

SPIRITUAL GIFTS FOR THE CHURCH DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 CORINTHIANS 12

1 **What is your personal history with spiritual gifts?** Which word is more associated in your mind with spiritual gifts in each of the pairs below: chaos or order, personal or corporate, desire or avoid? ¹

♥ *What are some of the things we can miss if we do not have a healthy understanding of spiritual gifts?*

🗨 *The application of spiritual gifts is not usually a first-order doctrine issue. First-order doctrines are those issues that a person must believe in order to be a Christian, and a denial of them would represent the eventual denial of Christianity itself. Why do think that is an important distinction to remember as we consider this topic?*

⚙ *What are some strengths of the charismatic/third-wave movement and what are some weaknesses? In other words, if you don't come from a charismatic background, what can you learn from your brothers and sisters who do? And If you do come from a charismatic background, what can you learn from your brothers and sisters who don't? ²*

2 **How has 1 Corinthians 12 honed or changed your view of spiritual gifts and their use?**

⚙ *What gifts might easily get overlooked in the church, and what would it look like for us to honor and care for them instead? ³*

🗨 *How have you seen those gifts at work in those in your group or in individuals in our church?*

3 **Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-3.** Paul says that the most powerful thing the Spirit does in a person is bring them to an acknowledgement that Jesus Christ is Lord. Why is the Lordship of Christ so important when assessing genuine spirituality and spiritual gift expressions, and what does it look like when Christ's Lordship is given the proper priority?

⚙ *What does it look like in a church that attaches inferiority or superiority to people with particular spiritual gifts? How can we prevent that from happening?*

 How does a right view of the sovereignty of God over all the gifts help us think about them in a healthy way?

 Now think about your own heart. How is your own thinking and application of your God-given gifts been helped by remembering the sovereignty of God over all the gifts?

4 Does every Christian have a spiritual gift? How do you know? ⁴

 What do you think makes people feel united and meaningfully connected to the body, and what do you think makes people feel distant, unimportant, and left out? Do you feel like an important and needed part of the body, or an insignificant part?

 How have you seen people using their spiritual gifts in the church body? What kind of diversity of gifting have you already begun to notice in your community group?

 What do you think are some helpful and some not-so-helpful ways to discover our spiritual gifts?

5 Use the following questions to help apply 1 Corinthians 12 personally and practically. Which question is most impactful to you?

Are you aware of needing and being needed by the Christians around you?
Are you paying attention to how God uses your gift and others to build up the body?
Are you honoring the contributions of others?
Do you suffer with the suffering and rejoice with the honored?

 What would growth in these areas look like? And how can your group pray for you as you seek to take a next step toward a better understanding and use of the gifts God has given each member of His church? ⁵

¹ Schreiner, *Spiritual Gifts*, 5.

² Wilson, *1 Corinthians For You*, 140.

³ Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Wise: 1 Corinthians* (Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 1982), 147.

⁴ Schreiner, *Spiritual Gifts*, 14.

⁵ Life Change, *1 Corinthians* (Colorado Springs: NAV Press, 2014), 124.