

**DISCOVER
YOUR
GIFT(s)**

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October 18, 2015

Sermon in a sentence: God has blessed us with His special spiritual gifts because He loves to share all that He is and all that He has with His dear children.

Congregational reading: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Scriptures: 1 Cor. 12:1-11; (see also Romans 12:6-8); 2 Pet. 1:2-4; 1 Cor. 13:1-3

1Cor. 12:1-11 NKJV Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant: ² You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led. ³ Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. ⁴ There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. ⁶ And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. ⁷ But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit *of all*: ⁸ for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another *different* kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

Illustrations: Speak about one or two treasured gifts that really mean a lot to you.

A gift is highly treasured when it is received from one with whom we share a deep, mutual love. Although the gift may or may not have great financial value, it is definitely the thought that counts. When someone values us highly, they will always seek to bless us with good gifts, according to the very best of their ability.

To us, the value of the gift is in direct proportion to the value of the place we have in the giver's heart. Gifts from people who value us highly are greatly treasured!

Outside of this context, we often see gifts as coercive – just a giver's means to achieve a self-serving end.

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We are well aware of the incredible love Jesus has for us, and the incredible value He places on us. Whenever we think of Calvary, we cannot help but wonder how His love could be so great that He would give us the most precious gift He possibly could: His own life!

Then, after His resurrection, He gathered His disciples together and gave them a promise: the promise of the Holy Spirit, with power.

Acts 1:4-8 And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "**which,**" He said, "**you have heard from Me;** ⁵ **for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.**" ⁶ Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ And He said to

them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. ⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

We have a very detailed account from Dr. Luke’s pen, outlining the Acts of the Apostles as they used the power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish great things for the kingdom of God, and on behalf of those in need.

- **Acts 2: They spoke in tongues and prophesied.**
- **Acts 3: A man crippled from birth was healed.**
- **Acts 5: The word of knowledge was displayed in the case of Ananias and Sapphira), the sick were healed and unclean spirits were cast out.**
- **Acts 7: Stephen used the gift of prophecy.**
- **Acts 8: Healings and exorcisms were prominent in Philip’s ministry.**
- **Acts 9: Aeneas the paralytic was healed and Lydda was raised from the dead.**
- **Acts 13: Elymas the magician was struck blind at Paul’s word.**
- **Acts 14: A man crippled from birth was healed at Lystra.**
- **Acts 16: A slave girl was delivered from a demon.**
- **Acts 19: Handkerchiefs and aprons were taken from Paul’s body to the sick and those inhabited by evil spirits and they were healed and delivered.**
- **Acts 20: Eutychus was raised from the dead.**
- **Acts 21: Agabus prophesied to Paul.**
- **Acts 28: The father of Publius the governor of Malta was healed.**

In our main text (1 Cor. 12), the apostle Paul expanded upon the amazing array of gifts that the Spirit of God has made available to His children. He also made it clear that God has a gift for everyone. None of His children are without gifts!

1 Cor. 12:6-7 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. ⁷ But **the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit *of all*:**

So, what is your gift. Or, what are your gifts?

- **The word of wisdom?**
- **The word of knowledge?**
- **Faith?**
- **Gifts of healing?**
- **Working of miracles?**
- **Prophecy? (Edification, exhortation, comfort (1 Cor. 14:3)).**
- **Discerning of spirits?**
- **Speaking unknown tongues?**
- **Interpreting unknown tongues?**

If you are not sure what your gift is, ask those who are close to you. They may well be seeing things in you that you are not seeing in yourself. Gifts that you are afraid to acknowledge. Gifts that are sometimes evident, but usually dormant. Gifts that God wants you to use for the benefit of the body of Christ. Gifts He wants you to use as tools to attract unbelievers to Him.

Give examples of modern saints who have been consistently used to bless the church with their gifts:

- ***Gifts of healing – Kyle McKenzie’s knee healed – Bro. Fred Childs. His book Beyond Imagination contains this and many other similar accounts.***

- *Gift of prophecy – Change from Liberal to Conservative government prophesied by Bro. Morton Bustard in July 2005 at Prophetic Thunder meeting in Toronto. Stephen Harper was sworn in as P.M. Feb. 6, 2006, ending 13 years of Liberal rule.¹*
- *On April 20, 2010, a BP oilrig exploded in the Gulf of Mexico. Over the next 87 days, more than 130MM gallons of oil were spilled into the waters off the coast of Louisiana.² On July 7, 2010 (even before the well was finally capped on July 15th), Bro. Bustard prophesied the healing of the waters in the Gulf at the Louisiana camp meeting. He told me: “Among the thousands of attendees were Governor [Bobby Jindal], senators and members of Congress, as well as the media.” (You may well recall all the scientific statements at the time regarding the permanence of the damage that had done to the marine life and water quality in the Gulf.) However, an Associated Press report from April 2015 states that in a survey of two-dozen researchers, the Gulf is currently just 11% less healthy than it was before the spill.³ Another scientist, Samantha Joye of the University of Georgia took a dive into the affected area in 2010 and saw no animals of any sort. She did another dive in 2014 and said: "The fact that we saw living things on the bottom made me do a happy dance. The system is absolutely resilient. Thank God for that."⁴*

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2006_in_Canada#January_to_March, accessed Oct. 14, 2015.

² <http://ocean.si.edu/gulf-oil-spill>, accessed Oct. 14, 2015.

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http://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2015/04/is_gulf_of_mexico_healthy_5_ye.html, accessed Oct. 14, 2015.

⁴ Ibid.

- *Gift of faith – F.W. McKenzie. That’s why we are in this building today!*
 - *Move from Brownlea Ave. to Weston Rd.*
 - *3rd floor added to Weston Rd. “God has spoken to me. We are going forward!”*
 - *Move from Weston Rd. to Jane St.*
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If you are already aware of the gift you have, are you using it for the glory of God? God gives us gifts to be used for our common good. Everyone needs to use his or her gift so that the body is not short-changed or deficient in the things God wants us to have and enjoy. The apostle Peter writes:

2Pet. 1:2-4 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, ³ as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, ⁴ **by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature....**

Certainly, a big part of God’s divine nature is His willingness to give and to share His power with us. But **the major part of His nature is His love.**

As we desire, seek and utilize His gifts, let us do so with the love of God in our hearts. Apart from that, the acquisition and use of His gifts is of no value to us.

1Cor. 13:1-3 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, **but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.** ² And though I have *the gift of prophecy*, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, **but have not love, I am nothing.** ³

And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, **but have not love, it profits me nothing.**

Thank God for His love that He has “... shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost...” (Rom. 5:5). Thank Him for the gifts of the Spirit that He has graciously given us. Let us use them for His glory to be a blessing to the body of Christ.