



WEEK 25

2ND SEMESTER · DISCIPLESHIP & SERVICE

The Gifts of the Spirit

Grace gifts for the common good of the body

SPIRITUAL THEME

The Gifts of the Spirit

PERSONAL THEME

**Encouraging gift-oriented
ministry in the church**

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Personal Theme: Encouraging Gift-Oriented Ministry in the Church**MAIN IDEA**

By the end of this lesson, the students should understand that spiritual gifts are gracious gifts from God, given by the Holy Spirit, under the Lordship of Jesus, for the common good and the building up of the church.

1. Why This Lesson Matters

The topic of spiritual gifts can bring joy, but it can also bring confusion. Some believers are afraid of spiritual gifts because they have seen misuse. Others become excited about gifts but forget love, holiness, Scripture, and church order. In some places, spiritual gifts are treated like signs of personal greatness. A person may think, "If I have a visible gift, I am more spiritual." Another person may think, "If my gift is hidden, I am not important." Paul writes 1 Corinthians 12 to correct exactly this kind of thinking.

Spiritual gifts are not medals for important Christians. They are tools of grace for serving the body of Christ. The Holy Spirit gives gifts, but He does not give them so that believers can compete, boast, build their own names, or control others. He gives them so that the church may be strengthened and Jesus may be honored.

This lesson should help students become both open and discerning. We do not want a cold church where nobody expects the Spirit to work through God's people. We also do not want a confused church where every claim is accepted without testing. The biblical way is a Spirit-filled, Word-shaped, love-governed church where many members serve faithfully with the grace God has given.

2. Main Bible Passage: 1 Corinthians 12:4-13

Read the whole passage slowly. Ask the class to listen for repeated words: varieties, same Spirit, same Lord, same God, each, common good, one body.

"Now there are various kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are various kinds of service, and the same Lord. There are various kinds of workings, but the same God, who works all things in all. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the profit of all. For to one is given through the Spirit the word of wisdom, and to another the word of knowledge, according to the same Spirit; to another faith, by the same Spirit; and to another gifts of healings, by the same Spirit; and to another workings of miracles; and to another prophecy; and to another discerning of spirits; to another different kinds of languages; and to another the interpretation of languages. But the one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing to each one separately as he desires. For as the body is one, and has many members, and all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For in

one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether bond or free; and were all given to drink into one Spirit." (1 Corinthians 12:4-13)

Parallel passages for this lesson: Romans 12:6-8 and 1 Peter 4:10-11. Romans 12 shows different gifts according to grace. First Peter 4 shows that every believer should use the gift received as a steward of God's varied grace.

3. One God, Many Gifts

Paul begins with unity before he speaks about variety. There are various gifts, but the same Spirit. Various kinds of service, but the same Lord. Various workings, but the same God. This Trinitarian pattern is very important. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are not producing competition in the church. The one God gives many kinds of grace so that the one body may be built up.

The variety of gifts should lead to worship and cooperation, not pride and comparison. If the same God is at work, then one believer cannot despise another believer's gift. The teacher cannot despise the mercy worker. The singer cannot despise the person who serves food. The leader cannot despise the one who gives quietly. The church needs many gifts because the body has many needs.

Practical application: Students should stop asking, "Is my gift impressive?" and begin asking, "How can this gift serve the body?" A gift becomes healthy when it is submitted to God, practiced in love, and received by the church as help. A hidden gift may be deeply important. A public gift may be dangerous if the heart is proud. God measures faithfulness, not show.

4. For the Common Good

Verse 7 is the key sentence: "To each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the profit of all." The Spirit reveals His work through believers, but the purpose is not private glory. The purpose is the common good. This means spiritual gifts are not mainly about the gifted person. They are about God serving His people through that person.

The question is not, "How does my gift make me look?" The question is, "How does my gift help others follow Jesus?" This one question can correct many abuses. A person with a teaching gift should ask whether people understand Scripture and obey Christ. A person with a mercy gift should ask whether suffering people are comforted and strengthened. A person with a leadership gift should ask whether the church becomes more faithful and ordered for service. A person with a prophetic or speaking gift should ask whether the message is biblical, tested, Christ-centered, and edifying.

Application for Uganda: In churches where public ministry is highly honored, students must be trained to value the common good over public attention. A gift that gathers people around the servant is unhealthy. A gift that helps people trust Christ, repent of sin, love the church, and serve

others is healthy. The Spirit does not build little kingdoms around gifted personalities. He builds the body of Christ.

5. Sketchnote: Gifts Build the Body

Use the sketchnote as a teaching pause. Ask students to identify the central picture of one body with many members. Let them explain why "show" is crossed out and "common good" is highlighted. This will help them remember that gifts are not for competition but for service.

Sketchnote: The gifts of the Spirit are given for the common good.

6. The Spirit Gives as He Desires

Verse 11 says that the one and same Spirit distributes to each one separately as He desires. This sentence protects us from pride and from jealousy. A gift is not finally produced by human ambition. It is given by the sovereign Spirit. We can ask, grow, practice, and serve, but we do not own the Spirit. He remains Lord.

Because the Spirit gives gifts as He desires, no believer should boast and no believer should despair. If you have a visible gift, you did not create it by your greatness. Use it humbly. If your gift is hidden, you are not forgotten by God. Use it faithfully. The Spirit knows what the church needs, and He knows where each member should serve.

Practical application: Students should not chase gifts mainly because they want status. They should also not bury gifts because they fear people. A healthy prayer is: "Holy Spirit, give what You desire, develop what You have given, and make me faithful for the good of the church." This prayer puts desire, development, and humility together.

7. Romans 12: Gifts According to Grace

Romans 12 says that believers have gifts that differ according to the grace given to them. Paul names gifts such as prophecy, service, teaching, exhortation, giving, leadership, and mercy. Notice that the list includes both public and quiet forms of ministry. It is not only preaching or supernatural signs. Grace works through many kinds of service.

A gift is not only discovered by naming it; it is discovered and developed by serving. Many students want to know their gift quickly. But gifts often become clear over time. Serve in the church. Try helpful tasks. Listen to mature believers. Watch where there is fruit. Notice what builds others up. Accept correction. Keep learning. A gift grows best in humility and practice.

Application: A student who thinks he may have a teaching gift should prepare Scripture carefully and let leaders give feedback. A student with mercy should visit, listen, and comfort with wisdom. A student with giving should learn quiet generosity and financial honesty. A student with leadership should first become reliable in small responsibilities. A student with exhortation should learn to encourage with truth, not flattery. Every gift needs character.

8. First Peter 4: Stewards of God's Grace

Peter says, "As each has received a gift, use it in serving one another, as good managers of the grace of God in its various forms." This is a powerful sentence. Each believer has received something. Each believer should use it. The purpose is serving one another. The believer is a steward, not an owner. The gift is grace, not personal property.

A steward must be faithful with what belongs to another. The gift belongs to God. The people belong to God. The glory belongs to God. This makes ministry both joyful and serious. We do not need to pretend to be more gifted than we are. We also must not waste what God has entrusted to us.

Peter also says that whoever speaks should speak as the words of God, and whoever serves should serve with the strength God supplies, so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. This gives two simple categories: speaking gifts and serving gifts. Both must depend on God. Both must glorify Jesus. A sermon without dependence is empty. Practical service without dependence becomes tired and bitter. God supplies both truth and strength.

9. Love Governs Every Gift

In 1 Corinthians, chapter 12 leads directly into chapter 13. This is important. Paul does not allow the Corinthians to talk about gifts without love. A person may speak, know, give, or sacrifice, but without love it is nothing. Gifts can impress people for a moment, but love builds the church in a lasting way.

A gift without love may still be active, but it is not spiritually mature. The Spirit who gives gifts also produces fruit. Therefore, we must never separate gifts from character. A gifted but proud person can wound people. A gifted but impatient person can discourage the weak. A gifted but dishonest person can damage the name of Christ.

Practical application: Before using a gift, ask: Am I seeking the good of others? Am I patient with weaker believers? Am I willing to be corrected? Am I using Scripture rightly? Am I seeking God's glory or my own name? These questions are not meant to stop ministry. They are meant to purify ministry.

10. Practical Steps for Discovering and Developing Gifts

The class should leave with clear steps. Gift-oriented ministry is not chaos. It can be encouraged wisely.

- Pray and ask God to show how He wants you to serve.
- Start serving in real needs instead of waiting for a perfect platform.
- Ask mature leaders and believers what fruit they see in your life.
- Receive correction without becoming defensive.

- Develop skill through practice, study, prayer, and faithfulness.
- Keep your gift connected to love, Scripture, church order, and accountability.

Teachers can also help students by observing them in ministry practice. Who explains Scripture clearly? Who notices lonely people? Who serves faithfully without being pushed? Who can organize others without becoming proud? Who gives wisely? Who encourages discouraged believers? Who prays with faith and patience? Gifts become visible in real service.

11. Common Dangers to Correct

A healthy lesson must name dangers directly, but without creating fear. The goal is not to stop spiritual gifts. The goal is to protect them from misuse.

- Comparison: thinking my gift is less important because it is less visible.
- Pride: using a gift to become admired or untouchable.
- Neglect: burying a gift because of fear, laziness, or disappointment.
- Disorder: using a gift without love, testing, or submission to church leadership.
- Commercialization: using spiritual language or gifts to gain money, control, or special status.

The answer to misuse is not unbelief, but biblical correction. If someone misuses teaching, we do not stop teaching. We teach rightly. If someone misuses leadership, we do not reject leadership. We lead biblically. If someone misuses spiritual gifts, we do not reject the Spirit. We return to Scripture, love, order, humility, and the common good.

12. Main Application for the Students

The main application is this: every student should see himself or herself as a steward of grace. Do not wait until you have a title. Do not wait until you feel important. If you belong to Christ, ask how the Spirit wants to use you for the good of others. Start with the needs around you: teach one younger believer, encourage one discouraged person, help one family, pray for one sick person, serve one ministry team, give quietly, or help bring order where there is confusion.

A gift becomes mature when it is used humbly, tested biblically, developed faithfully, and offered for the good of the church. This week, each student should choose one practical act of service connected to a possible gift. Then he should ask a trusted leader or mature believer for honest feedback. This turns the lesson from theory into training.

The teacher should remind the students that all ministry is by grace. We are not trying to prove our worth. Christ has already loved us and saved us. We serve because we have received grace, not because we need to earn identity. This keeps gift-oriented ministry free from pride and fear.

13. Teacher Guidance: How to Encourage Gifts Without Confusion

The teacher should help students see that gift-oriented ministry needs both encouragement and guardrails. If leaders only warn about danger, students may become passive and afraid. If leaders only celebrate gifts without correction, students may become careless. A healthy church says both: "Use the gift God gave you" and "Use it under Scripture, love, order, and accountability."

Good leaders create space for gifts to grow, but they also create a safe environment where gifts are tested and corrected. For example, a student who may have a teaching gift can be allowed to teach a short devotion, then receive feedback. A student with mercy can be sent with another mature believer to visit the sick. A student with leadership can organize a small practical task before leading a larger team. A student with prayer and discernment can learn to pray humbly without making dramatic claims.

This is important in Bible school because many students are still learning. They need practice, correction, and encouragement. The classroom can become a training place where gifts are not only named, but shaped. The goal is not to produce performers. The goal is to produce servants who can bless the local church after they leave the school.

A practical weekly rhythm can help: first, teach the biblical truth; second, let students serve in small ways; third, let leaders observe fruit and character; fourth, give honest feedback; fifth, pray for growth. This rhythm keeps gifts connected to discipleship. A gifted person who refuses feedback is not ready for greater responsibility. A quiet person who serves faithfully may be more ready than he thinks.

14. Class Discussion Questions

1. Why does Paul begin with the same Spirit, same Lord, and same God?
2. What does "for the common good" mean in a local church?
3. Why is comparison dangerous when we speak about gifts?
4. How can a hidden gift be very important for the church?
5. What is the difference between using a gift and showing off?
6. What practical step can you take this week to serve with the grace God has given?

15. Group Exercise

Divide the students into groups. Give each group one church need. Let them name different gifts that could help meet that need, and how those gifts should be used with love and order.

- New believers need discipleship after an evangelism outreach.
- A poor family in the church needs help and encouragement.
- The youth group has energy but little Bible understanding.

- A church service has many visitors who feel unknown.
- Two ministry workers are discouraged and close to quitting.

After each group shares, ask the class: How would the common good be served? How would Jesus be honored? What dangers should be avoided?

16. Memory Statement

The gifts of the Spirit are grace gifts from God, given to different believers, for serving one another and building up the body of Christ in love.

17. Closing Prayer

Holy Spirit, thank You for giving gifts to the body of Christ. Forgive us for pride, comparison, fear, and misuse. Teach us to serve one another with the grace You have given. Help us discover and develop our gifts in humility, love, truth, and order. Build Your church through us, and let Jesus Christ receive all glory. Amen.

18. Source Note for the Teacher

The lesson is built mainly on 1 Corinthians 12:4–13, with Romans 12:6–8 and 1 Peter 4:10–11 as focused parallel passages. Exegetical and background notes were checked against NET Bible notes and standard evangelical resources on 1 Corinthians 12, spiritual gifts, and the body of Christ. The Bible text in the handout is from the World English Bible, public domain.