**The Gifts and Graces of the Holy Spirit**

**Holy Spirit Series #10 Handout**

 The Holy Spirit not only brought about the new birth of regeneration and initiated sanctification in believers, the Holy Spirit equipped believers so that as the church, they were fully supplied with the gifts and graces each local church needed.

**1 Corinthians 12:1-3 Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. 2You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. 3Therefore 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.**

Paul wanted believers to be certain that they knew to discern the Holy Spirit as opposed to false spirits (demons) and human pretensions. It turns out that the exaltation of Jesus Christ is a key to discernment. The Holy Spirit will always move, speak, and lead in ways that glorify Jesus and call the world to repent and believe the gospel. False spirits will anathematize Jesus.

It is important when considering spiritual gifts that we exercise spiritual discernment because Satan loves to offer counterfeits so as to influence people away from the truth.

**1 Corinthians 12:4-6There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.**

Spiritual gifts are evidence of the Holy Spirit working through believers. It is necessary that individual believers have a diversity of spiritual gifts. And it is God the Holy Spirit who decides which gifts we each receive.

**1 Corinthians 12:7-10Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.8To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,[**[**a**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2012&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28645a)**] and to still another the interpretation of tongues, All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.**

Our spiritual gifts are to be used in service to God and for the blessing, edification, and encouragement of others. A person who claims to be a believer but fails to regularly share their gifts and graces in a local church is being sinful and selfish because they want what God offers, but do not work to partner with God and His covenant community the church.

A church is made strong by the Holy Spirit in cooperation with the obedient, grateful, and united body of believers serving God in ways that benefit all.

**Ephesians 4:1-6 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. 4There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; 5one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.**

Love powered by God’s Holy Spirit is the only way to live worthy of our calling. Such Holy love helps us to give grace to others and their failings and foibles because we have received lavish grace from God.

**Ephesians 4:7-13But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. 8This is why it[**[**a**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+4&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29281a)**] says:**

**“When he ascended on high,
    he took many captives
    and gave gifts to his people.”[**[**b**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+4&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29281b)**]**

**9(What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions[**[**c**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+4&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29282c)**]? 10He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) 11So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers 12to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.**

**Romans 12:3For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.**

Evaluate and measure your life by what God has done for you, not by what you have accomplished.

**Romans 12:4-8For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your[**[**a**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+12&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28252a)**]faith; 7if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead,[**[**b**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+12&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28254b)**] do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.**

 If you are a believer church is what you are, and it is what you do and what you are becoming. You are a gift to the church and the church is a gift to you. Give yourself to God through the church and encounter God with the church.