

# 1 Corinthians When Faith & Life Collide

Study 15

The Gospel and Spiritual Gifts Part 1

1 Corinthians 12:1-26

## A. Spiritual Gifts are Gifts Not Earned

### 1 Corinthians 12:1-3 (NIV)

1 Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. 2 You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. 3 Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

1. a) Fill in the blanks. The words "gifts" *Charisma* and "spiritual gifts" *Pneumatikon* (Spiritual things or manifestations) are used interchangeably in the passage. According to the slide, fill in the blanks on what is the significance of using *Pneumatikon Charisma* together.

|               | Implications                      |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Charis</i> | Freely given                      |
|               | Not earned                        |
|               | No basis for pride or self-esteem |
|               | No measure of spirituality        |

## B. Unity in Diversity

### 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 (NIV)

4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

2. Reflection question. Imagine God giving gifts in each of our palms, some get one, some get multiple gifts. Do you feel that this is fair? Why or why not?

More gifts do not mean more Spirit. The Diversity of spiritual gifts is based on His sovereign purposes. . . The Giver, not the Gift, is what accomplishes anything. But this question is meant to explore how the believers feel about this.

### C. Purpose: For the Common Good

#### 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 (NIV)

7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8 To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

#### 3. a) Fill in the blanks. According to the slide, what is the basis of the unity?

| Basis of Unity                      |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Common good                         | Not for self-esteem or value<br>Toward glorifying Jesus<br>Extension of Kingdom<br>Reflecting God     |
| Same source                         | No merit because it was given, not earned   |
| Different gifts by sovereign design | It is the working of the gifts in different ways that give glory to God. The beauty is in the variety |

### D. One Body, Many Parts

#### 1 Corinthians 12:12-21 (NIV)

12 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 14 Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

15 Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

21 The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I

don't need you!"

**1 Corinthians 12:27-31 (NIV)**

27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 28 And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? 31 Now eagerly desire the greater gifts.

- 4. Reflection question. There are diverse gifts even though we are united in Christ as believers. This means not all will understand the Bible equally, not all will be as hospitable and welcome you to their house, and not all are equally willing to offer acts of service as a loving gesture to one another. How does this affect your expectations of other believers in church or how you see them?**

**E. No Division in the Body, Equal Concern for Each Other**

**1 Corinthians 12:22-26 (NIV)**

22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, 24 while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, 25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. 26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

- 5. a) Reflection Question. Flashier gifts like gifts of prophecy, tongues, and healing often get seen quite easily, but gifts of celibacy, service, administration, and exhortation seem to be less noticed. Do you treat some more superior than others?**

**Supplementary Reading**

*Commentary from DA Carson:*

**weaker . . . less honorable . . . . unpresentable . . . the parts that lacked [honor].** Probably genitals; they are "indispensable" (v. 22), treated "with special honor" (v. 23) and "special modesty" (v. 23), and given "greater honor" (i.e., procreation, v. 24). God sovereignly arranged the diverse functions of the members of the human body. Applied to the church, this means that Christians who are regarded as having less important functions in the congregation are actually indispensable. God has "put the body together" (v. 24), i.e., arranged the various members of the human body and divided the labor. When all the body

parts fulfill their functions and are mutually concerned for each other, there is no division in the body.

**b) Discussion Question.** In smaller churches in rural areas, where there are no maids for hire, church members will need to take turns washing toilets. Is there such a thing as the gift of washing toilets? Can a person say they are not gifted in washing toilets and opt out of the duty rotation?

That is weaponizing incompetence, they may not be as good as washing but they can be trained with a willing heart. A "C-" can at least be trained into a "B+". There will be some minor accommodations and grace if they have clinical phobias or OCD.

**c) Reflection Question.** There are 4 general positions on spiritual gifts, what is yours?

**Background Information**

**4 POSITIONS ON SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

| <b>Cessasionists</b>                                   | <b>Open but cautious</b>   | <b>Third Wave</b>  | <b>Pentecostal</b>  |
|--|--|--|---|
| Deny charismatic gifts are present in the church today | Believe charismatic gifts are present in the church today but should not be emphasized | Charismatic gifts are central for ministry today but deny Spirit Baptism | Charismatic gifts are central for ministry today. The second " Spirit Baptism is necessary for ministry |

**Takeaway**

- A. Spiritual Gifts are a Gift and not Earned.**
- B. There is Unity in the Diversity of Gifts**
- C. Purpose of the Spiritual Gifts For the Common Good**
- D. The Church is Made of One Body, Many Parts.**
- E. No Division in the Body, Equal Concern for Each Other**

## Case Study

### Case 1 – Gifts of Tongues as a Sign of Salvation

Penny Koh comes from a non-denominational church in Shah Alam. In the church, she learned that based on Acts 2:

- Baptism of the Holy Spirit is a second experience necessary for all Christians
- Speaking in tongues is the external evidence of baptism and infilling
- Gifts in tongues and miracles must be present in every church... like apostles

Acts 2:2-4 (NIV)

2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

**1. a) Discussion question. The Book of 1 Corinthians is a genre called Epistles or Letter. The Book of Acts is a genre called Narrative. "Narrative" is defined as "spoken or written account of connected events; a story". According to Dr Peter's lecture, why can't Acts 2:2-4 be used to make the doctrine of second baptism?**

**Narratives alone are insufficient for definitive doctrine.**

**b) Discussion question. What are the other reasons Dr Peter gave to say that there is a lack of corroboration elsewhere in scripture for the doctrine of second baptism?**

**- Spirit baptism not in the character qualifications of deacons and elders. If it was so important for Christian ministry. (1 Tim 3; Titus 1)**

**- Epistles are universally silent on the subject of Spirit baptism, and it affirms that all believers have the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:13; Gal 3:27; Rom. 8:9)**

**- We cannot find a basis for Spirit baptism in the book of Acts - especially when these passages are not uniform and consistent.**

**- Most New Testament passages talk about the first indwelling of the spirit, not the second (1 Cor 2:12, Gal 3:3, Rom 8:14-16)**

**c) Discussion question. Read the background information below. What is the danger of insisting that a second baptism is necessary?**

**Background information**

“There is no New Testament principle which states that the believer cannot be in full freedom of the Holy Spirit unless he has spoken in tongues. Experience shows that people do come to know the release of the Spirit in their lives and yet do not speak in tongues and to suggest to them that their experience is not real for that reason is biblically unjustified, possibly harmful and can create unnecessary doubt and bondages.” - Tom Smail, *Director of Fountain Trust and Vice Principle of St. John’s Nottingham.*

**d ) Discussion question. Penny Koh moved to Subang Jaya and started attending First Baptist Church and joined your life group. She started sharing about the second baptism and speaking in tongues that she learned from her previous church in your life group. What would you do?**

**Case 2 – More Gifts and More Spirit**

Teh Dee Beah is a high achiever who has money, talent, connections, and possessions even before he became a Christian. All this helps build his self-esteem.

When he converted to Christianity, he attended the church regularly, did a lot of good works, and gained respect and acclaim among the believers. He was eventually the head of a ministry. A few of the volunteers under that ministry have voiced certain concerns about one aspect of the ministry and offered a different opinion than what he decided. He decides to ignore them or shut them down because they are obviously less gifted than he is and his opinion matters more than theirs, he reckons he is more gifted in Spirit than them. He stuck to his own decision to save his face instead of listening to the volunteer's opinions and concerns which would have served the common good if heeded.

**2. a) Discussion Question. If you were one of the volunteers in Mr Teh’s ministry. What would you do?**

**b) Discussion Question. Is this considered a corrupted leader?**

**c) Reflection Question. If you were Mr Teh, with his same upbringing, same talents, same condition, would you have done the same?**

**d) Discussion Question. How can Mr Teh truly change?**