

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – September 19, 2021

Theme: The Person & Work of the Holy Spirit **Topic:** The Holy Spirit gives us spiritual gifts

Main Text: 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11; Ephesians 4:7-16

Key verse: 1 Cor 12:11 – “*But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.*” (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: The giving of gift is something we are so familiar with and enjoy. We love to receive gifts and to give gifts. This love for gift-giving is only a reflection of the Triune God who created us. In Luke 11:13, Jesus Christ told us how much better God is at giving gifts, even to the point of giving His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit also has the gift-giving nature, as God. So, one of the important ministries of the Holy Spirit among believers is the bestowal of spiritual gifts. These spiritual gifts are not to be confused with natural abilities (talents). Christians and non-Christians may have natural abilities, spiritual gifts are given by the Holy Spirit. Also, spiritual gifts given by the Holy Spirit are not to be confused with the ‘spirits’ which moved us when we were not yet saved. (1 Corinthians 12:2-3). Rather spiritual gifts are related to the special purpose of God in calling them and saving them. Ephesians 2:10, tells us that we are “*created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*”

1. **Read Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10; Ephesians 4:11 (a) What are the spiritual gifts listed in those passages? (b) What can we learn about spiritual gifts from 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 11? (c) Is it possible for an individual to possess and exercise all the spiritual gifts needed by that church to be effective in the worship and service of God (see 1 Corinthians 12:20 -31)?**

Spiritual gifts are vital to the Church. That is why Apostle Paul opened his discussion on the subject with “*Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant*” (1 Corinthians 12:1). The Church is described as the body of Christ. Just as the human body has many members with different functions, so individual Christians forming the body of Christ are likened to the parts of the body. And “*just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ’s body.*” (Romans 12:4-5). Spiritual gifts are God’s provision to equip His children for Ministry “in ways beyond mere human capability and ingenuity”. God has given gifts to the Body of Christ to manifest His presence among us, to remind us of our dependence upon one another and thus build unity in the Church, to edify the Church individually and corporately, and to reach the unsaved. All the needs cannot be met unless the Body of Christ is thriving, practicing our gifts in love.

2. **(a) According to Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:7; 14:12; Ephesians 4:12-16, what are some other reasons for the Holy Spirit bestowal of spiritual gifts on believers? (b) According to Romans 12:7-8, what are the expectations of God from the Christian believer He has given the gift of the Holy Spirit to? (c) What can happen when believers are ignorant of their specific spiritual gift(s) and or fails to exercise such gift?**

We have said that spiritual gifts are divinely given capacities. And because they are divinely given, they enable mere mortals do extraordinary things, especially because the work of God is beyond what can be accomplished by mere natural abilities. In Acts 8:14-24, we get a glimpse of both sides of spiritual gifts: Apostle Peter was enabled to perform some extraordinary act to edify the young Church in Samaria. This caught the attention of Simon, one of the new believers. And he wanted to be given such ability and was ready to pay for it. But as 1 Corinthians 12:11 tells us, the Holy Spirit is the One who determines who gets what gift(s) and distributes them to each one the way He wants. They are to be used for the benefit of others, and in a sense they are granted to the church more than they are given to individuals. And because they are freely given by God, spiritual gifts cannot be earned or merited.

3. **(a) What does Acts 8:14-24 teach us about a wrong attitude or motivation for the exercise of spiritual gifts? (b) What are some wrong and right ways to exercise one’s spiritual gifts? See Romans 12:3-8. (c) How can you advise a Christian who says she or he has no spiritual gifts?**

Prayer: *Father in Heaven, thank You for the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Help me to discover the spiritual gifts You have bestowed on me. And may I use such gift for Your service and to Your glory. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*