

May 10, 2015



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks  
Baptist Church  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**  
We can't all play the same part in God's band of service, but we should all play in harmony

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:**  
Lord, lead me today as You see best. Use the gifts You have given me to encourage others on their journey. Help me not to compare myself with others but to be content with who You have made me to be.

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**  
And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. (John 8:46 NKJV)  
*(From "Our Daily Bread", Nov 2, 2013)*

**Series: THE SPIRIT COMES**

**UNIT: One in the Bond  
of Love**

**NEXT WEEK**

**Special Lesson from  
Bro. Jose Cisneros**

## Gifts of the Spirit

1 Cor 12:1-11

**Aim and Application of the Lesson**

The lesson teaches us about and how to use the **Gifts of the Spirit**. The **study's aim** is to know that God bestows on each Christian spiritual gifts to benefit the Church's ministry. The **study's application** is to show how each Christian should identify and employ his spiritual gift or gifts in church ministry.

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

**Lesson Introduction and Background**

All Christians possess gifts from God. We all have the Holy Spirit living in us. He empowers us to live the Christian life and to have fellowship with God. We all have other gifts and talents as well, and these too are given to us by God. Some people naturally pick up musical instruments or singing. They are good without much practice and can be great with practice. This is a gift. Others who do not have this natural musical gift might be able to become good, but it will take a lot of effort. Every Christian also has a spiritual gift, a special ability for service that is given by the Holy Spirit. Whatever the nature of our gift, we should be ready to use it for the building up of the body of Christ. Whether or not we are engaged in ministry for which we are paid is not important. The important thing is that we use our gift for the common good. The common good certainly relates to the church but might also apply to the world at large. Scripture is clear that we are to use our gifts. It is not necessary to wait for some mystical experience or a "calling" experience. We have a God-given ability, and we should use that ability for the building up of God's kingdom. It might take some time to learn what your spiritual gift is. For some people it is very obvious, but for others it is not so obvious. We can take tests and surveys that people have created, and they might give us some idea. The best indicator of our spiritual gift, however, is whatever it is we are good at and enjoy doing. Natural talents and abilities are different from spiritual gifts. They too come from God, however. It is good to use all one's resources, natural, spiritual, and physical, for the betterment of the world and the building up of the kingdom of God. First we need to discover what our spiritual gift is, and then we need to find out where God wants to plug us in. It may not be in the institutional church. There are many things that need to be done inside the church, but there are just as many that need to be done outside the church. We might not even use our spiritual gift primarily in a religious activity as such. The gift of encouragement could be employed at work for the common good. This is an effective witnessing tool, and it could lead to further opportunities to share the gospel. As salt and light in the world, we should do whatever we can for the betterment of society as a whole (cf. Matt. 5:13-16). Whatever we do for God, whether it is a religious activity or not, brings glory to God; and that is a good thing. Paul wrote, "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31). Another important point to realize is that all gifts and talents are important. Often the more visible ones get attention, but other abilities are just as necessary. As Paul wrote, "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ" (1 Cor. 12:12).

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **NEED FOR THE GIFTS (1 COR 12:1-3)**

#### *To bring knowledge (1)*

Knowledge from the enrichment of God (1 Cor 1:5)

Knowledge from the light of God in our hearts (2 Cor 4:6)

Knowledge of insight to discern what is best and pure (Phil 1:9-11)

Knowledge of the mystery of God (Col 2:2-3)

Knowledge that is renewed by God (Col 3:9-10)

#### *To confess Jesus as Lord (2-3)*

Confession that is revealed by God (Matt 16:15-17)

Confession prompted by the truth from the Holy Spirit (John 15:26)

Confession that acknowledges Jesus is God (1 John 4:2)

Confession to the glory of God (Phil 2:10-11)

### **SOURCE OF THE GIFTS (1 COR 12:4-6)**

#### *From God the Holy Spirit (4)*

The gifts are of the Holy Spirit (Hebrews 2:4)

The gifts are part of the ministry of the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:8)

The gifts of the Holy Spirit always build up the Church (1 Cor 14:12)

#### *From God the Son (5)*

Jesus apportions the gift of grace (Eph 4:7-8)

Jesus gives different gifts but from a single source (Rom 12:5-6)

Jesus superior ministry gives superior gifts (Heb 8:4-6)

#### *From God the Father (6)*

God gives perfect gifts (James 1:17)

God gives the gift of eternal life (Rom 6:23)

God gives the gift of grace (Eph 2:8)

God's gifts are irrevocable (Rom 11:29)

God testifies by the giving of gifts (Heb 2:4)

### **DIVERSITY AND UNITY OF GIFTS (1 COR 12:7-10)**

#### *Diversity for the profit of all (7)*

Profit by building up the Church (1 Cor 14:12)

Profit by strengthening the Church (1 Cor 14:26)

Profit by serving others (1 Peter 4:10)

Profit by preparing others for works of service (Eph 4:11-12)

#### *Diversity for the different needs required (8-10)*

Needs that are met by utilizing whatever gifts God has provided as best as possible (Rom 12:7-8)

Needs that are met by service and sharing (2 Cor 9:12-13)

Needs that are met by profitable speech (Eph 4:29)

Needs that are met by meeting physical needs (James 2:15-17)

Needs that are met by loving others (1 John 3:16-18)

#### *Unity through the Holy Spirit's distribution (11)*

Distribution provided by God (John 3:27)

Distribution as God pleases and no one has a right to question it (Daniel 4:35)

Distribution according to God's purpose (Ephesians 1:11)