

God of Wonder:
Living a Wonder-Filled Life

1 Corinthians 12

Focus Scripture

- 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
- Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, 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 mute idols. 3 Therefore 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.
- 4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are
- different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different
- kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.

- Cont.
- 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 the message of wisdom, to another the 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 gives them to each one, just as he determines.

Living as “Spiritual Persons”

- • V1: “Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.”
- • “Spiritual Gifts” : pneumatikos - one who is spiritual
- • “means a person dominated by the Holy Spirit, in contrast to a natural or soulish person”
- • Alternate Translation: “Spiritual Persons”

It Changes EVERYTHING

- Living the Spiritual Life changes our perspective!
- Problems become Opportunities
- Hardship becomes Exercise
- Philippians 4:12,13

“I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.”

Gifts -> Service -> Works

v4-6: “There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.”

- Gifts: *chárisma* - A gift of grace, an undeserved benefit
- Service: *diakonía* - Service towards a master or guest
- Works: *enérge̅ma* - the results of the energy of God in the believer

For the Common Good

- v7: “Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.”
- Manifestation: making visible, apparent
- Common Good: to be profitable, advantageous, to bring together for the benefit of another
- The SPIRITUAL LIFE is a life of SERVICE producing WORKS
- It is SERVING THROUGH OUR CHALLENGES we find God’s Grace most active

Examples of Gifts

- v 8-10: Paul's List of Examples:
- Message of Wisdom, Message of Knowledge, Faith
- Healing, Miraculous Powers, Prophecy
- Discerning of spirits, Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues
- These are Only Examples! The Spirit moves in countless ways

Everyone is Included

- v11: “All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.”
- Each One: EVERYONE IS INCLUDED
- ALL His Gifts are available to ALL
- You have access to everything in the Spirit!

4 Keys to Living a Wonder-Filled Life

1) Practice, Practice, Practice

- Giant Myth: Spiritual Gifts come in a Mature Form
- 1 Corinthians 14:1
“Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy.”
- We are CHARGED to practice the gifts given by God
- Proficiency Requires Practice - It is what the Church is for!

2) Exercise Your Gift of Tongues

- The 1 gift that is for US - It Builds us UP in Our FAITH
- Jude 20

But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.

- 1 Corinthians 14:2-5, 14,15

2 For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit. 3 But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort. 4 He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. 5 I would like every one of you to speak in tongues... 14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. 15 So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind.

Tongues (Cont.)

- Intercession For When We Don't Know What to Pray
- Romans 8:26-28

26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will. 28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

- Tongues: Our WILL silences our MIND so our SPIRIT can be ACTIVATED

3) Exercise Your Faith

- Faith is your SPIRITUAL MUSCLE, it is EXERCISED THROUGH
- Activation of your Gifts
- Walking Through Life's Hardships & Challenge
- Faith is a free GIFT OF HOLY SPIRIT
- It is never a question of WHY are we going through something but of WHAT does God want us to do / learn through it!

4) Constantly Serve Others

- The Spiritual Life is a Life DEDICATED TO LOVING OTHERS
- 1 Corinthians 13:1-3
If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.
- Our Joy and Fulfillment comes through LOVING OTHERS - it is how we are wired!!

Conclusion

- You are SUPERNATURAL
- You are destined to live a WONDER-FILLED life
- By choosing to live as a “Spiritual Person” exercising the gifts of Holy Spirit, you (1) experience His Power, and (2) Witness His Greatness
- All while having the privilege of loving and serving others!