

**Life Group Notes**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

**Speaker:** Andy McCullough

**Title:** A Community of the Spirit: Spiritual Gifts

**Passage:** 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

In verse 1: spiritual gifts: pneumatika – spiritual things: (impersonal, powerful, esoteric, supernatural). In verse 4: gifts: charismata – grace things: (it seems that Paul has invented this word. Charis is grace or gift (undeserved, unmerited, given by a person: personal).

It seems that the Corinthians loved “spiritual things” and Paul here is bringing a major corrective: not spiritual things, grace things.

**Diversity and grace (verses 1-6)**

One of the major characteristics of Corinthian society was rivalry and competition for honour. The charismatic meeting is not just about the meeting, it’s a dynamic taste of a new society. John Chrysostom: “In that it has been granted to you to receive from the same source as the other... you have equal honour. So that even if there is a difference in the gift there remains no difference in the Giver.”

**Manifestation of the Spirit (verse 7)**

Manifestation means Outshining. Surfacing. The Holy Spirit is invisible but he coalesces through gifts. Michael Reeves: The life that the Spirit gives is not some abstract thing. In fact, it is not primarily some thing that he gives at all. The Spirit gives us his very self, that we might know and enjoy him and so enjoy his fellowship with the Father and the Son.

**The List (verses 8-11)**

This list is not comprehensive. Not “the 9 gifts of the spirit.” Examples of manifestation of the spirit in the gathered church context. In other lists Paul lists some of the same, some different. In all three lists in I Corinthians, tongues and interpretation are last, because Paul is intentionally demoting this gift. For the Corinthians it was the most important gift, but Paul is relativising it. Theoretically, any Spirit-filled believer could move in any of these gifts at any time. Verses 12:29-30 argue that we are a body and we need each other. So we do not teach that every believer should move in all of these gifts. However, we do teach that every believer could move in all of these gifts – so don’t ever discount yourself or disqualify yourself – come ready!

**Suggested questions:**

1. Was there anything that you don’t understand? Help one another to understand this important teaching.
2. Why is it important to emphasise that these are grace gifts (charismata)?
3. Have you ever experienced any of the spiritual gifts?
4. Is there any spiritual gift that you would love to experience? Can we pray for you?
5. How does a charismatic church meeting help to make a better world?
6. Pray for one another and expect spiritual gifts!