



**1 Corinthians 12:1-11**

**1** Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. **2** You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. **3** Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit.

**4** Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; **5** and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; **6** and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.

**7** To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. **8** For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit,

**9** to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, **10** to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. **11** All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

*What is the difference between the old life the church lived as pagans, following idols, and the new life lived in the power of the Spirit?*

*Why is it that "no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says 'Jesus is accursed!' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except in the Holy Spirit?"*

*Faith is a gift of God and a great work of the Spirit within us. We can't come to God without God working upon us. **Read Matthew 16:13-20.** How do you see that at play out in Matthew?*

*Why is the church given a variety of gifts from the Spirit? What is the reason God equips us in such a way? What are these gifts to be used for?*

*If the Spirit has given us all the different gifts that we see in the church for the common good, what is being missed out on if we do not use our gifts?*

*Over and over Paul mentions that these gifts come by the same Spirit. Why do you think he emphasizes this so much? Do you think the church in Corinth had some reason to doubt this or think otherwise?*

### **1 Corinthians 12:12-31**

**12** For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. **13** For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

**14** For the body does not consist of one member but of many. **15** If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. **16** And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. **17** If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? **18** But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. **19** If all were a single member, where would the body be? **20** As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

**21** The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” **22** On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, **23** and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, **24** which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, **25** that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. **26** If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

**27** Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. **28** And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. **29** Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? **30** Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? **31** But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

And I will show you a still more excellent way.

*Paul, in the previous chapter, also deals with divisions in the church. What divisions are developing here that he wants to address? Why are some acting as though they are either better than others or worse?*

*To take teaching as an example, to be gifted as a teacher doesn't mean that you are immediately skilled to teach as well as the best teachers you've known. The Spirit gifts you in certain ways and intends to use you, but that doesn't mean there isn't practice and improvement. Go back and **read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27**. Does Paul work hard in using his gifts for God's glory?*

*Does knowing that the Spirit will gift you and continue to work upon you make you more willing to step out in faith and use those gifts?*

*What do you think God has gifted you to do for the common good and for his glory? If you aren't sure what gifts you may have, how can you seek to find out? How will you intend to cultivate the talents he has given you? **Read Matthew 25:14-30** and discuss the importance of being good stewards of our gifts and talents, using them and not neglecting them.*

*How can you apply these Scriptures to your life?*