

Sabbath School

Spiritual Gifts

Aug 8, 2026

FIRST AND SECOND CORINTHIANS Bible Study Guide - 3rd Quarter 2026

LESSON 6

August 1-7

Spiritual Gifts



1 Corinthians 14:1 KJV

Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.

1 Corinthians 14:1 NKJV

Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

This is Fundamental Belief 17
Also EGWs first published work

If you think about it, it's the perfect description for what this is, isn't it,

Spiritual meaning the source of it is divine, it's supernatural, outside of yourself. **These gifts are clearly linked to the third Person of the Godhead.** Also they are intended for *spiritual purposes*, not climbing the ladder and gaining power, or making money or for entertainment.

Gifts meaning they are *given* to you, or rather *entrusted* with you. These God-given abilities can't be bought, can't be acquired or traded or conjured up.

The Bible speaks directly to this,

Acts 8:20 KJV

But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

From the Sabbath School lesson,

"Like a human body, the church is one but has many members, each with different roles, functions, and gifts. Practiced with love, these spiritual gifts promote a sense of unity that reflects the character of the triune God." *And allows us to fulfill our mission as a church.*

There is a lot to that opening statement!

Do you look at the church like a human body? What are the implications of this?

1 Corinthians

12

Spiritual Gifts

Read 1 Corinthians 12.1-6

V1 there was a clear misunderstanding or lack of knowledge about spiritual gifts in the early church, in fact many had never heard of them!

Acts 19:2 KJV

he said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, **We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.**

V2-3 Paul is showing the young church

how far they've come: from idol worship and a life of superstition, to life in the Spirit. Now Paul was ready to take them to the next level: **spiritual gifts, equipping the church for their mission, and being able to live and work together!**

From Sunday's lesson,

Jesus and Paul emphasized that faith in God—even in the face of persecution and the threat of death—is a gift of the Spirit. Actually, faith is the most basic gift. Not surprisingly, faith is first on the list in 1 Corinthians 13:13. **That faith is a spiritual gift is clear by Paul's statement in 1 Corinthians 12:9.** However, there are many other gifts. The fact that the Holy Spirit distributes the different types of gifts "to each one individually as He wills" (1 Cor. 12:11, NKJV) proves that all of them are necessary.

Here's what I think is an example of the spiritual gift of faith in action,

Matthew 16:15-17 KJV

[15] He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? [16] And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. [17] And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

THE GODHEAD

1 Corinthians 12:4 KJV

Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same **Spirit**.

V4 This is a key statement. **Why?**

The greek word is *diairesis*, meaning diversity or varieties or even categories. In

other words, there's lots of gifts available, but only one Holy Spirit! And they all originate from Him. We'll see more of that in vs 7

**In vs 4-6 the Godhead is clearly seen.
Same as we see it here,**

Ephesians 4:3-7 KJV

[3] endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. [4] There is one body, and **one Spirit**, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; [5] **one Lord**, one faith, one baptism, [6] **one God and Father** of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. [7] But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

And to Paul, was integral with the spiritual gifts discussion.

V5 Jesus Christ is the *Lord*

1 Corinthians 12:5 KJV

And there are differences of administrations, but the same **Lord**.

Again, differences are mentioned,

Greek *diakoniōn* meaning ministries.
Different ministries but the same Lord Jesus.

V6 Same God, that's God the Father

1 Corinthians 12:6 KJV

And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same **God** which worketh all in all.

Vs 7 Greek word is *phanerosis* meaning an expression or manifestation. Which means to make something visible, to be revealed.

1 Corinthians 12:7 KJV

But the **manifestation of the Spirit** is given to every man to profit withal.

Withal.. everyone at the same time.

Manifestation of the Spirit.. an expression of who He is, or rather the Holy Spirit revealing himself to us through the abilities He gives us. So once again, as in so many places in the new testament, the Holy Spirit is given clear attributes of a **divine Person**. More than just the spirit of the Father or Son. If He is *not* a Person, why would God seek to confuse us like this, or make it difficult to understand?

Matthew 12.31-32

Matthew 28:19 KJV

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

1 John 5:7 KJV

For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

reward is with Him, and His work before Him. And they shall call them, The holy people, The redeemed of the Lord: and thou shalt be called, Sought out, A city not forsaken." Isaiah 62:10-12.

In the great closing work we shall meet with perplexities that we know not how to deal with; but let us not forget that the three great powers of heaven are working, that a divine hand is on the wheel, and that God will bring His promises to pass. He will gather from the world a people who will serve Him in righteousness.

"The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the three holy dignitaries of heaven, have declared that they will strengthen men to overcome the powers of darkness. All the facilities of heaven are pledged to those who by their baptismal vows have entered into a covenant with God."—5 Bible Commentary, 1110. (Manuscript 92,1901).

1 Corinthians 12

⁴ Now there are diversities of **gifts**, but the same Spirit. ⁵ And there are differences of **administrations**, but the same Lord. ⁶ And there are diversities of **operations**, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

Different Greek words are used for each of these diversities, each meaning something slightly different, therefore approaching the doctrine of spiritual gifts from different angles,

Gifts, *charisma*

Services, *diakonia*

Ministries, *energēma*

To me, Paul is teaching that the church reflects the diversity of the Godhead, the interconnectivity of the triune God. *And* speaks to God's **purpose and plans** for his people. We are, afterall, His children (1 Jn

3.1) so we will be like Him. Paul is saying "just as there is a multitude of ministries within the church to fulfill our mission, there is just as many *spiritual gifts* to accomplish those ministries and services that the church needs to do. God provides completely!

AND it's comforting to know that we don't have to figure out the ministries OR the gifts. **The Holy Spirit does it for us!** They are called "gifts" for a reason.

Monday

August 3

Unity through Diversity

The language of oneness introduced in [1 Corinthians 12:4-6](#) ("the same Spirit," "the same Lord," and "the same God") is developed in the rest of [1 Corinthians 12](#). This is evidenced by Paul's use of phrases such as "one and the same Spirit" ([1 Cor. 12:11](#), NKJV), "the body is one" ([1 Cor. 12:12](#)), "one body" ([1 Cor. 12:12-13, 20](#)), "one Spirit" ([1 Cor. 12:13](#) [two times]), and "the same care for one another" ([1 Cor. 12:25](#), NKJV).

Alongside the concept of unity, Paul highlights the diversity of members in the body of Christ through such expressions as "many members" ([1 Cor. 12:12, 20](#)), "we were all baptized" ([1 Cor. 12:13](#), NKJV), "not one member but many" ([1 Cor. 12:14](#), NKJV), "the whole body" ([1 Cor. 12:17](#)), "each one of them" ([1 Cor. 12:18](#), NKJV), "members of the body" ([1 Cor. 12:22-23](#)), and "all the members" ([1 Cor. 12:26](#)). This emphasis on both unity and diversity indicates that spiritual gifts aim to promote **unity through diversity**.

This unity amid diversity must reflect the character of God. The Father is one person, the Son is another person, and the Holy Spirit another. The three maintain their individualities while working together to edify the church and empower it for mission ([1 Cor. 12:4-6](#), [Eph. 4:11-13](#)).

Read [1 Corinthians 12:12-31](#). Why is the analogy of a body with its many parts appropriate to represent the church and its members?

The truth is the Godhead itself reflects unity through diversity. And so do God's children, His church on earth.

As I point out in my Remnant series, the Seventh-day Adventist world church is the **most diverse denomination**, representing hundreds of different cultures worldwide.

✦ AI Overview

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According to the Pew Research Center, the **Seventh-day Adventist Church** is the most racially and ethnically diverse religious denomination in the United States.  Ministry M...

1 Corinthians 12:12 KJV

For as the body is **one**, and hath many members, and all the members of that **one** body, being many, are **one** body: so also is Christ.

 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

There's two ways to look at the Church,

≡ ○ An army with a mission!

≡ ○ Just a place to go once a week

That is the difference between the Hot and the Lukewarm. The wheat and the tares.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol 5

By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left. 2 Corinthians 6:7.

The church of Christ may be fitly compared to an army. The life of every soldier is one of toil, hardship, and danger. On every hand are vigilant foes, led on by the prince of the powers of darkness, who never slumbers and never deserts his post. Whenever a Christian is off his guard, this powerful adversary makes a sudden and violent attack. Unless the members of the church are active and vigilant, they will be overcome by his devices.

The Master calls for gospel workers. Who will respond? All who enter the army are not to be generals, captains, sergeants, or even corporals. All have not the care and responsibility of leaders. There is hard work of other kinds to be done. Some must dig trenches and build fortifications, some are to stand as sentinels, some to carry messages. While there are but few officers, it requires many soldiers to form the rank and file of the army, yet its success depends upon the fidelity of every soldier....