

Grace Bible Fellowship  
Distinctive – Every Believer Equipped and Contributing

Key verse – Ephesians 4:11-12

*"It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up"*

There are several passages in the New Testament devoted to spiritual gifts. The key passages are:

Ephesians 4:7-13

1 Cor 12:1-11

1 Peter 4:7-11

Split the Sunday School class into 3 groups. Each group gets one of these passages.

**Ephesians 4:7-13**

7But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. 8This is why it[a] says:

"When he ascended on high,  
he led captives in his train

and gave gifts to men."[b] 9(What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions[c]? 10He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) 11It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

**1 Corinthians 12:1-11**

1Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant. 2You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. 3Therefore I tell you 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.

4There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.

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

**1 Peter 4:7-11**

7The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. 8Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 9Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 11If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Who has a spiritual gift? (Every Christian)

1 Cor 12:7

7Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good

Ephesians 4:7

7But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.

1 Peter 4:7

10Each one should use whatever gift he has received

When do Christians receive their gifts? (at salvation)

Ephesians 4:8

8This is why it[a] says:

"When he ascended on high,  
he led captives in his train  
and gave gifts to men.

How do you get your spiritual gift? (They are given sovereignly by God)

1 Cor 12:11

11All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

Do Christians have to use their gifts? (Yes, we are commanded to use them.)

1 Peter 4:10

10Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 11If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

What should our attitude be when using our gifts?

use them faithfully.

Seriously (speaking the very words of God)

With God's strength

Romans 12:3-8

3For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. 4Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5so in Christ we who are many form one body, **and each member belongs to all the others**. 6We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, **let him** use it in proportion to his[b]faith. 7If it is serving, **let him** serve; if it is teaching, **let him** teach; 8if it is encouraging, **let him** encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, **let him** give generously; if it is leadership, **let him** govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, **let him** do it cheerfully.

What are spiritual gifts for? (They are for serving others and building up the church. They are to be used in the local church)

Ephesians 4:12

**12**to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be **built up** **13**until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

1 Cor 12:7

**7**Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given **for the common good**.

1 Peter 4:10

**10**Each one should use whatever gift he has received **to serve others**, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

This is God's model for how the church should be run. The focus of the church should be on building up individual Christians so that they can do the work of the church. For example, evangelism.

They are not given for selfish purposes. (Simon the sorcerer in Acts 8)

1 Cor 12:31.

But eagerly desire the greater gifts. And now I will show you the most excellent way.

1 Cor 13.

Love...

1 Cor 14:1

**1**Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy

What are my spiritual gifts: teaching, encouraging, serving. Talk about my personal experience serving in the BCBSG.

1 Timothy 3:13

Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.

What are your spiritual gifts? How do you find out what they are? Start serving!