

1 Corinthians 12 (NIV UK)

Deane Church + Lostock Church
w/b Sunday 27th May 2018

Spiritual Gifts 1 (part 2 next week!)

Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. ² You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to dumb idols. ³ Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, 'Jesus be cursed,' and no one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴ There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶ There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines...

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. ²⁸ And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues.

²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ Now eagerly desire the greater gifts.



"Mr. Norlander, as your gift assessment placement consultant, I have the task of connecting you with the ministry of the church that you have tested most gifted to perform. After much deliberation, it is my conviction that you'd serve the church best as a pew sitter."

A big part of Paul's first letter to the Corinthian Christians is his response to questions that they have put to him. 'Now for the matters you wrote about...' (1Cor7:1). Chapters 11-14 (including the verses in chapter 13 often read at weddings) are a lengthy reply to their enquiry about Spiritual gifts and 'body of Christ' (12:27) ministry.

Read 1 Cor 12:1-11 & 27-31

NB vv2-3. In pagan temples people would cry out "a curse on Jesus". Christian missionaries speak of such demonic opposition today. Those converted to Christianity have the Spirit of God within them and can know with certainty that Jesus is Lord.

1. Why does Paul begin his teaching about Spiritual gifts with this?
2. From verses 4-11, what is the point of these Spiritual gifts?
3. And who exactly has these gifts?
4. What is a church like where everyone is using their gifts?
5. Are some of the gifts more important than others?
6. How might members of a church be encouraged to use their gifts more effectively?

Mission countdown! Only 6 weeks to go to the LAMB Mission Partnership mission week. See separate programme. Be praying hard for the week. Who are you praying for? How else are you going to be involved?