

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Class #39 – Sunday AM2 September 2, 2007

It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

Hebrews 4:12 For the Word of God is alive and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword. . .

1 Corinthians 12:7 But to each one ***is being given*** the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Proper function of spiritual gifts confers benefit to fellow believers; they add value to the body of Christ.

- Our spiritual gifts are designed to add value to the body of Christ.
- Every believer has potential to add value through the execution of his spiritual gift.
- Proper function of those gifts are a matter of our decisions in life to live in proper adjustment to the indwelling Spirit.



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1 Corinthians 12:12 For even as the body [*physical body*] is one and *yet* has many members and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.

- μέλος – MELOS – “Digit, a part” ←

Analogy - our physical bodies with many parts are analogous to the body of Christ with many spiritual gifts.

The indwelling presence of God the Holy Spirit and distribution of spiritual gifts takes place at salvation.

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized [*past tense*] into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Acts 1:4-5 Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," *He said*, "you heard of from Me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Mark 1:8 "I baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

1 Corinthians 12:13-20 For the body is not one member, but many.

POD: The members are designed to function in concert with one another.

Spiritual gift function accomplishes that as each fulfills their respective role within the body.

Believers must attend to our functional area of responsibility and remain there.

POD: Each member has a spiritual occupation skill [SOS] determined by one's spiritual gift that is ideally fulfilled by that respective member.

Can the hand perform the function of the foot?

Can the foot perform the function of the hand?

POD: Every believer has a significant responsibility that is best performed by the respective gift designed to fulfill that responsibility.

Illustration – Special Forces Teams consist of 12 men; each member has a Military Occupation Skill [MOS]. That team is designed to operate behind enemy lines, undetected, to accomplish missions.

Teammates are dependent upon one another to fulfill their individual responsibilities so that the mission can be accomplished.

As believers, we are dependent upon each other to accomplish our mission of glorifying God as a body.

Dependence is upon God to provide the service through believers.

If someone does not do their job, you might be negatively affected, but that is God's problem to solve, NOT your problem.

If you get your eyes focused on what other people are doing or not doing, you become distracted from doing what you need to be doing.

¹⁵ If the foot says, "Because I am not a hand, I am not *a part* of the body," it is not for this reason any the less *a part* of the body.

- > The hand is more visible than the foot.
- > The hand is more agile.
- > The hand has greater range of motion.
- > The hand is more dynamic.
- > The hand is in a more prominent position.
- > The hand can accomplish greater feats and more difficult tasks.

The foot can easily become jealous of the hand.

The foot desires the glory of the hand.

"Because I am not a hand, I am not *a part* of the body. . ."

Jealousy, therefore, can stop a believer from functioning in his spiritual gift.

“. . . it is not for this reason any the less *a part* of the body.”

- > Each member has a job to fulfill that is vital for the body to properly function.
- > If the foot does not function in the manner in which it is designed to function and in the place it was designed to function the other members of the body suffer.
- > The entire body is adversely affected.

1 Corinthians 12:26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if *one* member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

The pastor-teacher is not an island unto himself; he is dependent on all the gifts to function.

¹⁶ And if the ear says, “Because I am not an eye,

A body can get by without the sense of hearing far easier than it can without sight, but without the sense of hearing it is severely handicapped.

¹⁶ And if the ear says, “Because I am not an eye, I am not *a part* of the body,” it is not for this reason any the less *a part* of the body.

Jealousy is so damaging in the body of Christ.

¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?

¹⁸ But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired.

POD: The believer’s position in the body of Christ is determined by the spiritual giftedness that God has given him.

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

²⁰ But now there are many members, but one body.

God has not designed the believer to be a one-man band.

God’s Ambassador, Billy Graham pp. 134 & 64.

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.