

The Spirit, the Body, and the Gifts: Manifestations and the Common Good  
1 Corinthians 12:4-11 (7)

**I. Seven Questions Regarding Spiritual Gifts**

**A. A Seven Questions**

1. What is a spiritual gift?
2. Why tell us there are varieties of gifts?
3. What does “manifestation of the Spirit” mean?
4. What is the common good God accomplishes with spiritual gifts?
5. What gifts has God appointed here at Cornerstone?
6. What role does love play in spiritual gifts?
7. What does edification of the church mean and why is it the primary goal of spiritual gifts?

**B. Previous answers**

1. A spiritual gift is any supernatural enabling from the Holy Spirit according to God’s will for every believer upon conversion that empowers them to further the knowledge of the glory of Lord through their service to the church.
2. Varieties of Gifts
  - a. Every believer has some gift
  - b. Not every believer has the same gifts
  - c. Some believers with the same gifts will use them in different ways.
  - d. No single gift can be exalted over others
  - e. God
    - (1) brings unity by diversity by being the single source and determiner of every gift
    - (2) sets His glory as the ultimate purpose for every gift

**II. Questions Three and Four: Manifestations and the Common Good.**

**A. Manifestations**

1. What does “Manifestation of the Spirit” mean?
  - a. Example
    - (1) **Romans 1:19-20 (ESV) <sup>19</sup> For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup> For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.**
    - (2) Spiritual gifts are the manifestation of the real presence of God’s Holy Spirit by which He makes Himself known to and through believers
    - (3) “All that the Spirit produces in the mind (life) of the believer is a manifestation of his character and work, in the same way as the works of God in the visible creation are a manifestation of His perfections.”
  - b. Definition

- (1) Manifestation is the opposite of hidden or private
  - (2) Spiritual gifts are never given to be hidden or used privately only, but to put the Holy Spirit on display for the good of the church, the glory of the Lord, and the salvation of the lost.
2. How does the Holy Spirit Manifest His Presence in a Person's Life?
- a. Through regeneration (salvation)
    - (1) John 3: You must be born again (regenerate)
    - (2) Regeneration by the Spirit through faith
    - (3) Regeneration is divine life imparted by God to spiritually dead hearts through the Holy Spirit
  - b. Through sanctification (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) The ongoing development of the character of Christ in the believer is a manifestation of the Spirit
  - c. Through edification (Comforter/Counselor)
    - (1) **John 14:25-26 (ESV)** <sup>25</sup> *“These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you.* <sup>26</sup> *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.*
    - (2) As you learn, understand, love, and apply the teachings of Jesus in your life, you manifest Christ, and you do so through the Holy Spirit present in your life.
  - d. Through manifestation (spiritual gifts)
    - (1) **1 Corinthians 12:7 (ESV)** *To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*
    - (2) Divine enablings that have the power to bring glory to God, to exalt the worthiness of Christ, to multiply joy among the church, and open the door of redeeming faith to the world.
3. **Spiritual gifts are an integral part of God's active strategy to make His glory known through the lives of those He redeems from slavery to sin and death!**

## **B. Common Good**

1. God divides His gifts among believers so there will be no divisions among believers
2. Five Intended Effects on the Church (MacArthur + 1)
  - a. Spiritual gifts, implemented faithfully, unite the body.
    - (1) Bring the church together in faith
    - (2) Bring the church together in service
      - (a) Wholehearted service of God in all His glory
      - (b) Wholehearted service in love for God's people

- b. Spiritual gifts encourage both the one who engages the gift and the one who receives the ministry of the gift
- c. Spiritual gifts provide a powerful, unified witness to the real presence and purpose of God in the fellowship
- d. Spiritual gifts assist in identifying spiritual ministry leaders in the church
- e. Spiritual gifts, properly exercised, sanctify the experience of the congregation in unity, joy, fellowship, and love

3. Implications

- a. Not “Do I want to exercise my gift?” but “How does the body **need** me to exercise my gift?”
  - (1) “A Christian who does not exercise his spiritual gift cripples his own ministry and the ministry of others—to say nothing of forfeiting the blessing and reward that would have come to his own life.”
  - (2) True Christian faith is both personal and social, individual and corporate.
- b. The Christian church, when it is fulfilling its God intended ministry in the world, rallies around both salvation and service.
  - (1) The real glory of the Lord shines most accurately in the church when both conditions are fully realized.
  - (2) The church where salvation is not followed by service is as defective as the church where service does not involve salvation.
  - (3) In God’s church, sin and selfishness are rejected; service is adopted. This is the Spirit-filled, Spirit-gifted church.