

Discussion questions

- a.** What is the most meaningful present you have ever received? What made it so special?
- b.** Which spiritual gifts have you seen others handle with maturity? What did you learn from this?
- c.** What talents have you been blessed with? How are you using your talents to help others? Are you able to use them in the church?
- d.** Which spiritual gifts are you “*eagerly desiring*”, and why?
- e.** Since every Christian has a “*ministry*”, do you know what yours is? If you do, how are you developing your ministry? If you don’t, then how might you discover it?
- f.** How can you encourage “*interdependence*” in the church?
- g.** Have you seen gifts used without love? What happened? Have you experienced love without gifts? What happened?
- h.** Can you think of people who exhibit the fruit of the Spirit? How are these fruit manifested? What do you find challenging or attractive?
- i.** Which of the fruit do you see in your own life, and which ones do you need to work on? How are you going to grow those fruit?

1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 31; 14:1

- ¹ Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be ignorant.
- ² You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to dumb 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- ³¹ Now eagerly desire the greater gifts. And yet I will show you the most excellent way.

14:1 Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy.

Galatians 5:22-23

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

“Equipping the saints – spiritual gifts and spiritual fruit”

The Corinthian church was immature and ignorant, v1

Don't glamorise the gifts, see them as tools to complete the job

“The kingdom of God is not a matter of talk, but of power”,
1 Corinthians 4:20

a. “Gifts”, v4

One-off as needed

b. “Service”, v5

Submit your talent/s to Jesus, give it/them back to Him
Then invite the Spirit to supernaturally enhance it/them

c. “Working”, v6 – ministry

A healthy church encourages ***“Every member ministry”***

Temptations

Every Christian receives gifts, *“for the common good”*, v7

Natural gifts, talents and abilities

Supernatural gifts, vv8-10

How do we receive spiritual gifts, and use them with maturity?

1. Know and ask the Father, Luke 11:13

2. Unearned and undeserved

3. The gifts can be taken away

Determined by the Holy Spirit, v11 – who is a Person, *“He”*

1. The gifts will never contradict the Bible

2. The gifts will always glorify the Lord

3. The gifts will always point to Jesus

4. The gifts are only effective in the Spirit's power

5. The gifts will always edify the Church

6. The gifts will always enhance the gifts of other Christians

Interdependence

A gift reveals the character of the giver and the receiver

Spiritual gifts are **not** a sign of spiritual maturity

Maturity necessitates love, 12:31b & chapter 13

“Eagerly desire”, 14:1 – ***“to long for with all your guts”***

Faith

Spiritual fruit of maturity, Galatians 5:22-23

Singular – produce all the fruit

Takes time, right conditions and perseverance

Can be faked

Grown through *“opposites”*