



**Doggy Bag:** Something to Chew On and Ponder Throughout the Week

1. Begin by reading **1 Corinthians 12:1-11**. Count the number of times the word “Spirit” is used in the passage. What might this reveal about the emphasis of this passage?
2. Read Ephesians 4:11-13 and Romans 12:6-8. What might these other lists of gifts suggest about the number of spiritual gifts? What other gifts would you add that are not listed?
3. Who benefits the most when we are operating out of our giftedness? Us? Others? Both?
4. Do you think our spiritual gifts can change over time?
5. How might we over focus on our spiritual gifts such that practicing them is self-centered as opposed to being for the “common good” (v. 7)?
6. Reflect on a time when you operated out of your giftedness and on a time when you’ve had to do ministry you were not gifted to do. Is it always wrong to do only what we’re gifted for? Is there a time when it might be appropriate to do ministry you are not gifted for?
7. If you have never taken a Spiritual Gifts Inventory – here are some possibilities for you to use:

**Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts booklet (free pdf or order a hard copy)**

<https://www.seeallthepeople.org/resources-downloads/>

**Spiritual Gifts Online Assessment from Path1:**

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/new-church-starts/spiritual-gifts>

**Spiritual Gifts Online Assessment offered by UMC**

<http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/spiritual-gifts-online-assessment>

8. **Practice:** Find one way to use your giftedness this week and then share how it went with Pastor Abi, a family member, or friend.



Gifted for Others

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1 Corinthians 12:1 – 11

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*<sup>1</sup> Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. (v.1)*

**What do you know about the Holy Spirit? Take a moment to jot down your thoughts in the space below...**

**Our creeds affirm our belief in the Holy Spirit as God:**

*“We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son, is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.” (Nicene Creed, 325 AD)*

*“I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.” (Apostles’ Creed, 390 AD)*

- God the Father** The Source of life, source of all that is holy & good, etc.
- God the Son** God in the flesh, our Savior, provider of our Salvation
- God the Spirit** Regenerates creation, gives new life, empowers us

You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. (Romans 8:9)

1. The first gift of the Holy Spirit is evident in our \_\_\_\_\_.

When we are led by the Spirit of Christ, we will witness in our life:

A. \_\_\_\_\_ (Fruit of the Spirit, Gal. 5:22 -23)

B. \_\_\_\_\_ (Gifts of the Spirit)

➤ A spiritual gift is a special ability within YOU to do ministry. It is the work of the Holy Spirit.

| Fruit of the Spirit                      | Spiritual Gifts                                    |
|--|--|
| Same in every Christian                  | Different for every Christian                      |
| Deals with character                     | Deals with service & ministry                      |
| Develops as process                      | Given at conversion                                |
| End in itself / Goal for every Christian | Means to an end to carry out God's goal for church |
| Defines what a Christian is              | Determines what a Christian does                   |

### SO, WHY DOES GOD GIVE US SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

2. The primary work of the Holy Spirit is to \_\_\_\_\_ Christ.

<sup>2</sup> You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. <sup>3</sup> Therefore 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.

Write your name in the box:

Now, write your name with your opposite hand:

3. The purpose of spiritual gifts is to \_\_\_\_\_ and equip the body of Christ for the common good.

<sup>4</sup> There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.

<sup>5</sup> There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. <sup>7</sup> Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

<sup>11</sup> So Christ himself gave [gifts] <sup>12</sup> to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up... (Eph. 4:11 – 12)

➤ There are between 18 to 20 spiritual gifts reflected in the Bible! (See the Doggy Bag section to explore them all.)

4. It's important to understand what the gifts are and which specific gifts God has given you, and then you must also \_\_\_\_\_ them!

<sup>11</sup> All these [gifts] are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

"Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive." (Howard Thurman)

**MAIN POINT:** God wants you to activate the spiritual gifts the Holy Spirit has given YOU in order to bless others and reproduce the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ through the church!