**Sermon Title: The Demonstration of Spiritual Gifts, Part 1 - 3**

**Sermon Text: 1 Corinthians 12:7-11**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to a clear understanding of the source and purpose of Spiritual gifts.**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 3 truths related to Spiritual gifts for diversity and unity in the church.**

**Introduction:** Spiritual gifts are given to the “body of Christ” or “the local church,” for the Glory of God, building up of the Body of Christ, making of Disciples, the witnessing to the lost, and the effectiveness of the church. The two broad categories of spiritual gifts are speaking gifts and serving gifts. Speaking gifts include preaching and teaching, wisdom, knowledge, exhortation, and discernment. Serving, administration, prayer, mercy, helps.

**I. The Purposeful Display of Spiritual Gifts. V.7**

**II. The Purposeful Demonstration of Spiritual Gifts. Vv.8-10**

**III. The Purposeful Distribution of Spiritual Gifts. V.11**

John MacArthur in a sermon on Spiritual gifts provides nine ways to discern your Spiritual gifts.

1. Present yourself as a living sacrifice.

2. Know that you are gifted.

3. Pray for wisdom.

4. Pursue nothing, including gifts selfishly.

5. Examine our hearts desire.

6. Seek confirmation from the Scriptures and mature saints or leaders.

7. Look for the blessing of God (fruitfulness).

8. Serve with your whole heart (sacrificially).

9. When you find what it is cultivate it.

**I. The Purposeful Display of Spiritual Gifts. V.7**

 A. The 1st purpose is a clear **demonstration** or **display**, by the Spirit’s enablement. V.7a

 **Romans 12:6** Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them*: if prophecy, *let us prophesy* in proportion to our faith;

 B. The 2nd purpose is the **profit** of the whole body of Christ or the church. V.7b

 (**Ephesians 4:11-16**)

 **1 Peter 4:10** As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

**II. The Purposeful Demonstration of Spiritual Gifts. Vv.8-10**

 A. The demonstration of **wisdom** through the Spirit. v.8a

 In the New Testament “wisdom” is most often used of the ability to understand God’s Word and His will, and are able to skillfully apply that understanding to the questions and understanding of life from God’s perspective.

 (**Luke 7:35**)

 **Matthew 11:19** "The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say,`Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' But wisdom is justified by her children." **Matthew 13:54** And when He had come to His own country, He taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, "Where did this *Man* get this wisdom and *these* mighty works?

 **Mark 6:2** And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing *Him* were astonished, saying, "Where *did* this Man *get* these things? And what wisdom *is* this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands!

 **James 1:5** If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

 **James 3:13** Who *is* wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct *that* his works *are done* in the meekness of wisdom.

 **James 3:17** But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

 B. The demonstration of **knowledge** through the Spirit. v.8b

 This gift may have referred to revelation in the first century, but today the ability to understand and speak God’s truth, with insight into the mysteries of His Word, that cannot be known apart from God’s illumination of His revelation in Scripture. Knowledge focuses on grasping the meaning of God’s revealed truth, while wisdom partners with knowledge to emphasize the practical convictions and conduct that works its reality out in application, in daily living.

 **Romans 15:14** Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.

 C. The demonstration of **faith** through the Spirit. v.9a

 Faith in this context is possibly connected with the miracles referred to in the next few lines

 (ex. healing). This is distinct from saving faith or persevering faith, both which every believer possess, this gift is exercised in persistent prayer and endurance in intercession, along with a strong trust in God in the midst of difficult circumstances.

 **Matthew 17:20** So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain,`Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.

 D. The demonstration of **healing** through the Spirit. v.9b

 In church history, this is thought to be a temporary gift or sign gift used by Christ,

 **Matthew 8:16-17** When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon- possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, **17** that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "He Himself took our infirmities And bore *our* sicknesses."

 the Apostles (**Matthew 10:1**),

 the seventy (**Luke 10:1**),

 and a few associates of the Apostles, such as Phillip (**Acts 8:5-7**).

 Paul never healed himself that we know of, others who were not healed Epaphrodities (Philippians 2:27)

 Timothy (1 Timothy 5:23),

 Trophimus (2 Timothy 4:20).

 **Acts 28:8-9** And it happened that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and dysentery. Paul went in to him and prayed, and he laid his hands on him and healed him. **9** So when this was done, the rest of those on the island who had diseases also came and were healed.

 Peter.

 **Acts 9:42** And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord.

 E. The demonstration of **miracles** through the Spirit. v.10a

 This is a temporary sign gift throughout church history, for the working of Divine acts, that are contrary to the natural laws of nature, so that there was no explanation except that it was by the power of God.

 The sign gifts were also use to authenticate Christ and the Apostles message and the Gospel.

 **John 2:11** This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.

 **John 20:30-31** And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; **31** but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

 **Acts 2:22** "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know--

 F. The demonstration of **prophecy** through the same Spirit. v.10b

 The meaning is simply that of “speaking forth” or “proclaiming publically.”

 Even the biblical prophets were preachers, proclaimers of God’s truth both by revelation and interaction.

 Paul will address prophecy in more detail later in Chapter 14.

 1. The definition of the gift of prophecy. (**14:3**)

 2. The importance of the gift of prophecy. (**14:1, 39**)

 3. The supremacy of the gift of prophecy. (**Chapter 14**)

 G. The demonstration of **discernment** through the Spirit. v.10c

 There are people who are wise spiritually, who are obviously endued with wisdom to discern insincerity, false doctrine, and unwise life and Scripture application. It is the God given ability to recognize lying spirits, to recognize false doctrine and teachers. (**Acts 5:3**)

 **Acts 17:11** These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so.

 **1 John 4:1** Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

 **Acts 16:16-18** Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. **17** This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." **18** And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour.

 H. The demonstration of different kinds of **tongues** through the Spirit. v.10d

 (**Acts 2:5-12**)

 I. The demonstration of the **interpretation** of tongues through the Spirit. v.10e

**III. The Purposeful Distribution of Spiritual Gifts. V.11**

 While stressing the diversity of gifts (**vv.4-11**), Paul also emphasizes the singular source of the Holy Spirit.

 A. The Spiritual gifts are **effective** by the Holy Spirit. v.11a

 B. The Spiritual gifts are **energized** by the Holy Spirit. v.11b

 C. The Spiritual gifts are **endowed** by the Holy Spirit. v.11c

When the Spirit of God rules and energizes a church at least 8 evidences will be manifested.

1. The Spirit-controlled church is **unified**.

 It is a unity that does not crush individuality.

2. The Spirit-controlled church is characterized by **fellowship**.

 Inclusive of every believer who cares and participates.

3. The Spirit-controlled church is **worshipful**.

 God centered, shared by all, honors God the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit.

4. The Spirit-controlled church is **evangelistic**.

 The church that is responsive to the Spirit wins souls spontaneously and joyfully.

5. The Spirit-controlled church is **loving**.

 Selflessness and sacrifice are normal.

6. The Spirit-controlled church is **obedient**.

 It walks in the path and model that Jesus Christ prescribes, and only that path and model.

7. The Spirit-controlled church is **submissive**.

 This is reflected in voluntary, willful, joyful obedience. (Seeks to be well pleasing to the Lord!)

8. The Spirit-controlled church **serves**.

 They come to serve and not be served.

**Conclusion:** There are 4 important benefits when each church member uses their gifts.

1. Christians themselves receive great blessing – both from exercising their own gifts and from the

 exercising of others gifts for their benefit.

2. When everyone does his part in ministry the church forms a dynamic witness, with power and effectiveness it cannot otherwise have.

3. When the church ministers its gifts, God’s leaders become apparent. It is a faithfully functioning church, spiritual leadership emerges.

4. A church that faithfully uses its gifts in the Spirit’s power experiences the joy of great unity, love, and fellowship – in ways that no amount of human ability, planning, or effort can produce.

[**The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, 1 Corinthians p.294-295**]