

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – November 13, 2022

Theme: The world eagerly awaits your manifestation **Topic:** Manifesting the gifts of the Spirit

Main Text: 1 Corinthians 12:1-29

Key verse: 1 Cor. 12:7 – ‘*But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:*’ (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: On the Day of Pentecost, the manifestation of the gifts of the Spirit amazed as well as confused many (Acts 2:12-13). Decades later, the matter of spiritual gifts continues to mystify many. And God says ‘... *concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant.*’ (1 Corinthians 12:1). **Charismata** (or Charis) is the Greek word which is translated as **gifts**. It means “grace” or “divinely bestowed talent.” And **diakonia** – meaning “service”, “servant” or “ministry”. Spiritual gifts, therefore, are enablements which God freely bestows on believers through the Holy Spirit for His service or ministry. As with all gifts from God, spiritual gifts are not earned or merited by any individual. ‘... *The Spirit decides what to give each one*’ (1 Corinthians 12:11b ERV). The evidence of these gifts in any individual is not a proof of his or her *spirituality*, rather it is how these gifts are used by the individual in the service of God that shows the *spirituality* of the believer.

1. (a) From Ephesians 4:11-13, what is God’s purpose for bestowing spiritual gifts on believers? (b) Since the Holy Spirit decides who gets what spiritual gifts, what should our attitude be towards spiritual gifts, ours, and those of others? (c) Two key terms which give meaning to spiritual gifts are grace (divine enablement) and service. How should these terms define or guide our use of the gifts of the Spirit? See also 1 Peter 4:10-11

1 Corinthians 12:4-6 tells us that the gifts of the Spirit are **many** and **diverse** and are bestowed by God as He pleases. Bible scholars are all in agreement that the spiritual gifts listed in the Epistles may not be exhaustive. The gifts are probably as *many* and *varied* as the needs of the Church are. Like our key verse says, ‘*But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all*’ (1 Corinthians 12:7 NKJV). The key word in this verse is the word ‘**manifestation**.’ The Greek word translated as ‘**manifestation**’ is the word ‘**phanerosis**’, which means ‘expression.’ What this means is that a manifestation of the Spirit occurs when the Holy Spirit, who is invisible decides to make Himself visible, decides to express Himself to or through a believer. The implication of this is that there’s no “small” or “big” spiritual gift, no **higher** or **lesser** spiritual gift. All are expressions of the same Holy Spirit!

2. (a) In 1 Corinthians 12:11-26, God uses the different part of the body to illustrate the various spiritual gifts in the Body of Christ. From that analogy, how do you see the diverse gifts of the Spirit complementing each other? (b) If spiritual gifts are meant to complement each other, what happens when a believer fails to manifest his/her spiritual gift? (c) 1 Corinthians 12:28 speaks of the gift of helps and of administration. What is a practical way such a gift can be expressed for the good of the rest of the body?

God has given each one of us a spiritual gift (1 Corinthians 12:7). This means that we all have a role to play in the Body of Christ. Some of us are feet of Christ when we cross over to speak to a Church member we haven’t seen in a while. Others are the mouth of Christ when we evangelize or teach God’s word. Sometimes, the gifts are situational and designed to meet specific needs of the brethren. So, God gives believers the freedom to diligently seek these gifts, but he pointed out that there is “*the most excellent way*” (1 Corinthians 12:31). And in our zeal for spiritual gifts, the admonition is to seek those gifts which edify the body of Christ (1 Cor. 14:12). The gifts were not given for showmanship nor for self-exaltation – they were bestowed for the building of the body of Christ until His bride is ready for His return.

3. (a) Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3. What is the measure of spiritual gifts properly or improperly used? (b) 1 Corinthians 14:12 speaks of gifts which build up the Church. What are some of those gifts? How do the often-sought-after gifts align with this injunction? (c) What key lesson have you learnt from today’s study and how are you going to apply it?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, when You ascended to heaven, You distributed gifts to us. Help me to identify my gift(s) and help me to use the gift(s) in edifying Your body. In Your precious Name I pray.