

I Corinthians 12:1-11

Spiritual Gifts

For more information go to apptoteach.org theology file #604

Controversial issues related to this text

- ✓ **Are tongues and prophecy for today?**
- ✓ **Is ministry centered “within” or “outside” the church?**
- ✓ **Is the supernatural “the sign” of the Spirit’s presence?**

I Corinthians 12:1-11

“¹ Now concerning spiritual {gifts,} brethren, I do not want you to be unaware. ² You know that when you were pagans, {you were} led astray to the dumb idols, however you were led. ³ Therefore I make known to you, that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed"; and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.”

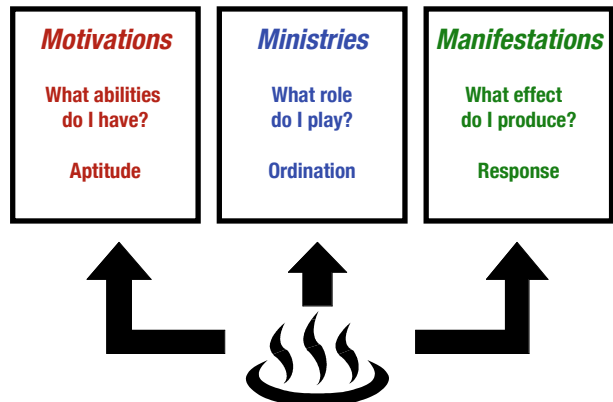
- ✓ **The mark of the Spirit’s ministry is in the content not the form.**

I Corinthians 12:1-11

“⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. ⁶ And there are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all {persons.}”

- ✓ **There are different spheres in which the Spirit works -**

**gifts,
ministries,
effects.**

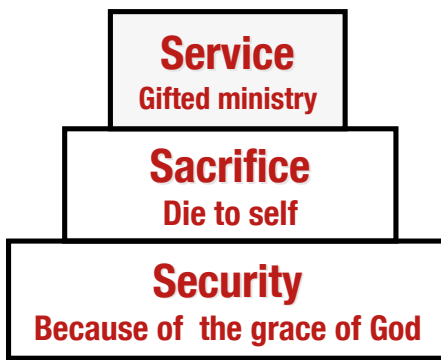


I Corinthians 12:1-11

“⁷ But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”

- ✓ **Every believer has been given a gift and function. There are not two classes of Christians.**
- ✓ **The gifts are for the Body of Christ - not to edify the world.**
- ✓ **The gifts are not for the personal affirmation of the gifted.**

The sequence in Romans 12



How can I identify the Spirit's gift in my life?

- ✓ **My passion or motivation**
- ✓ **Fruitfulness for the church**
- ✓ **Affirmation by the church**

I Corinthians 12:1-11

“⁸ For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another {various} kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues.”

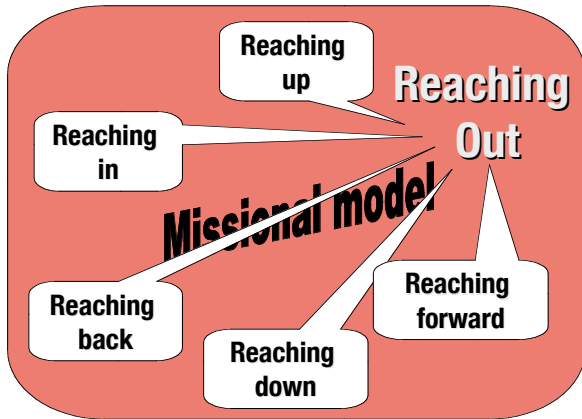
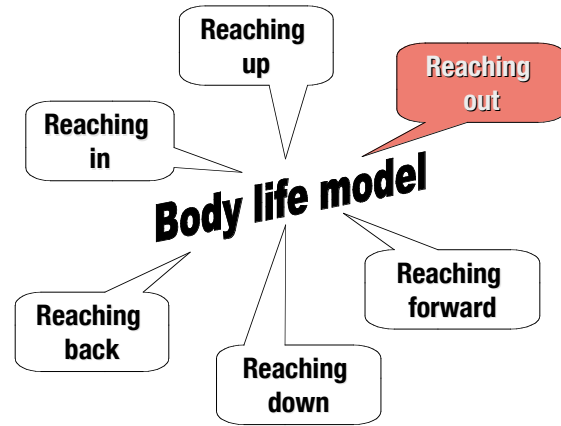
- ✓ **The kinds of ministry activity mentioned tell us what the church should be about.**



Paul's ministry focus is on "life in the church" not "the Church's role in the world."

The church's ministry in the world is to draw people into the Body of Christ.

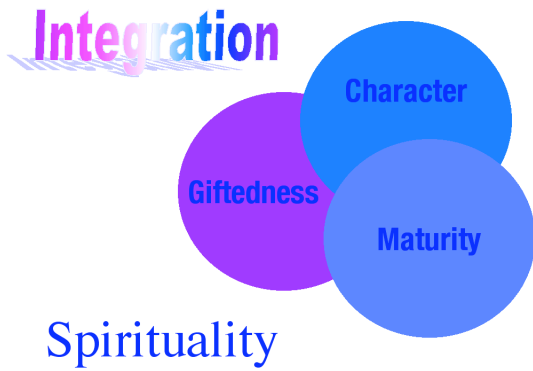
We reach out to the world to build the Body of Christ - not visa versa.



I Corinthians 12:1-11

"11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills."

- ✓ Our gift differences are under the management of the Holy Spirit.
- ✓ We can desire a gift but we do not choose it.



The point of this text

The church, as the “Body of Christ” is like the human body with parts that differ in form and function.

In preparation for the next class look at 12:12-31

How are various gifts to function?

Correcting some misconceptions

- ✓ **Gifts are not to be confused with character or maturity.**
- ✓ **Both gifts and natural talents are to be used to serve Christ.**
- ✓ **Gifts are not an entitlement to a ministry position nor are they a mandate for ministry responsibility.**

Lessons from this text

- ✓ **The building up of the Body of Christ is central to ministry. Gifts are for Body building not personal affirmation or world transformation.**
- ✓ **We are to welcome and respect the many different manifestations of the Spirit. Differences are designed into the Body.**
- ✓ **The mark of a spiritual gift is in the content and effect of its use. The outward form is not to be trusted no matter how dramatic.**