

# Presents of the Holy Spirit

## Cultivator

*1 Corinthians 12:7-11*

### Participant's Guide

We all love to receive presents. The excitement of a birthday party or the joy of Christmas day resonate with memories of favorite gifts we have received or that we have given to others. The Holy Spirit was a present to us that keeps on giving. Let's examine the gifts that can be ours through the Holy Spirit.

#### The Obvious

If a newspaper reporter were to look at the story of gift-giving by the Holy Spirit, there would be specific questions that must be answered. Read 1 Corinthians 12 verses 7 and 11.

Let's clarify some of the language used. In verse 7 the word used for spiritual gift or manifestation in Greek carries the additional meanings of to be obvious, make apparent, and exhibit. The word used for help or common good in Greek implies advantage and be better for. In verse 11 the Greek word translated as distribute includes the idea of separate, private, and divided. The word used in this verse for decide or determine also means to will, intend, or purpose.



- Who is giving and who is receiving?
- What is being given (manifested) and to whom?
- Why is it being given?
- How is it being given (distributed)?

## The Connections

Every believer has the Holy Spirit working within them and has access to spiritual gifts. The Holy Spirit has a specific purpose and perfect timing when he gives gifts to believers. The wisdom of the Holy Spirit in deciding when and where to distribute these spiritual gifts tells us something very important about our role in this world and in our church.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:8-10. Notice that some gifts are grouped together.

- In verse 8, the phrase give wise advice or give a message of wisdom can also be translated from the Greek as speak or communicate (*logos*) wisdom (*sophia*). The word knowledge comes from the Greek, *gnosis*, which means knowledge or science. How are knowledge and wisdom connected? Can you have one without the other? Why would they be given to different people?
- C.R. Swindoll says “there is something about the Holy Spirit’s presence that provides you and me with an innate knowledge, an inner awareness.” Is Swindoll talking about the gifts of knowledge or wisdom mentioned in verse 8, or is he referring to something else?
- In verse 9, the word used for “great faith” is *pistis*, which also means conviction, truthfulness, and assurance. What is the connection between faith and healing? (Hint: read the story in Acts 3:1-16, also Luke 8:48 and Luke 18:42) Why would these gifts be given to different people and not together?
- In the first half of verse 10, Paul mentions the gifts of performing miracles, prophesying, and discernment. The Greek word for discernment is *diakrino* which means to distinguish or separate thoroughly using judicial estimation. Why might it be critical to have a person with the gift of discernment around when someone is performing miracles or prophesying? Why wouldn’t discernment be given to the miracle worker or the prophet? Why does the church need all three?
- In the second half of verse 10 the two gifts of speaking in unknown or different kinds of (Greek word means diverse) languages or tongues and interpreting what is being said are grouped together. Note that the Greek word used here is *glossa* which translates as tongue or language. Why wouldn’t speaking a language and translating that language be given to the same people? Read 1 Corinthians 14:1-25 to get Paul’s perspective on speaking in an unknown language to a group of people. How might his view give guidance to a missionary, pastor, or prophet? How might you use this advice when you share the gospel with an unbeliever? Does culture impact language usage and interpretation?

- Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31. Why is it necessary that Christians work together with their diverse gifts?
- How does an attitude of prayer help believers to find and use their gifts?
- Our benediction includes the words “fellowship of the Holy Spirit.” We are to be in fellowship with the Holy Spirit and also in fellowship with each other. What would you suggest to someone who said that they don’t need to be connected to others to practice their faith? What would you say to someone who said they don’t need to be connected to the Holy Spirit to demonstrate their faith?

## The Fruit

When we are filled with the Holy Spirit we are given gifts. Those gifts when used to God’s glory allow us to develop the fruit of the Spirit.

Read Galatians 5:22-23.

- List the fruits of the Spirit:
- 
- What would the life of a person who exhibited all of these fruits look like? Who in your life models these characteristics well?
  - Notice that all the fruits of the Spirit are characteristics of Jesus. Describe a time in the gospels where Jesus modeled one of these fruits for his disciples.
  - How are you showing the fruits of the Spirit in your life? Share with your group what has helped you grow into a person with the ability to reflect these fruits as Christ did.
  - C.C. Ryrie states that, “Spiritual power is not necessarily or usually the miraculous or spectacular, but rather the consistent exhibition of the characteristics of the Lord Jesus in the believer’s life.” What is the connection between the power of the Holy Spirit, the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and the fruits of the Holy Spirit?



## Personal Reflection

Think about what you have learned about the gifts of the Spirit in this lesson. Which of the gifts mentioned do you think you have? How can you use that gift to give glory to God? What other gifts of the Spirit would be complementary to your gift? Do the people around you have gifts that will enhance the work of the church? Look around at the members of your growth group, your church family, and your acquaintances to see if they are blessed with spiritual gifts that are overlooked.

- Who might have the gift of **knowledge**? Have you ever been in conversation with someone when a fact comes to mind that enlightens the discussion? Can you name a person who knows where to look in the Bible for a specific verse or topic? Does anyone have insight into the culture or the language of the Bible that clarifies the meanings of some passages?
- Who might have the gift of **wisdom**? Does someone you know often pinpoint the truth in difficult passages? Can you name a person who can take a multi-layered discussion and simplify the central focus of the Biblical lesson? When embroiled in a complicated discussion has a new thought ever been revealed that resolves the confusion?
- Who might have the gift of **faith**? Does anyone you know seem so anchored in their faith that they bring a sense of peace to your group? Is there someone who is so confident in their walk with Christ that they provide support for your journey of faith? Are the prayers of a person you know so moving that they give you a sense of purpose and comfort?
- Who might have the gift of **healing**? Who do you know that is able to soothe the emotional pain of another person with their words? Is there anyone in your life who has been called to provide a ministry of healing as a career? Can you name someone whose prayers seem to result in mental, physical, or spiritual healing?
- Who might have the gift of **miracles**? Is there someone you know who has a knack for finding the right solution or compromise in sticky situations? Does a friend seem to solve the unsolvable problems in their life in a gracious and righteous way? Do you know anyone who prays for commonplace things like lost items or open parking spaces and always finds them?
- Who might have the gift of **prophecy**? Have you heard someone speak the word of God in a way that moved others? Does anyone you know have the ability to explain Biblical teachings simply and clearly to others? Is there someone who sees a direction, consequence, or path that others have missed?

- Who might have the gift of **discernment**? Name a person with the ability to clearly evaluate situations better than most? Does someone notice the rightness or wrongness of people, organizations, or decisions that others seem to miss? Who do you know that is able to actively listen to others and draw out the important details and clarify their message?
- Who might have the gift of **tongues**? Does anyone in your life speak several languages or learn new languages easily? Can someone in your circle speak to people of different cultural or class backgrounds in a way that makes them feel welcomed and loved? Is there someone you know that speaks or prays in the spiritual language called tongues?
- Who might have the gift of **interpretation**? Can a person you know translate another language including sign language or reading lips? Who has the ability to listen to people of different social, cultural or ethnic backgrounds and help them find resources or navigate bureaucratic roadblocks? Does anyone you know have the ability to interpret the heavenly language of tongues?

## Resources

### Books

- Brand, Draper, England, ed., *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary* (Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers, 2003)
- Gregory, S.W and Gregory, D. *Getting to Know the Holy Spirit: Study Guide* (Evansville: Vortex Publishing, 2017)
- Ryrie, Charles C. *The Holy Spirit* (Chicago: Moody Publishing, 1997)
- Strong, James, *The New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance Of the Bible* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1996)
- Swindoll, Charles R. *Flying Closer to the Flame* (Dallas: Zondervan Publishing House, 1993)

### Online

- <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/browse/search?query=Holy%20Spirit>
- <https://bible.knowing-jesus.com> (search on "Holy Spirit + prayer")
- [www.enduringword.com](http://www.enduringword.com)
- [www.bible-history.com](http://www.bible-history.com)

Devotional Plans connected to this lesson from YouVersion Bible app

- Everyday Discernment by Tim Ferrara
- All Things are Possible by Joyce Meyer
- The Holy Spirit Today by John Siebeling
- 5 Questions About Speaking in Tongues by Sam Storms