

CHRISTIANS ARE "GIFTED"

1 Corinthians 12

(Not entirely original by me)

Introduction: Christians are members of God's family and God intends for His children to be active for Him so He has given spiritual "gifts" to them. Sadly, however, many Christians don't have any idea what gift God has given to them. Every Christian needs to know what his/her gift is and get busy using it/them as God intends. Christians are indeed "gifted."

I. GOD'S SPIRITUAL GIFTS DEFINED

1. The gift God gives a Christian is completely different from a talent for non-Christians have talent but what God gives is an act of grace and is bestowed only upon a person when he/she is saved.
 - God gives a spiritual gift to the believer in Jesus for the purpose of using that give in his/her life to serve God in that "gifted" special way.
 - The gift God gives is not to be used for one's on satisfaction but to serve other Christians as they jointly serve their Lord, carrying out His will.
2. **"...But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He will.."** (v11). - Spiritual gifts are sovereignly (Godly) given.
 - Christians don't decide which gift they will have but God in His wisdom, chooses the exact gift for each believer and it is the believer's responsibility to put it into practice.
 - Nowhere is a Christian to beg, plead and ask for a particular gift. **"...But covet earnestly the best gifts..."**
 - A spiritual gift is a sovereignly bestowed gift that God gives a believer in order for him/her to serve the body (other Christians) of Christ.
 - Christians are not to covet or be jealous of the gift that someone else has for each person is given a unique gift that God, Himself, selected.
 - **1 Corinthians 12:12-13**
3. Some may ask about being "baptized in the Holy Spirit." If a person has been saved, then that person has been baptized in the Spirit for every believer is baptized into one body.
 - When baptized into the Spirit one receives a supernatural, gift of salvation - gifted, child of God.
4. **"...If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling?..."** (v17)
 - Every Christian has been gifted differently by God and those differences need to be appreciated for each needs the other, just as the different parts of the human body need and depend on each other.
 - God made us different so that as children of His family, Christians could be "one" and depend upon each other. That is one of the things that makes God's family (Church) unique.
 - No Christian can do what God wants without sharing his/her gift and depending upon the gifts of his/her Christian brothers and sisters.

II. THE VARIOUS KINDS OF GIFTS GOD GIVES

1. *"...For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom..." (v8)* - Wisdom, not common sense, but a supernatural ability to counsel with others guided by the wisdom of God.
2. *"...To another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit..." (v8)* - Does not mean that a person with this gift knows everything but it is knowledge of things that one could not otherwise know apart from the special gift of the Spirit.
 - Remember Peter knowing about Ananias and Sapphira lying about how much money they got from the sale of their property? (Acts 5)
3. *"...To another faith by the same Spirit..." (v9)* - All believers have faith, but this special gift of faith is the kind that can move mountains (**13:2**). A believer with the gift of faith regularly sees God work in miraculous ways.
4. *"...To another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit..." (v9)* - There are all kinds of healing - physical, mental, spiritual and God can heal through medicines, surgery, etc., but God can heal miraculously due to the prayers of His people and some of His children have been given the gift of being able to heal others.
5. There is the gift of miracles (**v10** - Jesus did all kinds of miracles when He was here on earth yet people still rejected Him, in spite of all the miracles He did. A study of miracles will reveal that they usually come in groups, such as at creation, the ministries of Elijah and Elisha, during the ministry of the Lord Jesus and then during the ministry of the Apostles in getting the Church going.
6. There is the gift of prophecy. The ability to foretell and forthtell.
 - Foretelling was being able to tell the future and some prophets could do that.
 - Forthtelling is being able to tell the truth in order to lift up and encourage other Christians.
 - *"...He that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, exhortation, and comfort.." (14:3).*
 - The believer with this gift edifies, builds people up, exhorts, fires people up, comforts and shores people up. Preachers need this gift today.
7. There is the gift of a discerning Spirit. (**v10**) - Our world is filled with demonic, lying, deceitful spirits and someone with the gift of discernment can know what is holy and good and what is false and of Satan.
8. The gift of tongues (**v10**) - is in much debate today. This gift is the supernatural ability to praise God in a language one has not learned. On the day of Pentecost this happened.
 - The Bible reminds believers that tongues are not a "sign" to God's people, but a sign to unbelievers, as a way of convincing them to believe in Jesus.
9. The gift of the interpretation of tongues is the ability to translate those tongues just mentioned.
 - A Christian with this gift would be able to supernaturally understand a language and translate the words for the rest of those hearing.
10. There is the spiritual gift of ministry (**Romans 12:7**) - Which is often referred to as the gift of service.
 - A much needed gift for God's Church needs many workers within the Church.
11. There is the gift of teaching (**Romans 12**) - Which is the ability to help others learn things and the gift of being able to "fire others up."
12. There is the gift of giving (**Romans 12**) - Which is the ability to make and sacrificially give to support the ministry of the Gospel.
13. There is the gift of ruling (**Romans 12**) - Which is the ability to administrate difficult, complex tasks.
14. Then there is the gift of mercy (**Romans 12**) - Which is the ability to share the love and concern of Jesus with others, such as visiting, counseling and working in care centers .

III. USING GOD'S SPIRITUAL GIFT

1. Christians must remember that Jesus is Lord and that they are to present their bodies as a living sacrifice to Him. ***"...Be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God..." (v2)***
- To find the right place to use the gift God has given, then one must present him/herself to God.
2. Christians must also practice stewardship. As God has GIVEN a gift, the Christian is to be a good steward of it by putting it into practice in his/her daily life.
3. Christians must then remember that they are a part of a family, a fellowship and that they are to share their gift. ***"...For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office; so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us..." (Romans 12:4-6)***

CONCLUSION:

1. Christians are specially gifted by God, Himself, with God's own choice of gift through the Holy Spirit.
2. Every Christian has a different gift and therefore his/her gift is to be used in conjunction with the gifts of his/her fellow Christian brothers and sisters to carry out God's plans.
3. Christians are to not be jealous of the gift that somebody else has.
4. Christians are to find their gift and let it be a part of their everyday life.
5. Christian, do you know what gift God has given especially to you? If so, are you using it as He wants you to? If you don't know what your gift is, find out and then use it as you should.