

## Now Concerning Spiritual Gifts

### The PURPOSE of the CHURCH:

#### **Ephesians 3: 10-11:**

“His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, <sup>11</sup> according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord”.

#### **Grudem states: Threefold:**

- Ministry to God – Worship
- Ministry to Believers – Nurture
- Ministry to the world – Evangelism & Mercy

### The Church is His people:

“But Saul began to destroy the **church**. Going from **house to house**, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison.” (Acts 8:3)

“In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit”. Eph 2:21f-22

### His Church is to be built up:

“to build up God’s people for works of service..” (Eph 4:12).

See above – Eph 2:21-22.

**We must ask: does this contribute to God’s redemptive plan?**

### The PURPOSE of the GIFTS:

**The SYNERGY and CO-DEPENDENCE of the Body:**

“For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> **so in Christ we, though many, form one body**, and **each member belongs to all the others**. <sup>6</sup> We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us”. (Romans 12:4-6f).

**The COMMON GOOD:**

“Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the **common good**”. (1 Cor 12:7).

**The EQUIPPING, BUILDING UP, UNITY and MATURING of the Body:**

“So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to **equip** his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be **built up** <sup>13</sup> until we all reach **unity** in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become **mature**, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ”. (Eph 4:11-13).

**The Gift “Inventory”:**

<b>Romans 12: 6-8</b>	<b>1 Cor 12: 8- 10</b>	<b>1 Cor 12: 28</b>	<b>Ephesians 4: 11-12</b>	<b>1 Peter 4: 10-11</b>
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Prophecy	Wisdom	Apostles	Apostles	Preaching
Serving	Knowledge	Prophets	Prophets	Service
Teaching	Faith	Teachers	Evangelists	
Encouraging	Healing	Miracles	Pastors & teachers	
Giving	Miraculous powers	Healing		
Leadership	Prophecy	Helps		
Mercy	Distinguishing Spirits	Admin		
	Tongues	Tongues		
	Interpretation			

**Notes:**

- No one list is exhaustive
- The order of the gifts vary – no priority
- A mix of natural & supernatural gifts
- It is the same God who works in all of them (1 Cor 12:4-6)

**Gifts – their use & definition:**

**Knowledge gifts/roles:** Prophecy, Wisdom, Evangelists, Corporate tongues/interpretation, distinguishing spirits

**Equipping/building gifts/roles:** Teaching, Leadership, Preaching, faith

**Service/Ministry gifts/roles:** Serving, encouraging, giving, mercy, healing, miraculous powers, helps, admin, tongues (praying in the Spirit)

**Exercise 1:**

The Corinthians grossly abused and overemphasised Prophecy & Tongues (so Paul deals specifically with these in ch14) – as they did

not have the complete New Testament – why might gifts of knowledge have been important to the ‘young church’?

As we have the scriptures today that are complete in themselves for teaching etc – what impact might this have on the original prophetic and instructional gifts (prophesy/corporate tongues)?

What is the problem or danger of suggesting that the **entire** spiritual gift inventory is redundant for today’s church?

What is the overall purpose of such (1 Cor 12:7)?

### **Exercise 2:**

Discuss the inventory in your groups and feed-back – what experiences (good or bad) have folk had in these particular areas?

Read Eph 6:10-20

Another term for praying in tongues (suggesting a unique time with the Lord) is ‘in the Spirit’ (1 Cor 14:16, Rev 1:10, Rom 8:26)

Why might ‘praying in the Spirit’ (Eph 6:18) be just as important in the Church’s battle today? Is the ‘armour’ Paul speaks of redundant?

### **Exercise 3:**

Paul gives us three important points to keep in mind on these matters: What are they?

- 1) 1 Cor 12:7 (what the gifts are for)
- 2) 1 Cor 12:11, 18 (their issue and control)
- 3) 1 Cor 12:31 (what our attitude to them should be)

How might we now seek to pray with regards fulfilling our part/role in His church?

Pray in your group – be as open as you feel able.