

1 CORINTHIANS:

God's Glorious Church in Real Life

Sermon Title: "Spiritual Gifts: Tools, not Trophies or Toys"

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:1-7

Pastor Chris Fritz / Sunday, June 20, 2021

INTRODUCTION

Note: Spiritual gifts enable us to serve LIKE Jesus, FOR the glory of Jesus, AS Jesus' body.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in Me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father." (John 14:12)

Greater in what way???

Answer #1: "Greater" in geographical scope.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

Answer #2: "Greater" in numeric accomplishment.

"Thus, it written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of My Father upon you. BUT STAY IN THE CITY UNTIL you are clothed with power from on high." (Luke 24:46-49)

Note: We are totally inadequate and unable to love and serve for Jesus without the Holy Spirit!

"Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led." (1 Corinthians 12:1-2)

“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” (1 Corinthians 12:7)

I. SPIRITUAL GIFTS: FOR WHOM... FROM WHERE... FOR WHAT...

A. Spiritual Gifts: FOR WHOM?

Answer: Spiritual gifts are for those who see, love, and confess that Jesus is Lord!

B. Spiritual Gifts: FROM WHERE???

Answer: Spiritual gifts are a manifestation (a clear evidence) of the Spirit's work and presence and yet the entire Trinity is active and involved in the life and ministry of each local body!

- 1) Each and every gift is given and empowered by the same divine, glorious, sovereign Spirit.
- 2) Every diverse ministry and act of service is to reflect and glorify Jesus, the Lord.
- 3) The outcome, and needed energy for, our work (as a church family) will come from God Himself!

C. Spiritual Gifts: FOR WHAT???

Answer: Spiritual gifts are tools/instruments to be used for the benefit of everyone around you!

Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...

1. What are some questions you have about spiritual gifts? Do any of the principles and truths presented in verses 1-7 begin to address and answer those questions?
2. What role does the Spirit play in us seeing and confessing that Jesus is Lord?
3. How is the Trinity at work in the service, ministry, and giftedness of the body (verses 4-6)?
4. What are some wrong ways we are tempted to think about spiritual gifts and members of the body?
5. According to verse 7, why does God gift and equip His people? For what purpose?