

## THE HOLY SPIRIT AND SPIRITUAL GIFTS

### 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

*<sup>1</sup>Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. <sup>2</sup>You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led.*

*<sup>3</sup>Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit.*

*<sup>4</sup>Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup>and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup>and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. <sup>7</sup>To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup>For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup>All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.”*

(1 Corinthians 12:1–11)

#### INTRODUCTION:

Do you struggle to believe that all the gifts of the Spirit are valid and operative today? If so, what are the reasons for this?

What are some reasons why people might be afraid of spiritual gifts and the presence of the Spirit? How can we allow this Scripture passage to address those fears?

#### DISCUSS:

- 1. From this passage and from the sermon, Paul uses different terms to describe spiritual gifts (see also 1 Peter 4:10-11). What does this tell you about the nature and purpose of the spiritual gifts?**

2. What evidence is there in this passage (and in the rest of the New Testament), that God intends for all Christians to operate in spiritual gifts?

3. Why should the presence of abuse/excess in the church when it comes to the exercise of spiritual gifts not dissuade us from pursuing the gifts? What steps can we take to prevent the abuse of spiritual gifts? (See also 1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

4. From the description of spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, why do you think Paul encourages the believers to “eagerly desire the spiritual gifts” (1 Corinthians 14:1)?

**PRAY:**

5. What spiritual gift(s) do you presently not have but wish you did? Why do you wish you had those gifts? What should you do in pursuit of these gifts?

Share and bring your desires for these gifts to the Lord in prayer.