

Spiritual gifts serve the needs of the body in the church age

▼ 1. Success for the gifts in operation occurs when they're united with the more excellent way of love:

a. Highlighting the main tenor of Paul's teaching:

1 Corinthians 12:6-11 (NABV)

- Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, **I do not want you to be ignorant**
- you know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led.
- Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus an accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.
- There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.
- There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.
- And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.

The successful operation of the gifts are by **inspiration** of the Spirit

This is what is known as the ministry of the Holy Spirit

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

8 For to us is given the word of wisdom **through the Spirit**, to another the word of knowledge **through the same Spirit**,

12:8 But **the same Spirit** = 1Co 12:13, TDNT 2:65-1, LN 60-61; brought in the **same** **a marker of agency**.

agency = The **agency** is the **same** that qualifies or restricts a noun by means of a specific identification. The genitive normally marks a noun as the source or possessor of something, or refers to the **kind of relationship that noun has to another noun**. It is a special expression used by the preposition "of". For example, in the phrase "Jesus calls this man my son" the genitive and qualitative type of phrase "of Jesus" means "this is the person who will become my son". The phrase "this man" is not used for the purpose of a personal relationship.

9 In another faith **by the same Spirit**, in another gifts of healings **by the same Spirit**

10 In another the working of miracles, in another prophecy, in another discerning of spirits, in another different kinds of tongues, in another the interpretation of tongues.

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

12 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.

13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body... whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free...and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

The manifestation of giftedness is unique to the individual member or the part of the body

14 For as the body is **one** and **not** one member **but** many,

15 if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," it is therefore not of the body?

16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body?

17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling?

18 **But now God has put the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.**

19 And if they were all one member, where would be the body?

20 But now indeed there are many members, yet one body.

21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

So it's abundantly clear that each member or part of the body has his own unique giftedness individually as appointed by God

22 No, much rather, these members of the body which seem to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor, and our honorable parts have greater modesty.

23 And these members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor, and our honorable parts have greater modesty.

24 But our honorable parts have no need, but **God composed the body**, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it,

25 that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another.

26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it, as if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

28 And **God has appointed these in the church:** **apostles**, **second prophets**, and **teachers**,

after that **miracles**, **then** gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.

29 **For all apostles! For all prophets! For all teachers! For all workers of miracles!**

30 **Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?**

Paul just taught in great detail not only that each individual has a unique gifting, and that gifting can only manifest itself under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

But that each individual is a unique part of the body and each member must maintain within the boundaries of his ability to function.

And God alone by the Holy Spirit distributes to each member as He wills, irrespective of man's will.

31 **But earnestly desire the best gifts.** And yet I show you a more excellent way.

32:22 **earnestly** (ἐκζητέω), see [art] adj.; = 3Co 2:10 & 2:10-11, LN 60-61; **better superior**

Paul is going to show them a way more excellent than an **apostle** or **teacher**

This statement demonstrates the necessary humility for Paul to operate effectively under his giftedness, who was an **apostle** or **prophet** and **teacher**

▼ 2. The superior way of love, along with faith and hope will continue throughout the church age:

Such as wisdom, knowledge, and faith

a. But the revelatory gifts with their companion gifts, were never intended to continue throughout the church age

Through the use of hyperbole Paul explains in detail that these gifts that were being desired, and the thought of as being super spiritual; were only intended for the interim, until all necessary church age Bible knowledge had been inscripturated:

1 Corinthians 13:8-12 (NABV)

- Though I speak with the **tongues** of men and of angels, but have not **love**, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.
- 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.
- 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.

The following 4 verses juxtapose **love** with the mental attitude **desires** that accompany the self-seeking proud heart of those who desire to be esteemed as super spiritual

4 **Love** suffers long and is kind; **love** does not seek its own; **love** does not parade itself; is not puffed up;

5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;

6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;

7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 **Love never fails.**

But whether there are prophecies, **they will fail**

whether there are tongues, **they will cease**

whether there is knowledge, **it will vanish away**

9 **For we know in part and we prophesy in part**

As long as God is revealing knowledge, it's not yet complete.

But when God's revelation is **complete**...

10 **But** when that which is **perfect** has come, then that which is in **part** will be done away.

perfect

1 Corinthians 13:12 (NABV)

13:12 For all we see is the way of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, in a **perfect** mirror, as the measure of the stature of the Son of God.

Perfect has to be of the same kind

That means complete revelation complete knowledge

The following two illustrations are **not** speaking of an eternal state of perfection, but of something being finished or completed in time

11 When I was a child, **I spoke** as a child, **I understood** as a child, **I thought** as a child;

but when I became a man, **I put away childish things.**

What were the childish things?

When he became a man there was no more need for the interim source for knowledge

THE PARTIAL KNOWLEDGE OF A CHILD IS COMPARED TO THE MATURE KNOWLEDGE OF A MAN MATURING TO MANHOOD OCCURS IN TIME

Presently our knowledge is limited, because revelation is not yet complete:

12 For **now** we see in a mirror, dimly, but **then** face to face **now** I know in part,

Arti

it's enigmatic it's partial revelation, partial knowledge about oneself

A lot of people read face-to-face with the Lord, but when you're looking in a mirror you're face-to-face with yourself, not someone else

Nuni

12:12 **Arti** adj.; = 3Co 13:12, TDNT 1:108-1, LN 47-48; **now**, a point of time

simultaneous

but **then** I shall know just as I also am known.

Does not mean omniscient, only God is omniscient.

In heaven we will be always learning, we will never know everything

when these two Greek words **Arti** & **Nuni** are used in the same context, **Arti** means right now today or this minute. It's an **immediacy**.

Whereas **Nuni** has a broader sense, like now in this decade, or now in this century, **this age**.

They contrast each other.

13 And **now** abide **faith**, **hope**, **love**, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Nuni

If the **perfect** of verse 10 arrives when we enter an eternal state face-to-face with the Lord, then what that means is that **knowledge**, **prophecy**, and **tongues** also continue **until** we go into heaven when we're face-to-face with the Lord; and **faith**, **hope**, and **love** continue from that point forward on into heaven where we're face-to-face with the Lord.

2 Corinthians 13:14 (NABV)

14 For we are united by **faith**, and by hope,

and by love, but **hope** that is seen is not **hope** for what we want?

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