstasy and disorderly enthusiasm, how would this differentiate them from Christ?

6. V. 3- One can imagine that in the hype of a religious service someone thought to be a believer might say, “Jesus is accursed.” But can a Christian, or one speaking in the Spirit, do such a thing? What would this be a result of? What does the Spirit always direct us to say as a Christian?
7. In “testing the spirits” (1 Jn), what is an indicator that someone’s spiritual gift is indeed of the Lord?
8. *Aside from counterfeits and confusion, the Corinthians also dealt with carnal pride and division. They were always boasting!*
 1. **First, why should a gift (root= grace) never cause pride?**
 2. **Second, how is the Trinity (see if you can see it in vv. 4–6) an example of unity in diversity?**
 3. **Third, gifts are meant for service and activities (works), and the “common good.” How does this cut against individual spiritual snobbery?**
 4. **Fourthly, how often is “one Spirit” mentioned? What then is meant in v. 11? (This is carried over into v.12).**
9. Many other gifts are mentioned in this chapter. Comments?
10. Do you think the “super-natural gifts” continue or ceased in the early church? *Usually this is placed on a spectrum with Continuationists, continuationists, those in the middle, cessationists and Cessationists. Where on this spectrum might you be and why?*
11. *Certainly even by this example, not all of these gifts exists today, many were for the establishing of the Church. For example, apostles (v.28) can no longer exist, because of at least two verses (1:22; Eph 2:20). Many Church figures such as Irenaeus, Novatian, Origen and Eusebius note their gradual disappearance. Looking at the extremes of the Pentecostal and charismatic, movement, how might they be critiqued? Do they have any lessons to teach evangelicals?*
12. **Among confusion today how must it not be forgotten that the “ordinary” workings and gifts of the Spirit are actually supernatural?**

NEXT TIME: June 30- 1 Cor 15:35–49, Our Resurrected Body