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The Varieties of Spiritual Gifts

12: 8-11

The varieties of spiritual gifts DIG: The Ruach Ha'Kodesh distributes spiritual gifts to all believers. Why then is there such a variety of gifts? What is the ultimate purpose of spiritual gifts from God? Although there are different gifts, there is only one God. Why is that important for us to remember (Romans 12:3-8; Ephesians 4:1-13). What is your responsibility in regard to your spiritual gift? If all believers receive at least one spiritual gift, why do you think there are some who feel they have nothing to offer? How can you help other believers to identify their gift?

REFLECT: What prevents believers from using their spiritual gifts? What explanations or excuses have you heard people use about not using their gifts? In what ways can believers help one another identify their spiritual gifts? What is the one thing you could do this week to share your thoughts? What is wrong with saying that some gifts are superior to others? How can you use your gifts in a way that draws attention away from yourself and gives glory to God? How can you be challenged to serve where you worship?



After addressing the believers' responsibilities when it comes to their freedom **in Messiah**, **Paul** turns to another problem in **the Corinthian church**. The believers' public worship practices had become distorted, chaotic, and dishonoring to **God**. The church was so splintered, in fact, that it could function as **a Body** in worship. Their attitudes in the way members dressed - and especially the way they celebrated the Lord's Supper - betrayed

deep dysfunctions. In addition, their use of **spiritual gifts**, which should be a point of strength in the church, had become a point of weakness, confusion, and competition. **Paul** would now seek to step back and show his readers the big picture of **God's gifts**.³⁶¹ **Paul** mentions **nine spiritual gifts** here in **First Corinthians**. Other lists of **spiritual gifts** can be found in **First Corinthians 12:28-30**, **Romans 12:6-8** (see the commentary on **Romans**, to see link click [Dc](#) - **Responding to the Mercies of ADONAI**), **Ephesians 4:8-12**, and **First Peter 4:11**. While this list here isn't exhaustive, it is interesting to look with a little more depth at some of **the gifts** that **Paul** mentioned.

1. To one, through the Spirit, is given **a word of wisdom** (to see link click [Ck](#));
2. To another, **a word of knowledge**, in accordance with the same Spirit (see [Cl](#));
3. To another, **faith**, by the same Spirit (see [Cm](#));
4. And to another, **gifts of healing**, by the one Spirit (see [Cn](#));
5. To another, **the working of miracles** (see [Co](#));
6. To another, **prophecy** (see [Cp](#));
7. To another, **the ability to discern between spirits** (see [Cq](#));
8. To another, **the ability to speak in different kinds of tongues** (see [Dm](#) - **Tongues are a Sign**);
9. And to yet another, **the ability to interpret tongues** (see [Dp](#) - **Order in Public Worship**).

One and the same Spirit is at work in all these things, distributing to each person as he chooses (12:11). This verse summarizes **verses 4-10**. Just as **he** did when illustrating the differences in the nature, ministries, and effects of **spiritual gifts**, **Paul** continues to stress that each **gift**, though different in many ways from the others, is supernaturally and sovereignly given by **one and the same Spirit**. In fact, this is the fifth reference to **the Ruach** as the giver. **He** also emphasizes again that every believer (**distributing to each person**) is spiritually **gifted**. Those with **gifts** are not the spiritual elite, but make up the whole church, the entire **Body of Messiah**. All of us are **gifted**, and all of us are called by **the Lord** to minister **the gifts He** has supplied.³⁶²