

Why Does God Give Gifts? (1 Cor 12)

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Introduction: We need to know the mind of God, the thinking of God.

A. When a man becomes a Christian his life is to be radically changed.

(Matt 10:38-39)

1. It is such a change that he is said to have a new mind. One however that mind must be renewed. **(Eph 4:23-24; Phil 2:5)**
2. When that mind is applied to our lives it changes us from a selfish, self-centered person to a servant. **(Mark 10:42-45)**

B. In our study we will examine the proper role and use of spiritual gifts.

1. Paul is continuing to answer a letter the Corinthians had written. **(1 Cor 7:1)**
2. We are to see how Christians were to view not only spiritual gifts but in principle all gifts.
3. The Corinthians had to put on the mind of God and overcome their own immaturity. **(1 Cor 3:1-3)**

I. The Consistency of the Mind of God verses the Way of Idolatry (VV 1-3)

A. The way of the world leads to wherever your desires lead! **(1 John 2:15-16)**

1. Being “carried away” is a good description of this slavery! **(2 Pet 2:18-19)**
2. Statement made about Russia: “They are not used to being governed by laws but by people”. Living by principle is a sign of maturity.

B. How does the Holy Spirit bring certainty?

1. Being from God the message will always be the same! **(1 John 4:1-6)**
2. How can we know when something is from God?

II. While God Gives a Diversity of Gifts, there will always be a Unity of Purpose. (VV4-11)

A. When men submit to the will of God they will be working for the same purpose.

(vv4-6)

1. Notice the unity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Diversities and differences but controlled by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
2. This same unity is an example for us. **(John 17:20-21; 1 Cor 14:33; Eph 4:4-6)**

B. What are “spiritual gifts”?

1. They were given by the laying on of the apostle’s hands. **(Acts 8:18; 2 Tim 1:6)**
2. There are nine gifts here that were given without the aid of previous human ability.
3. What is a miracle?

C. How did the Corinthians view these gifts?

1. Some could have viewed them as personal toys.
2. others may have viewed them as tools to build their own personal kingdom.
3. God gave them for His purposes, not man’s.

III. God’s Purpose for Our Individual Abilities (VV 12-27)

A. Everything we have is from God. **(1 Cor 4:7)**

1. While spiritual gifts are not given today, other gifts are given by God. The same mind must be in the Christian for these.
2. What has God given you?

B. Our very existence as a Christian means that we have a relationship with other Christians. **(1 Cor 12:12-13)**

1. If we are saved we are in the body. **(Eph 1:3)**
2. It is the direction of the Spirit that led us to be baptized in water!

C. Every Member of the body is necessary. **(vv15-24)**

1. Which member of your body are you willing to lose?
2. We must respect and understand the choices that God makes. (vv18)
3. We pervert the gifts of God when we view them as that which makes us better than another! Envy and fighting will follow this view. Others will quit because they cannot “compete”. **(Jas 3:16)**
4. Which is more important, a gospel preacher or a godly mother? Both are needed! Which do we praise?

D. We must serve each other and not ourselves. **(vv23-27)**

1. What do you do when you hurt your thumb?
2. How are you personally fulfilling this verse? Take a moment and think!
 - i. You cannot help others if you are isolated from them.
 - ii. You cannot be helped if you isolate yourself from others.
3. Consider some pertinent questions:
 - i. Are there any members here who have yet to come into your house? You into their house? (Or some other avenue of association)
 - ii. Do you have plans to get to know the members of this congregation better?
4. Some Christians have no intention of becoming close to their brethren. In this case it is like someone cutting off their toes because they “do not need them”.
5. Some are stubborn and will not change. When this happens they will stumble over the gospel. We must repent and yield. **(Phil 2:1-4)**

IV. God's Order of Spiritual Gifts (VV28-31)

A. All of these gifts have an importance.

1. Even so, it is not the possession of the gift that counts but rather how we use what we are given!
2. The most effective people in the church are not the talented but the humble. **(2 Cor 12:7-10)**

B. There is something that we all can have that is greater than any of these gifts. **(VV31)**

Conclusion: What is your view of the work of the Lord?

A. Are you a servant or the served?

B. If the Lord returned today, what account would you give? **(Heb 4:13)**