



SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Liesel de Beer, 29 January 2012

God's various gifts are handed out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit. God's various ministries are carried out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit. God's various expressions of power are in action everywhere; but God himself is behind it all. Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people! The variety is wonderful: wise counsel, clear understanding, simple trust, healing the sick, miraculous acts, proclamation, distinguishing between spirits, tongues, interpretation of tongues. All these gifts have a common origin, but are handed out one by one by the one Spirit of God. He decides who gets what, and when.

You can easily enough see how this kind of thing works by looking no further than your own body. Your body has many parts-limbs, organs, cells-but no matter how many parts you can name, you're still one body. It's exactly the same with Christ. By means of his one Spirit, we all said good-bye to our partial and piecemeal lives. We each used to independently call our own shots, but then we entered into a large and integrated life in which he has the final say in everything. (This is what we proclaimed in word and action when we were baptized.) Each of us is now a part of his resurrection body, refreshed and sustained at one fountain-his Spirit-where we all come to drink. The old labels we once used to identify ourselves-labels like Jew or Greek, slave or free-are no longer useful. We need something larger, more comprehensive.

I want you to think about how all this makes you more significant, not less. A body isn't just a single part blown up into something huge. It's all the different-but-similar parts arranged and functioning together. If Foot said, "I'm not elegant like Hand, embellished with rings; I guess I don't belong to this body," would that make it so? If Ear said, "I'm not beautiful like Eye, limpid and expressive; I don't deserve a place on the head," would you want to remove it from the body? If the body was all eye, how could it hear? If all ear, how could it smell? As it is, we see that God has carefully placed each part of the body right where he wanted it.

But I also want you to think about how this keeps your significance from getting blown up into self-importance. For no matter how significant you are, it is only because of what you are a part of. An enormous eye or a gigantic hand wouldn't be a body, but a monster. What we have is one body with many parts, each its proper size and in its proper place. No part is important on its own. Can you imagine Eye telling Hand, "Get lost; I don't need you"? Or, Head telling Foot, "You're fired; your job has been phased out"? As a matter of fact, in practice it works the other way-the "lower" the part, the more basic, and therefore necessary. You can live without an eye, for instance, but not without a stomach. When it's a part of your own body you are concerned with, it makes no difference whether the part is visible or clothed, higher or lower. You give it dignity and honor just as it is, without comparisons. If anything, you have more concern for the lower parts than the higher. If you had to choose, wouldn't you prefer good digestion to full-bodied hair?

The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don't, the parts we see and the parts we don't. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance.

You are Christ's body-that's who you are! You must never forget this. Only as you accept your part of that body does your "part" mean anything. You're familiar with some of the parts that God has formed in his church, which is his "body": apostles prophets teachers miracle workers healers helpers organizers those who pray in tongues. But it's obvious by now, isn't it, that Christ's church is a complete Body and not a gigantic, unidimensional Part? It's not all Apostle, not all Prophet, not all Miracle Worker, not all Healer, not all Prayer in Tongues, not all Interpreter of Tongues. And yet some of you keep competing for so-called "important" parts. But now I want to lay out a far better way for you.

I Corinthians 12v4-30 (Message)

Ministry gifts

In **Ephesians 4:11**, Jesus calls us to ministry for the edifying of the body of Christ. Ministry gifts define how you are called to minister to *the body of Christ*.

Five callings for the equipping of the saints

- Apostles
- Prophets
- Evangelists
- Pastors
- Teachers

Manifestation gifts

These are God-given abilities that edify the church and glorify God.

There are different gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.

1 Corinthians 12:4:6 NIV

Spiritual or Manifestation Gifts are not the same as **talents** or the **fruit of the spirit**. Talents are given to everyone by God, but can be lost if not used (**Matt. 25:14-30**). The Fruit of the Spirit are not gifts, but the result of walking in the Spirit and overcoming the flesh (**Gal. 5:22-26**).

Manifestation gifts are **God-given abilities that are used to help others, unify the church and bring glory to God**.

In **1 Corinthians 12:7-10** the Spirit manifests Himself through these gifts to edify the church. Manifestation gifts define how the Holy Spirit works through you.

Nine powerful gifts:

- Word of wisdom/wise counsel
- Word of knowledge/clear understanding
- Faith/simple trust
- Healing/healing the sick
- Miracles /miraculous acts
- Prophecy/proclamation
- Discernment/distinguishing between spirits
- Tongues
- Interpretation of tongues

Motivational gifts

Romans 12:6-8. In His grace God has given us each a gift that will motivate us to serve in the church. It defines who you are in God.

Gifts that describe the energy behind our service:

- Prophecy/preach
- Serving/help
- Teaching
- Exhortation
- Giving
- Leading
- Mercy

Summary:

In **1 Cor. 12:7** each person is given something to do that shows who God is, Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people!

V8, The variety is wonderful:

V14, I want you to think about how all this makes you more significant, not less.

V27, You are Christ's body-that's who you are! You must never forget this. Only as you accept your part of that body does your "part" mean anything.

We are training for gold to become Alive like Christ in every aspect of our being. Working towards the Zoë life in all life areas!

We don't just want to transform, we want to trans-locate. Get moving. A trained athlete who stays in the blocks and never starts running is called a trainee not an athlete, and he will not win the gold.

God gives us the gifts to **edify, unify** and **motivate** His Church

Edify - To instruct especially so as to encourage intellectual, moral or spiritual improvement.

Unify - To make into or become a unit; consolidate.

Motivate - To provide with an incentive; move to action.

There are:

- Five Ministry gifts
- Nine Manifestation gifts
- Seven Motivational gifts