

The Spirit, The Body, and the Gifts: The Gifts  
1 Corinthians 12:1-11

**I. The Big Picture**

**A. Answered Questions**

1. God's intent is to fill all creation with the knowledge of His glory
  - a. **Habakkuk 2:14 (ESV) *For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.***
  - b. God's ongoing mission
2. How God works in human history to accomplish this purpose
  - a. Redemption
  - b. Renewal
    - (1) **2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV) *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.***
    - (2) Through the new birth God gives
      - (a) New life
      - (b) New heart
      - (c) New spirit
  - c. **God accomplishes his purpose in human history by saving and creating a people for Himself who will know Him, love Him, and reveal His glory to the world.**

**B. How will God fill the earth with His glory through the people He saves and creates for Himself?**

1. Ezekiel
  - a. **Ezekiel 11:19-20 (ESV) *19 And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, 20 that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them.***
  - b. **Ezekiel 36:22-38 (v. 26-27)**
    - (1) What God will do: make you new
    - (2) Why will God do it?
      - (a) v. 22 For the sake of my holy name
      - (b) v. 23 And the nations will know that I am the LORD, when through you I will vindicate my holiness before their eyes.
      - (c) v. 36 Then the nations that are left all around you shall know that I am the LORD
      - (d) v. 38 Then they will know that I am the LORD
2. How will God fill the earth with the knowledge of His glory through the people He saves and creates for Himself?
  - a. **Ezekiel 36:26-27 (ESV) <sup>26</sup> *And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.* <sup>27</sup> *And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes***

*and be careful to obey my rules.*

- (1) By salvation: new heart, new spirit
- (2) By sanctification
  - (a) MY Spirit in You
  - (b) Cause YOU to walk in MY ways
- b. How will God fill the earth with the knowledge of His glory through the people He saves and creates for Himself?
  - (1) By filling them with Himself and glorifying Himself in and through their lives

## II. How, exactly, does God glorify Himself in and through the lives of His people?

### A. The God-glorifying work of the Holy Spirit (concurrent activities)

#### 1. Sanctification

- a. The ongoing, lifelong work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a redeemed believer by which God gradually restores His image in the believer
- b. The fruit of the Spirit
  - (1) **Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV)** <sup>22</sup> *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,* <sup>23</sup> *gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*
  - (2) Every believer who is filled with the Holy Spirit as a result of genuine, redeeming faith in Jesus Christ will display each and all of these attributes of God in increasing measure as they surrender themselves faithfully to God through the course of their lives
    - (a) The fruit of the Spirit develop and ripen over time through the seasons of life.
    - (b) The increasing and maturing fruit of the Spirit are THE evidence of being filled with the Spirit
- c. The fruit of the Spirit are attributes of God Himself developed in the life of the believer through the ongoing work of the indwelling Spirit of God.
  - (1) The fruit of the Spirit in the life of a believer draws attention to the real character, the glory, of God
  - (2) **Matthew 5:16 (ESV)** *In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*

#### 2. Service

- a. The ongoing work of the Spirit in the life of a redeemed believer by which God supernaturally empowers that believer for their God-ordained role in the church to the glory of God.
- b. The Gifts of the Spirit
  - (1) **Spiritual empowerments unique to each Christian, bestowed at conversion, that enable the believer to fully, powerfully, and actively participate in God's mission to**

**fill the earth with the knowledge of His glory.**

- (2) Spiritual gifts are God's answer to this question: How can I do what Christ asks of me?
- (a) Christ commands: Love one another
  - (b) Christ commissions: Go and make disciples
  - (c) Christ encourages:
    - i) **Acts 1:8 (ESV) *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.***
    - ii) The Spirit will come
    - iii) And you will receive power
  - (d) Through spiritual gifts, God the Holy Spirit enables every believer to fulfill Christ's command and commission.
- (3) Spiritual Gifts are related to but differ from natural talents in four essential ways
- (a) Natural talents result of physical birth; spiritual gifts are result of the new birth
  - (b) Natural talents are distributed among human beings regardless of divine election; spiritual gifts are given only to the elect who come by faith to Christ for salvation
  - (c) Natural talents may succeed for the one who possesses them with no God-glorifying result; spiritual gifts only succeed through the Spirit with God glorifying results
  - (d) Natural talents may or may not bring edify believers and bring glory to God; spiritual gifts exist to edify the church and bring glory to God.

**B. Conclusion**

1. God's works in human history to fill creation with the knowledge of His glory by saving and creating a people through whom He will glorify Himself in the world.
2. God fills every genuinely redeemed believer with His Spirit
3. The Spirit works in every genuinely redeemed believer to sanctify their hearts and to enable their service.
4. **Every believer has the responsibility to identify and practice their spiritual gift for the glory of God.**