

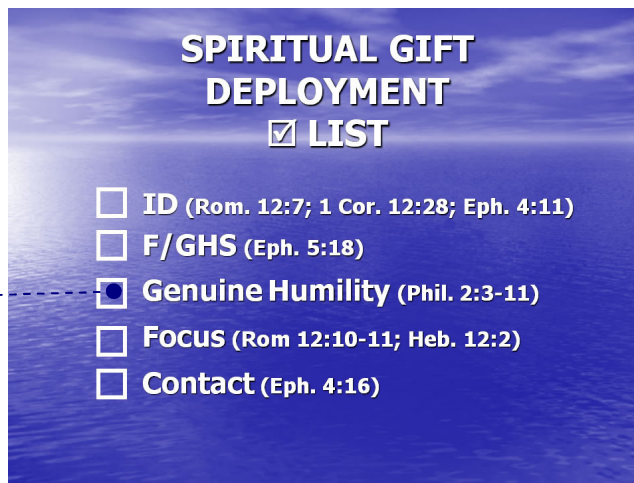
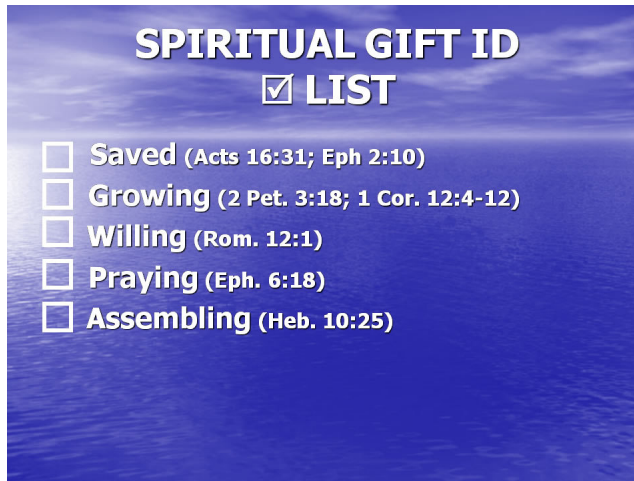
## SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Class #44 – Sunday AM1 September 16, 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. . .



**POD (review):** The believer's gift will not function unless he keeps on being filled by the Spirit.

**Ephesians 5:18** And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled [keep on being filled] with the Spirit,

### **Genuine Humility**

**Philippians 2:3** Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit. . .

- Do nothing in serving the church or ministry with your spiritual gift.
- Do nothing in serving one another.

- # Teaching
- # Encouraging
- # Giving
- # Helping
- # Administrating
- # Serving

} *Do none of this from selfishness or empty conceit!*

➤ Paul is saying - - do nothing apart from the love of Christ.

**1 Corinthians 13:5** Love . . . does not seek its own.

➤ **Love** looks out for the interests of others.

. . . but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; <sup>4</sup> do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

**1 Corinthians 13:4** *Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant.*

**Spiritual gifts are designed to look out for the interests of fellow believers.**

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

➤ How are you going to do that without the love of Christ?

Love of Christ - -> NOT Love for Christ

**Ephesians 3:19** and to know the love of Christ which **surpasses** knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

*Love for Christ* does not surpass knowledge; *love for Christ* is based on knowledge.

➤ **Surpasses** - ὑπερβάλλω – HUPERBALLO – “To go beyond; to outdo”

Corrected “To know [realize] the love of Christ which surpasses [goes beyond; outdoes] knowledge. . .

The *love of Christ* surpasses knowledge; goes beyond knowledge.

**Galatians 5:22** But the fruit of the **Spirit** is love. . .

➤ **Spirit** - πνεῦμα – PNEUMA – Spirit [reference to the Holy Spirit]

The fruit is the Holy Spirit’s.

➤ The Holy Spirit produces the fruit in the life of the believer.

➤ The Holy Spirit is the One who produces the love.

The love of Christ is not produced by how much Bible doctrine you know; it is produced by the indwelling presence of God the Holy Spirit!

**1 Corinthians 13:2** If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge [Bible doctrine]; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains,

Faith in this verse is not *Bible doctrine* - it is trust or dependence in the One who can move the mountains.

**Mark 11:23** “Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be *granted* him.”

**1 Corinthians 13:2** If I have *the gift of prophecy*, and know all mysteries and all knowledge [*Bible doctrine*]; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains. . .

This is a superlative faith to trust God to accomplish what many consider impossible.  
... but do not have love, I am nothing.

### **The Love of Christ - - Produced by the Spirit!**

It does not matter. . .

. . . how many books you write for Christ!

. . . how much you give for Christ!

. . . how nice you are to people!

*It does not matter how great your work is in the eyes of the world or fellow believers. . .*

*. . . if the love of Christ is not motivating you.*

**1 Corinthians 13:3** And if I give all my possessions to feed *the poor* [*for Christ*], and if I surrender my body to be burned [*martyred*], but do not have love it **profits** me nothing.



The love of Christ being manifested in my life as it is produced by the Spirit

➤ **Profits** - ὠφελέω – OPHELEO – “Useful or advantageous”

*I am not being used; useful or advantageous.*

The love of Christ is produced by God the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer when we  
*“keep on being filled”!*

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*How does the believer “keep on being filled”?*

**Ephesians 5:18**

1. Grieve not the Spirit [**Ephesians 4:30**].

2. Walk by the Spirit [**Galatians 5:16**].

3. Suppress not the Spirit [**1 Thessalonians 5:19**].

4. Follow – malleability to His lead [**Galatians 5:25**]

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*That is the only doctrine you need to know to realize the love of Jesus Christ in your life.*

- The love of Christ will not be produced in you just because you know that doctrine.
- The doctrine must be actuated.

You have to actually begin walking by the Spirit!

You must learn to trust or rely on Him with each step you take!

The doctrine must be lived!  
The doctrine must be lived!  
The doctrine must be lived!

POD: The love of Christ is produced [*manifested*] in the life of the Christian as he walks by the Spirit.

**2 Cor. 5:14** “The love of Christ constraineth us. . .”  
(King James Version)

➤ **Constraineth** – συνέχω – SUNECHO – “To control or to impel”

POD: The love of Christ, produced by the Spirit in the life of the believer, impels the believer to employ his spiritual gift for the benefit of others.

POD: Without the love of Christ being manifested in our lives, our service profits us nothing because we are not being used by the Spirit.

### PERSONAL APPLICATION TIME!

**1 Corinthians 13:2** If I have *the gift of* \_\_\_\_\_, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

**Ephesians 4:1-3** Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, <sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, <sup>3</sup> being diligent to preserve the unity of [*produced by*] the Spirit in the bond of peace.

➤ **By means of the Spirit!**

“Walking by the Spirit” means we are “Living by the Spirit.”

**In love** - ἐν ἀγάπῃ - EN plus AGAPE – “By means of love”

The love of Christ is manifested in your hearts by the Spirit.

**1 Corinthians 13:4-8** Love is patient, love is kind *and* is not jealous; love does not brag *and* is not arrogant, <sup>5</sup> does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, <sup>6</sup> does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; <sup>7</sup> bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. <sup>8</sup> **Love never fails!**

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