

NOTES



PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for calling us into one Body through Christ. As we open Your Word, help us to see how You have gifted each of us to serve and build up others. Teach us to move in Your Spirit with love, humility, and purpose. In Jesus' name, Amen.

OPENING QUESTION (OPTIONAL)

What's one gift, skill, or talent (spiritual or natural) that you've seen God use through you or someone else to bless others?

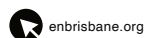


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WORD

1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. 2 You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. 3 Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit. 4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. 7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8 For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

- 1 Corinthians 12:1–11 (ESV)

1 Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. 2 For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit. 3 On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation. 4 The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. 5 Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.

- 1 Corinthians 14:1–25 (ESV)

Secondary Passages:

- **Romans 12:3–8** – Gifts differ according to grace; use them faithfully and humbly.
- **Ephesians 4:11–16** – Christ gives leadership gifts to equip His Body toward maturity and unity.

Commentary & Insights:

The central theme is understanding and operating in spiritual gifts within the Body of Christ brings order, maturity, and unity — even in the midst of life’s messiness.

The church in Corinth was messy — full of spiritual enthusiasm but lacking in order and love. Paul doesn’t suppress their spiritual passion; he redirects it toward unity and purpose.

Key Ideas:

1. Unity in Diversity

The Spirit distributes different gifts to different people, but all are for the common good (1 Cor 12:7). Diversity in gifting reflects the beauty of God’s design for His Church.

2. The Purpose of Gifts

Gifts aren’t signs of superiority but tools of service. Each gift reveals a facet of God’s grace in action, building up the Body of Christ.

3. Love as the Operating System

In between 1 Corinthians 12 and 14 is the famous “Love Chapter” (1 Cor 13). Love is the context that gives spiritual gifts meaning and maturity.

4. Maturity through Ministry

Ephesians 4 reminds us that when each part does its work, the Body grows and becomes strong in love.

5. Grace in Proportion

Romans 12 encourages sober judgment — using our gifts with humility and faith, knowing they are given by God’s grace, not our own merit.

Spiritual gifts are grace in motion — evidence that God’s Spirit is actively at work among His people. Encourage members to discover and use their gifts through service, worship, and community life.

📌 Resource: [Lifeway Spiritual Gifts Test](#) — a helpful tool for identifying where the Holy Spirit may be empowering you to serve.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Paul says he doesn't want the church to be uninformed about spiritual gifts (1 Cor 12:1). In what ways do you think today's church might still be uninformed — or even misinformed — about the gifts of the Spirit?
2. Verse 7 says, "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." How do you think the gifts in your life (or lack of using them) are affecting the health of the Body around you?
3. In Corinth, spiritual gifts became a source of pride and comparison. How do we guard against the same spirit of competition or performance when it comes to ministry and service in the church?
4. Paul places love at the centre of all spiritual expression. What does it look like for love to be the "filter" through which you use your spiritual gifts — especially in moments of frustration, correction, or leadership?
5. Ephesians 4 says the goal of these gifts is maturity — "that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro." Where do you see immaturity showing up in the Body of Christ today, and how could your obedience in using your gift bring growth or stability to others?
6. In 1 Corinthians 14, Paul insists that spiritual gifts should build others up and draw unbelievers toward worship. How could your life personally demonstrate this kind of Spirit-led witness in your workplace, campus, or family?
7. (Optional deeper challenge) Take the [Lifeway Spiritual Gifts Test](#). Which of your top three gifts most surprises you, and how could you step out in faith to exercise it this month?

Takeaway Thought:

Spiritual gifts are not given for performance but for participation. The Spirit empowers each believer to serve in love so that the whole Body grows in unity and strength.

Closing Prayer

Lord, thank You for the gifts You've placed in each of us. Teach us to walk in love, to serve with humility, and to build Your Church with faithfulness. May Your Spirit empower us to use our gifts for the common good and for Your glory. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Leader's Notes

Session Objective:

Help members understand that spiritual gifts are God's way of empowering His people to serve one another in love, bringing unity and maturity to the Body of Christ.

Key Points for Leaders:

- Encourage an atmosphere of honour and celebration — remind members that no gift is greater than another.
- Emphasise love and humility as the foundation for using gifts.
- Keep the discussion practical: ask how gifts can build others up in daily life, not just on Sundays.
- Share personal examples of how spiritual gifts have strengthened the community.
- If the group includes newer believers, take time to define terms (prophecy, tongues, discernment, etc.) simply and biblically.
- Consider having members pray for one another, asking the Holy Spirit to stir or confirm gifts in their lives.

Suggested Next Steps:

- Encourage each person to take the Lifeway Spiritual Gifts Test and discuss their results at the next meeting.
- Identify opportunities in church life where these gifts can be expressed (e.g. worship, hospitality, youth ministry, outreach).
- Plan a follow-up discussion or mini-workshop on how to grow in specific gifts (e.g. encouragement, teaching, leadership, mercy).
- Reinforce that gifts mature in community — through use, feedback, and love.