

Theme: Spiritual gifts are concrete expressions of God's grace, manifested by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, in order to enable us to serve others in love.

## I. Intro – Concluding 2012 Focal Point

- A. Remembering our 2012 focal point
- B. Called, Devoted, Equipped., and Encouraged
- C. Key theme for the year from the letter
- D. Have studied Colossians, calling
- E. Will do a brief series on spiritual gifts to end year

## II. The Importance of Spiritual Gifts

- A. Spiritual gifts are an important topic in Paul's writings
  - 1. Rom 1:11; 12:4-8; 1 Corinth. 1:4-8; 7:7; Eph 4:7-16
  - 2. 1 Thess. 5:19-21; 1 Tim 4:14; 2 Tim 1:6
  - 3. Not to mention all of 1 Corinthians 12-14!!
- B. Yet, they were overlooked for much of Church history
  - 1. Growing clergy/laity distinction
  - 2. Virtually no discussion - only clergy were gifted
- C. A great change - but still problems
  - 1. Pentecostal and charismatic - gifts front & center
  - 2. But often reduced to tongues or other 'miraculous'
- D. We want to give a brief but balanced view of gifts

## III. Opening Up Spiritual Gifts

- A. πνευματικός - spiritual - 1 Corinthians 12:1
  - 1. Pauline term (24 of 26; 2x in 1 Peter 2:5; never in LXX)
  - 2. Relates to s/Spirit realm (Gal 6:1; Rom 1:11)
  - 3. Points to the spiritual source of something/someone
  - 4. Points to the crucial role of the Spirit in gifts
- B. χάρισμα - gifts - 1 Corinthians 12:4
  - 1. Pauline term (16 of 17; more than all other Greek writers)
  - 2. Built of the Greek word χάρις - grace
  - 3. χάρισμα - a concrete expression of grace
  - 4. Two categories
    - a. Gracious favor of God to individual or group
      - 1. Romans 6:23 - gift of salvation
      - 2. This is 5 of 16 uses in Paul
    - b. Special gift allowing fulfill a particular function - spiritual gifts
  - 5. Shows that gifts are based on God's grace
- C. διακονία - service/ministry - 1 Corinthians 12:5
  - 1. 1 Cor 12:5 – parallel with χάρισμα
  - 2. Common term for service/ministry
  - 3. Shows gifts are for the good of others - ministry
  - 4. Shows gifts are not about me - they are about others
- D. ἐνέργημα - working - 1 Corinthians 12:6
  - 1. 1 Cor 12:6 – parallel with χάρισμα and διακονία

2. Term for working/energy
3. Gifts are action – not potential
4. Unused gifts are not really gifts!

E. φανέρωσις - disclosure/manifestation - 1 Corinth. 12:7

1. Only used 2 times (2 Cor 4:2; 1 Cor 12:7)
2. Means to disclose or make manifest
3. Gifts make grace & Spirit visible or concrete
4. Gifts - the Spirit works through us in visible way

## VI. Defining Spiritual Gifts

A. Key ideas from word study

1. Gifts are empowered by Spirit “spiritual”
2. Gifts based on the grace of God
3. Gifts are to serve others
4. Gifts are action – not just potential
5. Gifts make grace and Spirit visible

B. Definition

1. Theme statement
2. This should govern our understanding of the gifts

## III. Applying the Word

A. Do we know that God wants to work through each of us?

1. There is no special group of ‘gifted ones’

2. All of us are gifted by the Spirit in different ways
3. God wants to work through you to serve others
4. Do you know the ways God most often works through you?
5. Are you looking for God to work through you daily?

B. Are we keeping in step with the Spirit daily?

1. The gifts are gifts of the Spirit
2. He gives and empowers them - we need Him
3. Are we consciously seeking Him each day?
4. Do we ask Him to work through us each day?

C. Gifts of the New Covenant

1. All of this is part of the new covenant
2. No longer a special few - all have the Spirit
3. This is given to us by Christ
4. Come to the Table and give thanks - and receive!

### What Are Spiritual Gifts?

1 Corinthians 12:1-11  
 December 30, 2012  
 Communion  
 Number 6:24-26

Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are **spiritual** should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Galatians 6:1

I long to see you so that I may impart to you some **spiritual** gift to make you strong — Romans 1:11

For the wages of sin is death, but the **gift** of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by **setting forth** the truth **plainly** we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. 2 Corinth. 4:2

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