



SPIRITUAL GIFTS AND SERVICE

Read and discuss this exposition of 1 Corinthians 12-13 written by InterVarsity Staff, Chelir Mule-Kivindy. In your own time, go back and read the passages for a more in-depth study of the passages.

The Bible talks about spiritual gifts throughout the New Testament, yet even with the various lists, there are so many more given to believers that are not mentioned. Now when we talk about spiritual gifts, do recognize they are different than a special talent. A talent is special ability someone may have been born with or developed over time. This could be an athletic ability, dancing, singing, playing an instrument, etc. A spiritual gift, however, is something manifested through the Holy Spirit for His glorification and work when believers received the Holy Spirit at their point of saying yes to Jesus (v 12:7). What gifts believers possess were chosen solely on what God desired for them. In writing His plans for our life before we were born, He outlined what gifts we would need based on His purpose for our lives (v 12:11).

To some people He gave five or six, while others only got one or two. In His eyes, it wasn't about the quantity of gifts a person would receive, it was about how the gifts inserted would come together so the person would be an effective foot soldier, worker, etc. in His name. Today, many are not working according to their gifts because either they don't know they possess a spiritual gift(s), they don't know what their spiritual gift(s) is, or they know, and they don't care. It is very important that believers understand what part they are to play in the body or church (v 12:12). When just one believer is not working in their gifted area, then the whole body is affected (v 12:26).

Think about this. Belize Church has 100 members, 30 of which are contributing. Of the 30, about 10 are working in multiple positions to ensure the needs for the church are being satisfied. The Senior Pastor has a vision to grow the ministry, but to do so the church will need a Ministry Coordinator. They can't get anyone from the 30 working, as they are overloaded, so they put out a call to the membership. One of the members Allison, has the gift of administration, but does not know it, so she doesn't offer her services. Then another, Todd, knows he has the gift of execution, but chooses not to step up. What does the church decide to do? They have no choice but to put the vision on hold or overstress one of the current working members. One body, many parts, yet when one part is not working, the whole body suffers.

Every believer must take the time to pray God reveals their spiritual gift(s) and get to work immediately when it is confirmed. No matter what the gift is, it is of equal importance as any of the other gifts (12:25). A complete body is only as functional as each of its parts (12:18). If on our physical body, we just had legs, arms, and a nose, how would we eat, see, touch, etc.? It would be physically impossible. Same concept applies with the church. At no point can any part of the body be expected to serve in all functions, because each part has its own specific function(s) as God assigned (12:27).

At the center of all things God is love. For a believer to be truly effective in their gifted area, they must keep love at the core (13:1-3). When love is at the center, the focus is not on them, but God and other believers (v 13:5). Then from working in their respective gifted areas with sincere love, they will only bear the fruits of the Spirit (v 13:4-7), causing the body to be stronger because of the love and work being expressed and completed by all. Spiritual gifts are not for the individual's glory, it is for God's glory. The gifts given are not to elevate an individual, but to elevate God and strengthen the church and other believers. One body, many parts, but all expected to work together through their spiritual gifts in love for the glorification of God, completion of His work, and building of His Kingdom.

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DISCIPLESHIP CYCLE:

HEAR THE WORD: Read the devotional on 1 Corinthians 12-13 by Chelir Mule and review some of the spiritual gifts and gift-manifested roles.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS		GIFT-MANIFESTED ROLES
Romans 12:6-8 exhortation giving leadership mercy prophecy service teaching	1 Corinthians 12:4-11 administration discernment faith healing helping knowledge miracles prophecy tongues interpretation of tongues wisdom	1 Corinthians 12:28 Apostle Prophet Teachers Miracle Worker Ephesians 4 Apostle Evangelist Pastor Prophet Teacher

ACTIVE RESPONSE: It is time to take a spiritual gifts test. Even if you have taken one before, please use this time to take one again. There are many assessments, however, due to the short length of this session, please use <http://giftstest.com> and then debrief your results with one another.

If you desire to do more test, here are links to other assessments:

<https://spiritualgiftstest.com/spiritual-gifts-test-landing>

<http://www.kodachrome.org/spiritgift>

<https://gifts.churchgrowth.org/spiritual-gifts-survey>

DEBRIEF:

What three gifts received the highest scores?

Do you agree with your results? Why or why not?

How did it make you feel or what did you think after taking this assessment?

Your gift is needed within the Christian Community on your Campus. Pray with each other about the discussion thus far. Ask for God's guidance over identifying which one of your top three gifts would be beneficial to your Campus's Christian Community.

What is one step you and your partner can take together to hold one another accountable to sharing the gift from #4 through serving on campus?