

Using Your Spiritual Gift(s) Pt. 1

1 Corinthians 12:1-7

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1. Spiritual gifts are one of the ways God makes the church healthy and keeps it healthy. If we want the church to flourish, every gift matters.
2. The Corinthians were not lacking in any gift, yet they were not growing. Their jealousy, strife, and division showed that they were still spiritual babies.
3. Nothing sabotages our spiritual gifts more than self-obsession and self-promotion. We are spiritual people who have been given spiritual gifts, and self-obsession damages both.
4. Paul reminds the Corinthians that they were once led astray to mute idols. The story of humanity is that we often look for life in the wrong places.
5. The Holy Spirit will never belittle Jesus; He will always glorify Him. No one can truly say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.
6. Believers are spiritual because the Holy Spirit has changed our allegiance and affections. The important question is whether Jesus is Lord not only in authority, but also in our delight.
7. A spiritual gift is a supernatural ability, given and empowered by God, to be used in service of God and to have godly effects on His people.
8. Each believer has already been given a manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. We do not have to reach a higher level of spirituality before receiving a gift.
9. Our gifts are meant to serve others and glorify Jesus. The size of the gift is not as important as what we do with what we have been given.
10. A more important question than "What is my spiritual gift?" is "Where can I serve?" Self-obsession sabotages our gifts, but self-sacrifice and humility expose them.

GREEK & HEBREW WORDS

pneumatikós [spiritual] pertaining to the spirit.

kýrios [Lord, lord, master] someone who is in a position of authority

charisma [gift] Something that is freely given on account of favor and kindness

QUOTES

“...he reminds them how ignorant they were, and stupid, and destitute of all spiritual light, previously to God’s calling them”

- **John Calvin**

“Wanting God over a woman was an entirely new experience for me. It wasn’t even something I’d considered as being a part of Christianity, let alone the Christian. It seemed to be a religion of just duty. I’d met so many disciples who preached more of sin than joy, whose eyes were stuck in a constant state of solemnity, clenched teeth and an endless fascination with holiness. Why hadn’t they ever mentioned the place happiness had within righteousness, or how the taking up of the cross would be a practice of obtaining delight? Delight in all that God is?”

- **Jackie Hill Perry, *Gay Girl Good God***

“Jesus makes it clear that the size of your gift is not that important. What’s important is what you do with what you’ve been given!”

- **Blake**

Ashdown

TODAY'S WORSHIP

This Is Amazing Grace
Who You Say I Am
How He Loves
Been So Good

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- The Corinthians had many spiritual gifts but were still marked by jealousy and division. What does this teach us about the difference between being gifted and being spiritually mature?
- Paul reminds the Corinthians that they were once led astray by “mute idols.” What are some places people today look for life, security, or satisfaction that cannot truly provide it?
- What does it look like in everyday life to say, “Jesus is Lord,” not only with our words but through our allegiance, choices, and affections?
- Verse 7 says spiritual gifts are given “for the common good.” How should that purpose shape the way we think about and use our gifts?
- How can self-obsession or self-promotion sabotage the way we serve others? What might self-sacrifice and humility look like instead?
- The sermon suggests that a better question than “What is my spiritual gift?” may be “Where can I serve?” What needs do you see around you, and how might God be asking you to participate?