

Spiritual Gifts

A study of I Corinthians 12-14

Spiritual gifts are gifts.

12:11 – Notice the verse:

* The Holy Spirit imparts the gift as he intends.

* The word “dividing” (KJV) fully suggests the recipient’s possession of the gift. (Lk. 15:12)

This means:

1 Spiritual gifts can be used at the discretion of the one gifted. It does not require prayer, preparation, practice, or even Spirit filling.

2 Spiritual gifts require responsibility.

Spiritual gifts are diverse.

12:12-27 – Context indicates the cooperation of many as a single entity.

* Church needs are (were) met by the cooperative exercise of each person’s gifts.

* The “menial” gifts in the church are actually the most honorable. (vs. 23)

It is important to note that Paul isn’t giving exhaustive lists of the gifts in his epistles. Context isn’t emphasizing the gifts themselves, but rather the unity we have with them.

Based on our study so far, how would you distinguish a *spiritual gift* from a *talent*? What about:

1 Running (e.g. Eric Liddell)

2 Cooking (e.g. Alton Brown)

3 Entrepreneurship (e.g. Rockefeller)