

Paul's wants believers everywhere to be informed. His hearts' desire is that those who profess Christ would also know him intimately. That is why he takes so much time and care to teach them (and us as we study) while he is personally with them and to write and answer their questions.

As we read the letters of Paul and grow in our walk of faith, we see that many of the questions, concerns and problems believers dealt with then are still problems for the church today. Why do you suppose that is? Could it be that we are not in God's word long enough to get it into our lives in a real transforming way? God longs for us to know him, to know his character, to get to know his ways in order to trust and obey and to live the abundant life he has planned for us.

John 10:10b "... I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

Pray and ask God to abundantly bless your time in his word this week. As you read this chapter highlight the facts you learn about Spiritual gifts. Who receives them? What is their source? What is their purpose? Does everyone receive the same gifts?

- 1. Read vs. 1-3 what were the Corinthians concerned about?**
- 2. What had their lives been like prior to salvation?**
- 3. Were you "led astray" into certain idol activities or habits before you accepted Christ?**
- 4. What is an idol?**
- 5. When we put our trust in Christ what are we given to mark that we are his? Underline the guarantee we have been given.**

- **Eph. 1:13-14** In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.
- **Romans 8:9** You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.
- **2 Cor. 1:21-22** And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, ²² and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee
- **2 Cor. 5:5** He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

Nelson’s Study Bible defines the term “guarantee” (Gr.-arrabon).

A business term that speaks of earnest money, a part of the purchase price paid in advance as a down payment. Arrabon is the first installment, which guarantees full possession when the whole is paid later. Sometimes this transaction was called “caution money,” “a pledge,” “a deposit,” “a guarantee.” Arrabon describes the Holy Spirit as the pledge of our future joys and bliss in heaven. The Holy Spirit gives us a foretaste or guarantee of things to come.

- 6. What does Paul state is the purpose of spiritual gifts? Vs. 7**
- 7. To whom does the Holy Spirit of God give these gifts? Vs. 11**
- 8. Read the verses below and write out in the margin what you learn from each concerning spiritual gifts.**

- **1 Cor. 12:4-11** Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of

tongues. ¹¹ All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

- **Romans 12: 4-8** For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.
- **1 Peter 4:7-11** The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. ⁸ Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹ Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹ whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

9. Again what is the purpose of the gifts we are given by the Holy Spirit? Do we have anything to boast or brag about?

10. In John 1:4 who do we see is our source of life?

“In him was life, and the life was the light of men.”

11. We are the body, the church.

Who is the head? Eph. 5:23 and 1 Cor. 11:3

12. The Holy Spirit is not given to the world in general but to _____.

13. I love the comparison to the body. Vs12 It makes it so much easier to picture. What does the presence of the Holy Spirit in us prove?

- 14. Verse 20 is a key theme throughout this letter. What is that theme?**
- 15. Read verses 25-26, what is your response when another believer is suffering?**
- 16. How do you respond when another is honored? Try to recall an example of each and briefly write it down.**
- 17. Paul asks a series of seven questions in verses 29-30; what is the answer?**
- 18. The body of Christ is diverse, according to God's sovereign design. Let's take a moment to read and ponder verse 31.**
- 19. Paul desires for us to know that all spiritual gifts are given by _____.**
- 20. What is God's intended purpose for these gifts?
_____.**
- 21. How does Paul's analogy of the body demonstrate both the unity and the diversity of the church?**
- 22. What does 1 Peter 4:10-11 teach concerning pride in our gifts?**
- 23. Based on what you have studied and any prior experiences you have had serving in the body of Christ, what gifts would you say you have been given?**
- 24. Often we do not say anything to others to express how their gifts have been a blessing to us. Find someone and**

express your gratitude; then tell them how their service for God has affected you.

- **Prov. 25:11** A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver.
- **Prov. 15:23** To make an apt answer is a joy to a man, and a word in season, how good it is!
- **Prov. 17:22a** A joyful heart is good medicine,...

The Life Application Bible comments on this verse, “to be cheerful is to be ready to greet others with a welcome, a word of encouragement, an enthusiasm for the task at hand, and a positive outlook on the future. Such people are as welcome as pain-relieving medicine.”

Verse 31 almost sounds contradictory when Paul says to earnestly desire the higher gifts. Believers are already perfectly gifted by God in the way that best suits them. Paul then says, I will show you a more excellent way, this is the way of contentment and harmony. We will see this “way of love” in the next chapter.