

When the topic of spiritual gifts pops up, it sets off a series of thoughts and emotions in people. What those thoughts and feelings are heavily depends on the background from which they came. There are those who will adamantly protest the teaching or learning about spiritual gifts. There are those who will say that spiritual gifts don't exist. There are those who believe some are for today, but others have disappeared with the apostolic age. There are those who want to dabble in all the spiritual gifts, especially the sign gifts. Then there are those who are confused by the whole mess and just want to ignore it.

Out of all these thoughts, feelings, and reactions, how should we approach this topic? Should it be ignored or avoided? I don't think so since God brings it up in four different New Testament books. Well, then maybe it should just be skipped over because we would not want to bring dissension into the body of Christ. Then why does Paul, inspired by God, say that we are not to be unaware concerning spiritual gifts (I Corinthians 12:1). I believe the church is in the poor condition it is in now because we don't understand the gifts and how those gifts are to be used within the body to cause the growth and strengthening of the church. So let's become aware of spiritual gifts.

At the mention of spiritual gifts, most people's minds seem to immediately jump to the gift of tongues. "Explain that to me!" they will say. We will treat the topic of tongues like we did the topic of the rapture in Revelation. This is where everyone wants to start, but this is where we will end. We need to look at what spiritual gifts are, and what their purpose is. We need to lay a solid foundation on which to build, so the first couple of weeks will be filled with discovering what the Bible has to say about spiritual gifts before we start looking at each individual gift.

So let's start in the Word of God and read the Scriptures that deal with this topic. We will start in the book of I Corinthians. Paul spent a large amount of time on this subject, so it must be important. Not only did he take three chapters to explain spiritual gifts, but in the middle of this teaching, he gives his famous discourse on love. Why did he do this? Why is this topic so important to him and how does love tie into all of this?

Whenever we start a new study, we have to take the time to do a thorough observation. Observation should take up the largest portion of your study times. It is with thorough observation that we begin to discover the correct interpretation and can then move into application for our lives. If we don't apply what we learn, there is really no reason to learn it. We have been so programmed

in our lives to get into a passage and immediately ask the question, “What does that mean?” When we don’t understand it the first or second time through, we are quick to go buy a book (or check the internet) that tells us what somebody else thinks that the passage means. We need to learn to slow down and give God time to reveal His Word to us as we immerse ourselves in the pages of Scripture. It is with repeated reading and taking the time to allow Scripture to interpret Scripture that God’s Word will begin to come alive to us.

I challenge you to approach this study by emptying your mind of anything you know about spiritual gifts. Put aside any teachings you may have had on the subject. Set aside your preconceived ideas of what the gift of tongues is and how it is used. Let’s allow the Bible to teach us and instruct us in all aspects in this matter. Let His Word say what He wants to say and not try to force our interpretation on it. I promise you that if you can do this, you will come away from this study with a whole new appreciation of what spiritual gifts are and how they are to be used within the body of Christ. Then together, we can be built into a spiritual house as the body of Christ and make an impact on our world.

Day 1

Before we begin our study, on I Corinthians, it is important to understand why Paul wrote this letter and how the letter is organized. I Corinthians chapters 1-6 are written to deal with problems within the church that had been reported to Paul. The last chapters of the letter (7-16) were written to address questions that the Corinthian church had for Paul. We see Paul addressing these issues in the phrase “now concerning . . .” In Chapters 12-14, Paul begins to address the issue of spiritual gifts. So before we even begin reading for this week, we need to understand that even the first churches struggled with this issue. Paul intends to clarify any misunderstandings.

1. Always begin your study time with prayer. Ask the Lord to reveal to you the mysteries of His Word. Ask for a quiet, teachable mind, that will allow time for God’s Word to speak for itself.
2. Although we are only going to focus on I Corinthians 12 this week, I would like you to read the whole passage on spiritual gifts. So read I Corinthians chapters 12-14 straight through. You are just getting an idea of the topics that Paul covers in these chapters.

3. Repetition is the key to understanding, so you are going to read through I Corinthians 12. This time you want to use the worksheets at the end of this lesson on pages 14-16. This is a worksheet, so please work on it! Write your answers, notes, questions, and observations on this sheet. It will become valuable to you later on. So as you read through this chapter and look for key words, contrasts, lists, etc. If you are not sure what that means, instructions on how to observe a passage can be found at the end of this lesson on pages 11-13. Please do not feel that you need to do a thorough observation today because you will be working on this passage all week. Just dive in and begin observing. If you are an overachiever type, please limit your time and give yourself 30-60 minutes and then call it a day. Have fun!

Day 2

1. Today you are going to read I Corinthians again with fresh eyes. Do you see more key words? More lists? As you read, make sure to ask yourself the 5 W's and H questions (who, what, where, when, why, and how). As you read Scripture, you need to train your mind to ask these questions. In doing so, you will begin to gain understanding from what you are reading. Here are some questions that you want to be asking and finding answers for in the text. Make sure to always indicate the chapter and verse from which you found your insights.
 - a. What is the topic of this chapter?
 - b. What is Paul's desire regarding this topic?
 - c. Who gives the gifts?

d. Who receives the gifts?

e. Why was the gift given?

f. When are the gifts given or received?

g. How are the gifts given?

h. What are the gifts mentioned in this chapter? List them.

i. What is the analogy used in this chapter. What are the gifts and their workings compared to? What do you think Paul is showing you by using this analogy?

Why does he use this example?

2. Spend the rest of your time today working on the observation worksheet for I Corinthians 12.

Day 4 and 5

1. Read through I Corinthians 12:4-6 and note the mention of the “Spirit,” the “Lord,” and “God.” Why do you think Paul refers to the Godhead in this way? All words in Scripture are important and are meant to convey a message. What message is Paul conveying?

2. The next two days are going to be spent in doing some word studies. Word studies are time consuming, but yet, so very important. They offer us a way to get the full meaning of a word. Certain languages, like Hebrew, Greek, and Navajo, tend to be very picturesque. They paint pictures with words. The English language is not like that. When we read Scripture in English, we sometimes lose the fullness of meaning and therefore miss some of the meaning of the passage.

If you have a Strong's Concordance or a Word Study New Testament you have the tools that you need for your word studies. If you don't have these tools, have no fear. I have included the Strong's number with each word. If you have access to the internet, you can simply type in Strong's G#5486 (the G is for Greek). When you hit enter, you will come up with options for Blue Letter Bible. Click on the site and begin your word study.

a. gifts - I Corinthians 12:4 - #G5486

b. spiritual(s) - I Corinthians 12:1 - #G4152

c. varieties (diversities, differences, KJV) - I Corinthians 12:4-6 - #G1243

d. distributing (dividing, KJV) - I Corinthians 12:11 - #G1244

e. ministries (administrations, KJV) - I Corinthians 12:5 - #G1248

f. effects (operations, KJV) - I Corinthians 12:6 - #G1755

g. manifestation - I Corinthians 12:7 - #G5321

h. works (worketh, KJV) - I Corinthians 12:11 - #G1754

i. individually (severally, KJV) - I Corinthians 12:11 - #G2398

j. divisions (schism, KJV) - I Corinthians 12:25 - #G4978

k. desire (covet, KJV) - I Corinthians 12:31 - #G2206

Observing a Chapter or Portion of Scripture

1. **PRAYER** - Always remember that prayer is the basis of your study! Lift this time to the Lord in prayer!
2. **CONTEXT** - Make sure that you keep that context in mind as you study each chapter. Let context rule! If you are studying a book, it is essential that you spend ample time studying the book as a whole to set the context for each chapter and section of the book.
3. **5W's AND H** - Learn to ask the 5 W's and H questions of the text. Who, what, where, when, why, and how. These are the basic questions to every study. Who is speaking and to whom? Why is he writing? What is happening in their lives? When was this taking place? What are the main points the author makes? You are not going to find answers to every question, but the answers to some of the questions may lead you to other questions to ask. Asking questions of the text keeps your mind focused and engaged in what you are reading!
4. **KEY WORDS** - Look for key, repeated words in this chapter or portion of Scripture. These are important words that help us to understand the author's intent or message. Make sure to mark references to Jesus, God, the Holy Spirit and any pronouns or synonyms that are used. Time references are also key words to most portions of Scripture. Time references can be words like *after, then, when, until, everlasting, beginning, end, etc.* They are used to show the timing of events or a sequence of events. I use a blue clock to mark my time references. You may also see a word or phrase that was not mentioned throughout the whole book, but is mentioned just in this chapter (they are key to this chapter), and if so, you want to mark those words as well.

5. **LISTS** - Now you might ask yourself, what do I do with all these key words. You are going to make lists. This is the most important step to this exercise because now is the time to question the text about these important topics. Use a separate paper, the margin of your worksheets, or your computer and begin listing what you learn about each key word. In Hebrews 1, you can start your list about Jesus like this

Jesus

1. 1:2 - *spoke to us in the last days*
2. 1:2 - *God appointed Him heir of all things*
3. 1:2 - *God created the world through Him*

6. **CONTRASTS, COMPARISONS, TERMS OF CONCLUSION** - Look for terms of contrasts, comparisons, and terms of conclusions. Since these don't necessarily stand out clearly to most people, let me give you a little help finding them.

- a. **CONTRASTS** - this holds one thing up and then shows you the other side.

Look for words like . . .

i. but, nevertheless, however

ii. Also things like light/dark, day/night, wicked/righteous

iii. Mark these in a distinctive way. I circle these words in a big red circle and then draw an arrow to the two things that are being contrasted. You may want to write these contrasts in the margins of your observation worksheets.

- b. **COMPARISONS** - this is just like something else. These are things that are similar or alike. Look for words like . . .

i. like, as, just as

ii. I use a lightning bolt in the side margin of my observation worksheets and I put the one comparison on one side and what it is like on the other.

- c. **TERMS OF CONCLUSION** - these indicate that the author is summarizing what he has said, drawing a conclusion to his thoughts, or the result of an action is being discussed. Look for words such as . . .

i. therefore, for, so that, for this reason

ii. I put these words in a green box and list the conclusions in the margin of my worksheets.

7. **MAJOR TEACHINGS** - looking for major characters, doctrines, events, actions. This will mostly be covered with key words and your key word lists. But now look at your chapter and see if there is something that you may have missed. Make a list of what you learned about the characters, doctrines, events, or actions. Don't forget to record chapter and verse on your list.

8. **CHAPTER THEME** - After studying this chapter, are you happy with your chapter theme or would you like to change it? If you can use words from a specific verse, that would be very helpful and go a long way in memorizing Scripture.

I Corinthians 12

1 Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware.

2 You know that when you were pagans, *you were* led astray to the mute idols, however you were led.

3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus is accursed”; and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.

4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.

5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord.

6 There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all *persons*.

7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

8 For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit;

9 to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,

10 and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another *various* kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues.

11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

12 For even as the body is one and *yet* has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.

13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

14 For the body is not one member, but many.

15 If the foot says, "Because I am not a hand, I am not *a part* of the body," it is not for this reason any the less *a part* of the body.

16 And if the ear says, "Because I am not an eye, I am not *a part* of the body," it is not for this reason any the less *a part* of the body.

17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?

18 But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired.

19 If they were all one member, where would the body be?

20 But now there are many members, but one body.

21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

22 On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary;

23 and those *members* of the body which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our less presentable members become much more presentable,

24 whereas our more presentable members have no need *of it*. But God has *so* composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that *member* which lacked,

25 so that there may be no division in the body, but *that* the members may have the same care for one another.

26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if *one* member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

27 Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.

28 And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, *various* kinds of tongues.

29 All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not *workers of* miracles, are they?

30 All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they?

31 But earnestly desire the greater gifts.

And I show you a still more excellent way.

Day 1

Last week you looked at one passage concerning spiritual gifts. There are three other major passages that we want to study to lay the foundation for this topic. This week we are going to cover two more. When you are told to do your observations, remember that steps to observation were given back in lesson one on pages 11-13. Make sure you go back to those and follow them step by step. Don't try to short cut this step. You are building your foundation. If you build a faulty foundation, the structure (your doctrinal understanding) will be defective.

The idea of studying the Bible is so we can know the words of God and then walk in them. Too many times we go to God's Word wanting to know it but not necessarily wanting to live it. Or we go to the Word and read it and get frustrated because we don't understand it. When we fall into either one of these categories, we need to stop and examine what we are doing and why. Are we putting our time in, doing our duty because we are supposed to be reading the Bible? Is it out of obligation? Or is our study motivated by a deep rooted love that we have for our Heavenly Father and His Son who willing shed His blood on our behalf? If you approach God's Word out of love for Him which we will be reading about today in Romans 12, then we need to be willing to slow down and give God time to speak to us as we seek understanding.

I challenge you to start this week off by reading I Corinthians 2:6-16. If we are truly seeking the ways of God, He will reveal them to us through His Spirit. Study well then, and allow the blessings of His Words to rule in your hearts and minds. Pray each day for Him to reveal truth to you.

1. Please read all the instructions for Day 1 before you begin. There is an observation worksheet in Romans 12:1-8 on page 23 of this lesson. We are going to take three days to go over this passage so as you work on your observations break up your work accordingly. It is better done over a couple days than trying to cram it all into one.
2. Let's set the context of Romans before you start. If you are someone who has studied Romans, you know that this is a very doctrinally heavy book, but what a wonderful study it is! As we look at the book as a whole, Paul takes the first 11 chapters to present the depravity of man, the message of salvation (how to be saved), the importance of sanctification (how we are to live), and God's sovereignty over all of this. Chapter 12 starts with the word "Therefore." When you see a "therefore" it is important to know what it is there for! It points back to all that Paul has said in the first 11 chapters. Since this is what God has done for you, this is

how you should respond to Him (chapters 12-16). So Romans 12 starts out with how to practically live out your salvation (past tense - justification). This “way” that we are to live is our sanctification (present tense - being set apart to God daily).

3. Read through Romans 12:1-8. Don't mark anything at this time, just read it.
4. As you observe these verses, make sure you look for and record main topics.
5. Begin your observations. Take your time and allow God to reveal truth to your heart.

Day 2

1. Read through Romans 12:1-8 again. It is very helpful to read it aloud.
2. Continue your observation worksheets.
3. Remember the 5 W's and H as you read.
 - a. What analogy does Paul use again?

 - b. Why does he use this analogy?

 - c. What are the gifts mentioned in this passage? List them.

d. How are the gifts to be exercised according to this passage?

e. How is a person to think of himself? Why do you think this is brought up in a conversation concerning spiritual gifts?

Day 3

1. Look carefully at Romans 12:1-2. Prayerfully work through these verses and record what these verses are saying. Starting today, work on memorizing these verses if you don't already have them memorized. If we can grasp the true meaning of what Paul is saying, these will become life-changing truths.

2. Begin your observations on this passage.
3. Don't forget your questions.
 - a. Who receives the gifts?

 - b. How are we to exercise those gifts?

 - c. Why are the gifts given?

 - d. Peter breaks up the gifts into two categories. What are those categories?

 - e. What instructions are given concerning the gifts?

Day 5

1. Read I Peter 4:7-11 again. How does the topic of spiritual gifts tie in with the rest of what Peter says in this passage?

2. If you need more time to finish your observations on this passage, take time to do that now.
3. What instructions does Peter give in this passage?
4. Do these instructions apply to you and if so how? Why?
5. Does this passage give any additional insights on spiritual gifts compared to the Romans 12 and I Corinthians 12-14?
6. Is there something new that you can take out of this study this week? An answer to a question? A better understanding of the topic? Questions that this all raises in your mind?

Romans 12

1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship.

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

3 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

4 For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function,

5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

6 Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, *each of us is to exercise them accordingly*: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith;

7 if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching;

8 or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

I Peter 4:7-11

7 The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober *spirit* for the purpose of prayer.

8 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

9 Be hospitable to one another without complaint.

10 As each one has received a *special* gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

11 Whoever speaks, *is to do so* as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves *is to do so* as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Day 1

We have one more passage to go. Ephesians 4:1-16 is the last passage we will look at concerning spiritual gifts. After this, we will begin looking at what each gift is and how it manifests itself in the church.

1. Do your observation worksheet on Ephesians 4:1-16. This is located on pages 33-34 at the end of this lesson. You will have three days to accomplish this, so pace yourself and give yourself enough time with this passage that God has the opportunity to speak to your heart.
2. Using your study tools (as explained in the word studies in Lesson 1), you are going to look up the word “gift” in Ephesians 4:7 and 4:8. They are two different words, even though in the English language they are translated the same. Let’s look these up and record what you learn.

a. gift - Ephesians 4:7 - #G1431

b. gift - Ephesians 4:8 - #G1390

Day 2

1. Read through Ephesians 4:1-16 again.
2. It is important to understand how Paul structured this letter so we understand why he brings up the topic of spiritual gifts here. In the first three chapters of Ephesians, Paul explains what we have in Christ. He shows us what Christ did for us and the spiritual richness we derive from being a child of God. In Ephesians 4-6 he starts with a “therefore,” just like in Romans, and begins telling us how we are to “walk.” If

Day 3

1. Spend a little more time to finish your observation worksheet.
2. There are four main gifts that are mentioned in this passage (some will consider pastor/teacher as one gift because of the Greek construction of the statement). Think about what this passage teaches and try to draw a picture or make a diagram showing how all this fits together. Just use the information from this passage. If you want to break up pastor/teacher, that is fine. Do what is comfortable for you. There is no right or wrong to this assignment. It is just a matter of your wrestling with the passage, making sense out of it for yourself, and being able to explain it to someone else. Just do your best.

Spiritual Gifts

Lesson 3

3. Look at the passage again. If you did not see this when you were doing your diagram in step 2, now is the time to make sure you understand this. What is the ultimate result of these gifts being exercised properly? What will happen within the body of Christ? Be thorough in your explanation. We are all called to be able to rightly handle the word of God, so we need to be able to explain this to someone who is questioning this!

4. We are going to take a moment at the end of this day to do a little soul searching. What have you learned about your place in the body of Christ and the importance of that role being carried out?

Day 4

It is time to take a look at all these passages together. We are going to do this in several ways. If it seems redundant, remember that repetition is the key to learning, and it is in the repetition that we correct any small mistakes we may have made while building our foundation. Build well!

1. Let's start with Peters way of categorizing the gifts. He divides the gifts into speaking gifts and serving gifts. Go through the list of gifts in I Corinthians 12, Romans 12, and Ephesians 4 listing each gift in its proper category.

Speaking Gifts	Serving Gifts

2. Now look at the repetition of the gifts. Fill in the chart below listing every gift mentioned (indicate the verse with it). If the same gift is mentioned in more than one passage, put that gift next to where it was in the other column. We want to see if it was repeated. I will help you by telling you that there are 19 gifts, and I started the chart for you.

	I Corinthians 12:8-10	I Corinthians 12:28-30	Romans 12:6-8	Ephesians 4:11
1.	word of wisdom (8)			
2.	word of knowledge (8)			
3.	faith (9)		faith (6)	
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				
15.				
16.				
17.				
18.				
19.				

3. Do you see any other way to categorize the gifts?

Day 5

1. Take the time to read through all four passages on spiritual gifts one more time. Read them aloud. It slows you down and makes you concentrate more on what you are reading.
2. Now take the time to answer these questions in your own words, like you were trying to explain them to someone else.
 - a. Why are the gifts given?
 - b. Who receives them?
 - c. How do they receive them?
 - d. When do they receive them?

Ephesians 4:1-16

1 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,

2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love,

3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling;

5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

8 Therefore it says,

“When He ascended on high,

He led captive a host of captives,

And He gave gifts to men.”

9 (Now this expression, “He ascended,” what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth?

10 He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.)

11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,

12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ,

16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

Have you ever seen a paralyzed body? Someone has sustained a traumatic blow and whatever damage has been done has caused the brain not to be able to communicate to the muscles, giving the body movement. The body parts are still there, but they are useless.

Paul has given us the analogy of a body in his discussions on spiritual gifts. We all have a body, so this is something that we can all relate to. Many of us have injured our bodies at one time or another, and we know the pain and the hardship of a body part not working properly. We also understand the importance of the head (our brain) running the body. When someone is considered “brain dead” the meaning is that the body has ceased to function on its own. Paul tells us that the head of the body (church) is Christ. Without Him, the body ceases to function. But what happens when certain members of the body aren’t functioning. An arm? A leg? An eye? The body can keep going, but it will not be able to do all that it was designed to do. Some body parts seem to be more important than others, but to have a functioning, healthy body all the members need to be doing their part.

The church is no different. All the members need to be functioning if the church is to be whole and healthy. The only way for that to happen is if each member understands his part (his gift) and fulfills that ministry. This is why Paul said that we were not to be unaware a spiritual gifts - they are a vital part to the functioning of a healthy church.

As Jim and I were preparing for full-time ministry, we were seeking where God would place us and what He wanted us to do. As we were questioning our place in God’s body, He brought a woman into our lives who changed our lives with one simple question. She turned to Jim and asked him, “What gives you energy?” What a profound question. “What gives you energy?”

As you begin to understand that God has placed the members into His body, you start to grasp that God made you a hand (or an eye, a foot, a liver) for a reason. If He has made you, and He has placed you, don’t you think He has equipped you to do the job you were meant to do? If you are doing what you have been designed to do, of course, it will give you energy. If you are doing something that you dislike, it saps your energy. It becomes drudgery. Walking in God’s way that He has prepared for you, doing what He has given for you to do in His power and strength, will ultimately give you energy! That is not to say that life will be easy, but it is amazing what can get done when we are working in God’s power instead of our own. If we are working in our own power, we are every bit as useless as those paralyzed limbs we discussed in the opening of this lesson, and we are the

ones that will be complaining because we are “burned out.” I don’t believe you can be burned out when you are walking in the will of God.

Day 1

We will take the next couple of weeks to look at the different gifts. As we do this, you may begin to see places where God may have gifted you. Prayerfully look at each of these gifts and seek the Lord as to where He has placed you.

The Gift of Apostleship

1. Using your study tools (as explained in the word studies in Lesson 1), look at the word apostle. Ephesian 4:11 says, “And He gave some as apostles . . .” Look up the Greek word for apostle using your study tools or the internet. Be careful when using the internet that you stick to the Greek meanings and don’t start reading what someone thinks it means to be an apostle.

apostle - Ephesians 4:11 - #G652

2. Let’s look at how this word is used throughout Scripture. Record anything you learn as you read these passages. Record who the apostle was, some of the characteristics you see, and warnings against false apostles and who we will know them. Always keep your verses in context which means that you may have to read the verses that come before or after the verses you are looking at.

a. Matthew 10:1-4

b. Acts 1:2-5, 15-26

c. Acts 2:43; 5:12; 6:2-4

d. Acts 14:12-15

e. Acts 16:4

f. Romans 16:7

g. I Corinthians 12:28-29

h. I Corinthians 9:1-5

i. II Corinthians 11:13-14

j. Galatians 1:1, 12-19

k. Ephesians 2:19-22

l. Ephesians 3:4-5

m. Ephesians 4:11-13

n. I Thessalonians 1:1; 2:6

o. Hebrews 2:1-4

p. Hebrews 3:1

q. II Peter 3:2

r. Revelation 2:2

s. Revelation 21:14

d. Romans 12:6

e. I Corinthians 12:10, 28-29

f. I Corinthians 13:2, 9-10

g. Ephesians 4:11-13

h. I John 4:1-3

i. Revelation 19:10

Day 4

1. In the very first lesson, you read I Corinthians 12-14. At that time we were looking just at the foundation on spiritual gifts, so we focused our attention on chapter 12. Now we are going to focus our attention on I Corinthians 14. I want to remind you before we start that our focus is on the gift of prophecy, not tongues. We will come back to tongues later. We are going to continue building foundations before we even think about going down the trail of tongues! Read I Corinthians 14 and record all you learn about prophecy. I'm giving you plenty of room which means there is plenty to record.

2. There are a couple of key Old Testament passages that we want to look at before we call it a day. Read these three passages and record what you learn.

- a. Deuteronomy 13:1-5

- b. Deuteronomy 18:20-22

- c. Jeremiah 28:9-17

3. Record what you would say to someone if they would ask you about the gift of prophecy.

Day 5

These instructions and questions are going to sound familiar. We will conclude the gift of prophecy just as we did the gift of apostle.

1. You have looked at an extensive list of verses about prophecy. Take the time to read some commentaries or books that deal with this gift. Don't be swayed by their opinion but examine their opinions and bring them back to the measuring stick of God's Word. Here are some things to think about as you read.

- a. Do these authors contradict any of the insights you have gathered to this point? If so, where do they differ?

- b. What points do you disagree with and why? Use Scripture references in your defense of your position.

- c. Which view seems to measure up to God's standard?

2. Here are a couple of questions to think about as we conclude our study on prophecy.

a. What was the primary function of a prophet?

b. How would you explain the gift of prophecy?

c. Do you believe that the gift of prophecy is still around today? Why or why not? be thorough in your answer using Scripture to defend your stand.

d. If you believe that this gift is still in existence today, explain how you believe this gift would be exercised. What would you call someone who did what a prophet did?

e. Are there certain restraints given in respect to this gift? If so what are they?
Make sure you support your answer with Scripture.

f. Do you believe that you have this gift? Explain why or why not.

As we continue our study, we are going to continue to look at those gifts that are deemed the most essential for the growth and the stability of the body of Christ. I Corinthians 12 lists three of them; Ephesians 4 lists four or five depending on how you look at it.

In I Corinthians Paul tells the church to desire the greater gifts, and then goes on to list them by number: “. . .first apostles, second prophets, third teachers.” In Ephesians 4:11-13 he tells the church in Ephesus that Jesus, “. . . gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ. . .” If we want the body to be strong we need those gifts. Those who have these gifts will be the foundation - the core of the body.

Last week we looked at two of these important gifts: apostles and prophets. This week we are going to look at the other two: evangelism and pastor/teacher. Pray for wisdom and understanding as you begin each day of study. It is vital that we understand how the body is to function and the important role that each believer has as a member of it. Study well and approach the study with an openness of spirit, allowing the Holy Spirit to bring truth and life to your heart. Through the power given us by our Lord Jesus Christ, go and walk in these truths.

Day 1

The Gift of Evangelism

1. Using your study tools (as explained in the word studies in Lesson 1), look at the word “evangelists.” Ephesians 4:11 says, “And He gave some as evangelists . . .” Look up the Greek word for apostle using your study tools or the internet. Be careful when using the internet that you stick to the Greek meanings and don’t start reading what someone thinks it means to be an evangelist.

evangelists - Ephesians 4:11 - #G2099

6. Hebrews 3:1 tells us that when Jesus came to the earth, He came as God's Apostle to proclaim the good news of salvation. This proclaiming the good news is a verb (action) form of the word "evangelist." The verses below use the verb tense, the action form, "evangelizo." Look up the following verses and their contexts and tell what these people were proclaiming.

- a. Luke 4:18

- b. Matthew 11:2-5

- c. Luke 20:1-2

7. There are a few passages that refer to Jesus preaching, proclaiming the good news. Note what you learn from each of these passages.

- a. Mark 1:38

- b. Matthew 4:17-23

- c. Matthew 9:35

8. Was Jesus preaching the same message as the evangelists? Could “preaching” be part of the gift of evangelism? Explain your answer.

Day 2

1. The 12 apostles were given the command to go and preach the gospel. From your question at the end of yesterday's lesson we saw that preaching is part of evangelizing. With that information in mind, look up the following passages and record what you learn about what the apostles were to preach. Remember context!

- a. Matthew 10:5-8

- b. Luke 9:6

- c. Mark 16:14-20

- d. Luke 24:46-48

e. Acts 5:42

f. Acts 8:14, 25

g. What was the message that the apostles were to proclaim?

h. Why would this be important to the church?

2. In the beginning of many of Paul's letters he asserts that he was appointed as an apostle. Do you think that Paul had the gift of evangelism? Look up the following Scriptures and record what you learn about Paul's relationship to the gospel. What did he preach, and to whom did he preach it?

- a. II Timothy 1:11

- b. Acts 26:14-20

- c. I Corinthians 15:1-5

- d. Acts 16:6-10

Day 3

1. From everything we have studied from the last two days, how would you describe the gift of evangelism. Be specific because this is important to understand for us to ask the next question.

2. Let's look at the gift of evangelism and a believer's responsibility to share the good news of Jesus Christ to a world stumbling in the darkness. Is there a difference between the gift of evangelism and the responsibility that each believer has to share the gospel? To try to answer that question, read through the following verses, remembering the context. Do any necessary word studies as you study.

a. Acts 1:8

b. Acts 8:1-4

c. Matthew 28:16-20

d. John 16:7-11

e. I Thessalonians 1:5-8

f. Now let's see if you can answer the question posed in #2. Does a believer, a child of God, have the responsibility to witness to the lost? If they do, then does that mean that everyone has the gift of evangelism? Think through everything you have learned to this point to answer that question. Answer carefully, reasoning through Scripture with your answer.

g. Here are a couple other questions to answer before we leave this gift.

1) What is the function of this gift?

2) What is the focus of this gift?

3) Why is this gift vital to the body of Christ?

Day 4

The Gift of Pastor/Teacher

1. The gift of pastor/teacher is mentioned in both Ephesians 4:11 and I Corinthians 12. Using whatever tools you have, look up the words “pastor” and “teacher”

Ephesians 4:11 - pastor - G4166

Ephesians 4:11 - teacher - G1320

2) shepherd (feed - KJV) in John 21:16 - G4165

c. Can you see a relationship between this passage and the gift of pastor/teacher in Ephesians 4:11? Explain your answer.

5. I hope that you are beginning to see how this gift functions within the body of Christ and how vital it is for this gift to be expressed if the body is going to be firmly grounded and rooted in Christ who is the head. Let's look more into the shepherding part of this gift. There are many passages that show the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep. We need to bring these into a practical application in the body of Christ. Record what you learn from each passage.

a. John 10:1-16

b. I Peter 5:1-5

c. I Timothy 3:1-7 - Note what you learn about the overseers (bishops) that would be qualifications for someone in the role of pastor/teacher.

Day 5

1. Yesterday we looked at some New Testament passages that had to do with the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, today we are going to look at a couple of Old Testament passages.

a. Jeremiah 17:16 - shepherd (pastor - KJV)

b. Jeremiah 2:8 - rulers (pastors - KJV)

c. Jeremiah 3:15 - shepherds (pastors - KJV)

Spiritual Gifts

Lesson 5

2. Read Ezekiel 34. Ask your questions of the text and record what you learn. It is a very interesting passage and gives a great insight to what is wrong with the church today!

3. We will be studying the gift of teacher at a later time; however, let's take this gift of pastor/teacher back to the I Peter 4:11 passage. A pastor/teacher is obviously someone who would be speaking. When Peter talks about exercising this gift, what should this pastor/teacher be speaking?

4. What is the purpose of the gift of pastor/teacher within the church according to Ephesians 4:11-16?

5. Take a couple of minutes to try to assimilate all that you have looked at for the last two weeks and try to answer these questions.

a. How would you briefly describe the job of someone who has the gift of . . .

1) apostle

2) prophet

3) evangelist

4) pastor/teacher

b. Do you see similarities between these gifts? Explain what they are.

c. Do you see difference between these gifts? Explain what they are.

d. How would those having these gifts work together to accomplish God's purpose within the body?

e. What would happen if any of these gifts were missing within the body?

f) What do you think would happen if the four gifts were exercised in the body properly?

6. Let's take inventory of your life.

a) Do you believe that you have the gift of pastor/teacher? Why or why not?

b) Do you believe that you have one or more of the four gifts that have been discussed of the past two weeks? Why or why not?

c) If you believe you have these gifts, how are you using them now?

d) If you believe that you have these gifts and you are not exercising them, how do you think God wants you to use the gifts that He has given?

Day 1

The Gift of Teaching

1. Using your study tools, look at the word “teaching” in Romans 12:7 and “teachers” in I Corinthians 12:28-29. Record the transliteration (the Greek word written in English) as well as the definitions you find.

teaching - Romans 12:7 - #G1319 (verb form - present active participle)

teacher - I Corinthians 12:28-29 - #G1320 (noun form)

2. The best teacher who ever walked this earth was the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the model of what a teacher should be. So as we look at who a teacher is, what he (or she) does, and what they teach, let’s start with the perfect example. Read these verses and record all you learn about all that Jesus is and what He does.

a. John 3:2

b. Matthew 4:23

c. Matthew 13:54

d. Mark 6:34

e. Luke 4:31

f. Luke 5:3

g. John 8:2

h. Mark 1:22

i. Matthew 5:17-20

3. Now let's look at what Jesus taught.

a. John 14:10

b. Luke 24:25-32

c. Matthew 12:38-42

Day 2

1. Jesus ministered to the people around Him His whole life. The last three and a half years of His life, He taught the multitudes, but He spent most of His time teaching His disciples (apostles). He was preparing them for His departure, so they could carry on the work that He began. Read Matthew 28:19-20 to see what instructions Jesus gave to these men (and by extension to us).

a. Write these verses out below, and if you have never memorized them, take the time to do that this week.

b. What do you learn about what the disciples were to teach as they went out? Record your observations below.

2. Did these men accomplish what they were instructed to do?

a. Acts 4:18; 5:28, 42 (If you have time read the whole story, but these three verses will highlight the events and help you record your answer.

b. I Timothy 2:7

c. Acts 15:35

d. Acts 20:20

3. We are now going to look at the responsibility of a person who has the gift of teaching and how their ministry would be manifest (worked out) in their life. As you read the following verses record what a teacher's responsibility is, what they are to teach, and what they are trying to accomplish through their teaching.

a. James 3:1

b. I Cor 12:28-29

c. I Peter 4:11

d. Romans 12:6-7

e. I Timothy 6:3-5

f. Colossians 1:28

g. Colossians 2:6-8

h. Matthew 15:9

i. Titus 1:7-11

j. Revelation 2:14, 20

k. II Peter 2:1

4. Summarize all that you have learned about teaching. Be as thorough as possible.

Day 3

1. Years ago I was teaching a group of women in a church while Jim was teaching the men in another building. I had a young man come to our house who said he wanted to talk to us (me specifically). He said that I was defiling the church by teaching there. A woman had no place to say anything within the confines of the walls of the church building. I understood the attack; I knew where it came from. The basic idea in what he was saying was that even if he thought a woman could have the gift of teaching, she certainly could never exercise that within the church. From what you have studied so far, I want you to write down what you would have said to this young man. Do you agree with him? If not, what verses would you take him to to argue your case?

- Are you ready to examine this troublesome little passage? As we look at this, I am going to try to carefully explain every part as we walk through the passage. I will give you the words and the Strong's numbers so that you can go back and examine this on your own. I don't want to lead you down the road I want to go down, I want to help you discover what I believe God is saying through Paul to Timothy.

Before we start, I want to look at the verse in its context, and I will ask you some questions along the way. My questions will be in red.

11 A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness. Throughout Scripture, who is the woman to submit to? There are technically two correct answers to this question.

12 But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet. *This is our problem verse and we will come back to it in a minute.*

13 For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve. What was the relationship between Adam and Eve?

14 And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. Go back to Genesis 3:6, the verse that is being referred to here, and what specific word does it use to describe the relationship between Adam and Eve?

15 But women will be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint. In God's perfect plan, the woman shouldn't be having babies unless she is in what kind of relationship with the man?

By the questions answered in the context of the Scriptures mentioned, you should see that there is a pretty strong argument that the context is that of a husband and wife. But is that truly the case? What about verse 12 which I intentionally avoided? Well, I guess that's the key, isn't it? Let's examine it word by word. Again, my comments will be in red. I challenge you to take anything that I say and measure it up to the Bible's standards. What I say is not important. Truth lies in what God says!

12 "But I do not allow a woman (a woman is singular - speaking of one woman. The word used for woman is #G1135 - gune. Its definition is woman; specifically wife. It comes from #G1134 which is the word used only for wife. Throughout the New Testament there are other words to describe women - virgins, young girls, and just women in general. #G2338 - thelus - is the general term for all women. When in Galatians 3:28, Paul states that there is no distinction between male and female, he uses the term thelus and not gune because gune is used for wife.) to teach or

exercise (Teach and exercise are both verbs in present tense, infinitive mood and active voice. For those who are not English experts that means that the woman is doing the action, present infinitive means that she is doing it continually, habitually - it is a way of life! She is constantly exercising authority over her husband!) *authority* (remember that the wife is to subject to her husband) *over a man* (Just like woman, there are several words that are used for man. Again it is singular, not plural so this is a one-on-one confrontation, not a group setting. Back to the Galatians 3:28 passage and there is no distinction between male and female, the word for men in general is #G730 - arsen. In the I Timothy 2:12 passage that we are looking at, Paul doesn't choose the arsen to describe men in general but he uses G#435 - andros which is translated mostly as husband. The word is translated husband when placed beside gune for wife. In the original Greek, the word for "man" is in genitive case and singular. This is always, without exception, translated husband because it shows relationship and ownership. For more study you can look online and type in "genitive case in Greek by Dana and Mantey" and find a very in-depth explanation.) *but to remain quiet.*"

4. With all that explanation, and with all that you have learned about Spiritual gifts, do you think that this passage is saying that a woman cannot teach within the body of Christ? Again, explain your answer. I want you to keep in mind that there are many churches that will not allow women teachers because of this one particular passage. Could you defend your stand for or against this argument based on Scripture? Before you answer that question, read Acts 18:24-28 carefully.
5. Do you think that the gift of teaching is the same as the gift of pastor/teacher? Compare the references in I Corinthians 12 and Romans 12 with Ephesians 4. Defend your position as to why you think they are the same or different.

6. All believers are not given the gift of teaching. Does that mean that those who don't have the gift are exempt from having to teach the Word of God? Look at the following passages and record your answer to that question.

a. Hebrews 5:12

b. Colossians 3:16

7. I know this might be difficult but think through this and do your best to answer. How does someone with the gift of teaching differ from each individual having the responsibility to teach? It is important for you to know the difference.

8. One last thing before we wrap up our study on teaching. Each believe has been given the Holy Spirit. Read these verses and record what you learn about the function the Holy Spirit has in a believer's life and then answer the questions.

a. John 14:26

b. John 16:13

c. I John 2:27

d. If we have the Holy Spirit, is there any need for people to have the gift of teaching today? Explain your answer.

9. Let's wrap it up.

a. With all you have learned about this gift, how would you define the gift of teaching?

b. Do you believe that you have this gift? Explain why or why not.

Day 4

The Gift of Exhortation

1. The next of gift listed in Romans 12:8 is the gift of exhortation. Using your study tools, what can you find out about this gift. Make sure to look up both of the words.

Romans 12:8 - exhort - #G3870
exhortation - #G3874

2. In John 14:16, when Jesus told His disciples about His imminent departure, He promised them a Helper. Record what He said about this “Helper” as well as recording the transliteration and definition of the word that is used.

a. Helper - #G3875

b. How does this word relate to the word for exhortation?

c. When Jesus said He would send “another” Helper, He used the word #G243 - allos - which means another numerically, but it is of the same kind. He was saying that He was going to send another who was like Him to help them. This was the promise of Jesus always being with us!

d. Again, using your study tools, we are going to look at the word “Advocate” that is used in I John 2:1. Record what you learn from the verse and the word.

advocate - #G3875

3. Let’s see how this gift is lived out in the life of Barnabas. Read his story in the following verses and record what you learn about him and his ministry. The verses are: Acts 4:36-37; 9:23-27; 15:35-39; II Timothy 4:11.

Day 5

1. Barnabas was one example of someone who had the gift of exhortation. We are going to look at some other examples through Scripture and see what we learn.

a. Acts 13:13-41 - What happened when the synagogue officials asked for a word of exhortation?

b. Hebrews 12:5 - How does God exhort in this passage?

c. Acts 14:22 - What is the exhortation?

2. Read these verses and record the various means used to exhort. Take note of who is doing the exhorting and who they are exhorting?

a. Acts 15:31-33

b. Acts 20:1-2

c. Hebrews 13:22

d. I Peter 5:1-2

3. Exhortation rarely stands alone. There are other activities that accompany it. Look at the following verses and record what happens with the exhortation and how it fits in with this gift.

a. Acts 2:40

b. I Corinthians 14:3

c. I Timothy 6:2

d. II Timothy 4:2

e. II Thessalonians 3:12

4. How important is exhortation within the body of Christ? Look up the following verses and record your answer.

a. I Timothy 4:13

b. Romans 12:8

8. Exhortation is an important part of the body of Christ. But just like we saw with teaching, if you don't have the gift of exhortation, does that mean you don't have to exhort? Read these passages and answer that question.

a. I Thessalonians 5:11

b. Hebrews 3:12-13

c. Hebrews 10:24-25

d. So let's answer that question.

1) Does every believer have the responsibility to exhort?

2) Explain the difference between someone having the gift of exhortation and a believer's responsibility to exhort one another.

Day 1

The Gift of Leadership

1. Using your study tools, look at the word “leads” (ruleth, KJV) in Romans 12:8. Record the transliteration (the Greek word written in English) as well as the definitions you find.

leads - Romans 12:8 - #G4291

with diligence - #G4710

2. If this was the only place that this gift was mentioned, just from what you observed in Romans 12:8 on the gift and how it is to be exercised, How would you define it?
3. Depending on the word study tools that you used, you may have noticed that this gift of leading is mentioned in I Timothy 3 when Paul speaks of the overseers (elders) of the church. If someone has the gift of leading or leadership, then it only makes sense that they would show the characteristics of a leader as mentioned in these verses. Take time to read I Timothy 3 and record all the qualities that should be present in someone who exercises the gift of leading or ruling.

- a. Look up the Greek word that is used for “overseer” (bishop, KJV) in I Timothy 3:2. What do you learn from the word and its definition. Include the transliteration.

overseer - #G1985

- b. Let’s look at some other places that these overseers or elders are found. Record what you learn about their life, character, and responsibilities.

1) I Timothy 5:17-22

2) Titus 1:5-9

3) I Thessalonians 5:12-13 (rule is the same Greek word that is used in Romans 12:8)

4) I Peter 5:2-3

Day 2

1. Jesus was the greatest Teacher and Leader the world has ever seen. When He left to take His place in heaven at His Father's right hand, others needed to become His witness, His example, to the world. One of the best examples we have been given is Paul. He had the gift of leading. He led the churches and taught the men who were going to be in charge of the churches. So let's look at what Paul did and what he said to those around him as he exercised his gift of leading. Record all that you learn.

a. Philippians 3:17-20

b. Philippians 2:17

c. I Corinthians 11:1

d. I Thessalonians 1:5-6

e. II Thessalonians 3:7-9

f. II Timothy 2:10

2. Paul urged the people to follow him as he followed Christ. Wow! Could we say that to others? We should be able to if we are walking surrendered to the Lord day by day. That is an awesome and terrifying thought. Would we dare encourage someone to live as we are living and do as we are doing? What does it mean to follow Christ? What did Christ do? Read John 13:12-17 and record Jesus' example for all believer's to follow, but especially those who would be called to lead.

3. The gift of leadership will, by its very definition, put them in a position that will be seen by people. It is a prominent position where they will be standing before others to show them the way. If you have this gift, and you are in this place, it is important for you to understand your responsibility. If you don't have this gift, and you are one who needs to place yourself under the authority of those who lead the body, then you need to understand this gift because you better make sure that you are placing yourself under the authority of someone who can say, "Follow me as I follow Christ." If you are not, you are going to be quickly lead astray from the truths of God's Word to follow after the teachings, the beliefs, and the values of the world. Record all that you learn from these verses.

- a. Hebrews 13:7-17

- b. III John 11

- c. I Timothy 6:11-14

- d. II Timothy 2:22

4. There are many places that warn about leaders who are leading people astray. It is important to look at these passages as well. We need to understand what the wrong leader looks like and what he acts like so that we can recognize them and come out from under that authority. We need to stop blindly following after them as they pave the way to hell. If we have the gift of leadership, then it is a warning to us about the responsibility we have before others. I have given you plenty of room so be thorough in recording what you learn from these passages.

- a. II Timothy 3:1-13

- b. II Peter 2:1-19 (room on the next page as well)

5. With everything you have learned, record what you have learned about leading and those who lead.

6. Do you believe that you have this gift? Why or why not?

7. If you have this gift, how might you be able to use this in ministry for the building up of the body of Christ?

Day 3

The Gift of Administrations

1. Using your study tools, look at the word “administrations” (governments, KJV) in I Corinthians 12:28. Record the transliteration (the Greek word written in English) as well as the definitions you find.

administrations - #G2941

2. Read the following Scriptures and record what you learn about this gift by the way the word is used in these passages

a. Acts 27:11 (the same Greek root - pilot)

b. Revelation 18:17 (the same Greek root - shipmaster)

3. Think about this gift. How is this the same or different from that of leadership? Do you believe that these are the same gift or two different gifts? Explain why you answered the way you did.

4. Based on the study of God's Word, how would you define the gift of administrations?

5. If you believe that the gift of administrations is different from the gift of leading, answer the following questions.
 - a. What would be the primary function of an administrator that would set it apart from the one having the gift of leadership?

 - b. How would the gift of administrator be manifested? How would this person function within the body of Christ?

 - c. Do you know anyone who seems to have this gift? Why do you think they have that particular gift? How do you see them using it?

 - d. Do you think that you have this gift? Why or why not? If so, how can you use that to build up the body of Christ?

Day 4

The Gift of Giving

1. The next gift listed in Romans 12:8 is the gift of giving. Using your study tools, what can you find out about the one who “gives”.

Romans 12:8 - gives - #G3330

2. In order to understand this gift and what it means, it is important to understand the specific word Paul chose in explaining this gift. Under the direction of the Holy Spirit he chose to use the word “metadidomi” and not the word “didomi” another word for giving. This word is only used five times in Scripture. Let’s see where. Record the action and the heart condition in each case. What did they give, why, how, etc.? Make sure to read each verse in its context.

a. Luke 3:11 - share (impart, KJV)

b. Romans 1:11 - impart

c. I Thessalonians 2:8 - impart (have imparted, KJV)

d. Ephesians 4:28 - share (give, KJV)

e. Romans 12:8 - gives (giveth, KJV)

3. We want to take a look at one more passage before drawing conclusions about Paul's word choice. There is another Greek word that could have been used. Look up this word, its transliteration, and its meaning. Record the difference between the heart of this word versus the heart of the word that Paul used.

Strongs #G1929

4. Now taking all this into consideration, why do you think that God chose the word He did when talking about the gift of giving? What can we learn about the heart of the person who has this spiritual gift?

5. We are going to study some passages that deal with giving. Ask yourself the 5 W's and H questions and record what you learn.

a. I Timothy 6:17-18

b. II Corinthians 8:1-5 (I love these verses! Let the words sink in!)

c. II Corinthians 9:1-15

d. Philippians 4:17-19

e. Ephesians 4:28 (read in context - This is another one of my favorites!)

6. If you have never studied the believer's responsibility to give - to financially support - the spread of the gospel, you may not have known that this is the responsibility of every believer - not just those who have the gift of giving. It is also not just for those who have extra money. **IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT FOR EVERY MEMBER OF THE BODY OF CHRIST!** Read through II Corinthians 8:7-15 and record all the principles of giving listed in this passage.

7. Keeping everything you have studied in mind and all that you have learned about spiritual gifts, explain the difference between the responsibility of every believer to give and the gift of giving. Think through this carefully.

8. So what would your definition of the gift of giving be?

9. Based on our study, do you think that giving has only to do with monies or does it go beyond that?

10. How would this gift be used to minister to the goal of bringing glory to God and spreading His Gospel throughout the world?

11. Do you believe that you have this gift? Why or why not? Explain your answer.

Day 5

1. Whether or not we have the gift of giving, we know, from our study yesterday, that it is still required for believers to give. I know that many people have questions when it comes to giving. How much should I give? Where should I give? How do I know whether my money will be used correctly? Those are questions that we are going to try to answer in this lesson.
2. Most people think of tithing when they think of giving. What exactly is tithing? Tithing is explained in the Old Testament. It is an Old Testament teaching that can help us learn the heart of what God is asking of His people. Look up the following Scriptures and answer the questions.
 - a. Leviticus 27:30-32 - What was given, to whom, and how much?
 - b. Numbers 18:21-32 - Are priests exempt from giving a tithe?
 - c. Deuteronomy 14:22-28 - What does giving teach people?
 - d. II Chronicles 31:5-12 - What was brought, how was it brought and what did it teach?
 - e. Nehemiah 10:34-39 - What were they not supposed to do?

3. Before answering the following questions, read II Corinthians 8-9 carefully. These chapters have a lot to say about giving. Then I want you to answer the following questions. There are a couple of extra verses for you to look at as well.

a. How are we to give?

1) Luke 18:9-14

2) II Corinthians 8:3

3) II Corinthians 8:5 (Notice what comes first. If we are not giving of our abundance what else are we not doing?)

b. What is the attitude of giving suppose to be?

1) Matthew 23:23

2) II Corinthians 8:4 (I love this verse!)

3) II Corinthians 9:6

4) II Corinthians 9:7

c. What is the purpose of giving?

1) II Corinthians 8:8

2) II Corinthians 8:13

d. What is the result of giving?

1) II Corinthians 8:14

e. Here's the big question. Where are we to give? To whom?

1) II Corinthians 8:4

2) II Corinthians 8:5

3) II Corinthians 8:14

4) Galatians 6:6 (Ephesians 4:11-16)

4. Here are some guidelines to help you make some decisions, but ultimately this needs to be between you and God. You need to take matters before His throne and seek His guidance. You need to be sensitive to what He shows you and what speaks to your heart. If you listen, He will guide you. Jim and I had supported a missionary for a couple of years, and we both started feeling uncomfortable in our gifts. We prayed and felt God telling us to stop giving, so we did. We received a letter from the mission organization a couple of months later, telling us that they would no longer be sending him money because they were not in agreement with what he was doing. We didn't need the mission agency to tell us that, but it was certainly a confirmation that we had heard God correctly.

a. **You need to be supporting those who teach you and minister to you.** If you are part of a local body, then you should be supporting that body. If they are teaching you, this is your God-given duty (Galatians 6:6). If they are not teaching you, why are you going there? If you don't give to the church because you don't trust what they do with your money, then why are you trusting them with your spiritual condition?

- b. **You need to understand that God works through the body of believers and not just certain people or certain ministries.** There are many out there who will use propaganda statements to convince you that unless you give to them, God's work can't continue. They will use statements like, "Millions of people will die in their sins and spend eternity in hell if this radio program goes off the air."
- c. **You should not be giving in order to get something in return.** That is not giving! "Send in your money, and we will send you this _____" (you fill in the blank). When we give in order to get something in return, we are no longer giving as God has told us to give. I will throw this out for you to ponder. There are many who give, so they can get a tax-deductible receipt. They will say to you, "That's not why I give. I give out of my love for God." I am sure that an extremely high percentage of them will cease to give if they stopped receiving those tax-deductible receipts. What is the true purpose of their giving?
- d. **When you have an abundance, it is for the supply of others' wants (II Corinthians 8:14).** The word "wants" in this context is not what we think of as a want, "I need food, but I want lobster." The Greek word is #G5303 and it means "*deficit, poverty, that which is behind, that which is lacking, to fall short or be deficit in.*" We are called to work with our hands so we will have something that we can share with the one who has need - Ephesians 4:28. This is the purpose of our working! We are not to work to get more for ourselves; it is to share with others. It seems that many are building and filling their barns (read Luke 12:15-21). We are laying up our treasures on earth and not in heaven (Matthew 6:19-21). We need to remember that every good thing, every perfect gift is from above (James 1:17); therefore, we are accountable to God, as His stewards, to use His money, which He has loaned to us, in the way He has directed us.

- e. **Determining the trustworthiness of a ministry.** How do you know who to trust? There is no easy answer to that question. Again, it is something that you need to take to the Lord in prayer. But here are some suggestions.
- 1) **Do your homework.** Get on the internet and do your research. What percentage of your money goes directly into the work? What exactly do they teach? What is the method they use in their ministry. We once gave to a ministry that worked with children. We didn't do the homework we should have. We found that we were helping the Catholic church propagate their teachings.
 - 2) **Visit the ministry or talk to a neutral party who has visited the ministry.** See how they use the money they are given. In the New Testament, the missionaries were sent out by the church and they came to report to the church. Not only did they report to the church, but they heard about the work from people in the community, or through the proverbial grapevine. What do people in the area say about the ministry? Churches are no longer the sending agencies, there are now mission agencies that are responsible for the work that is done. As you will see in #3, the mission agencies are not what you might believe them to be.
 - 3) **Don't blindly trust what a mission agency has to say about their mission or their missionaries.** You can ask to see financial records of a mission organization, but you will receive a "cleaned-up" version of the financial statements. Even if they say they are ECFA certified, all that means is that the mission agency pays an outside source to look over their books. They will give their management reports to the mission and tell them everything that is wrong and steps to take to fix it. That is no guarantee that they will fix it. You, as a supporter, will never see that management report. You will see their budget, the way it is supposed to be. There is a big difference. There is no better way to be sure, than to support someone you know and trust, or someone that someone you know trusts. Be on your guard. There are many people out there that are ministering God's Word to a lost world. Find those people and enable them to do the work that God has called them to.

Day 1

The Gift of Helps and Service

As we begin our study on helps and service, we need to come to a conclusion as to whether or not this is one gift or two individual gifts. Many people will look at these as the same thing. We are going to handle them together, side-by-side, so that you can make that determination for yourself.

1. Let's begin by looking at the definition of the word "helps" as found in I Corinthians 12:28. Look up the word and record its transliteration and its definition.

helps - I Corinthians 12:28 - #G484

look up the root - comes from #G482 -

2. We are going to look at some Scriptures that use that root "lambano." Look at these Scriptures and see what you can learn about the gift of helps. Remember to look at them in context.

a. Acts 20:35

b. Luke 10:20

c. Philippians 4:3

d. Romans 8:26

3. Does there seem to be a common thread that ties all of these verses together? Record your insights on this question.

4. Now let's look at the gift of service.

service (minister, KJV) - #G1248

5. This is the word that we get our word "deacon" from. The word service or minister is used many times throughout Scripture. It can be in the noun form as the person being called a minister, or in its verb form for someone to minister. Because of the various uses, it is hard to actually pinpoint the specific gift. Therefore, we are going to look up these Scriptures and answer your 5 W's and H questions, and by doing so, let's see if we can get to the heart of someone who has this gift.

a. Hebrews 1:14

b. Hebrews 6:10

c. I Corinthians 3:5

d. Matthew 20:20-28

Now for two passages that deal with spiritual gifts.

e. I Peter 4:10-11

f. Ephesians 4:12

Day 2

1. If the word diakonia is the word that is the basis for our word deacon, let's take a look at that actual word "deacon" and where it is used. This would now be looking at the office of deacon, but one who would take that office should have that gift. We want to learn about the heart of someone who has the gift of service (ministry).

deacon/servant - #G1249 - diakonos

- a. Acts 6:1-6

 - b. I Timothy 3:8-13

 - c. Romans 16:1-2
2. Just a couple more ministry passages. Notice who is ministering, to whom, and how. Record your insights.
- a. Acts 13:5; II Timothy 4:11 - John (Mark) are the same person

 - b. Acts 19:22

 - c. Acts 24:23

 - d. Philippians 2:25-30

 - e. II Timothy 1:16-18

 - f. Philemon 11-13

Day 3

The Gift of Mercy

1. As always, we want to begin by defining the word.

mercy - Romans 12:8 - #G1653

2. In order to understand how this gift would work within the body of Christ, we need to understand what it means to be merciful. We need to begin by looking at a merciful loving God and learn what it means to be merciful. Since this comes from God, we need wisdom to understand how God applies this to the lives of those He has created. Our purpose in looking at these Scriptures is to understand just what mercy is and how it is shown. Later we will go to other places where subtle nuances of this gift are described.

- a. Exodus 25:22

- b. Psalm 31:7

- c. Micah 7:18-19

3. One of the characteristics or the ways that mercy is expressed is through compassion.

a. Take time to look up the word compassion (pity) in whatever sources you have available to you. If you look this up using your Bible tools, you will find several words that will be translated as compassion or pity. Gather what information you can because the more you have, the greater your understanding will be.

b. Look up Deuteronomy 13:17 and record what you learn about mercy and compassion

c. Hebrews tells us that Jesus is the Author and Finisher of our faith. What role did mercy and compassion have in His ministry? Take note of what He does because of His mercy and compassion for people. This will help us to understand how this gift should be lived out in our lives.

1) Hebrews 2:17-18

2) Matthew 9:36

3) Mark 9:22

4. Summarize all that you have learned about the gift of compassion from observing how this was expressed by God and through Jesus Christ. Remember that if we are being transformed into His likeness through the renewing of our minds, then we can have His compassion, His mercy, for the people that He brings into our lives.
5. Do you believe that you have this gift? Why or why not?
6. If you don't have this gift, does that give you the privilege of choosing not to show mercy to people? Don't answer that question just yet. There are some Scriptures I would like you to look at tomorrow, and then you can answer that question with a more definitive answer.

Day 4

1. If you don't have this gift, does that give you the privilege of choosing not to show mercy to people? Look up these verses and record what you learn about what should be true in the lives of all believers

- a. Matthew 5:7

- b. Matthew 18:21-35

- c. Luke 18:13

- d. Luke 23:34

- e. I John 3:17

f. Acts 2:45

g. Acts 4:34-35

Let's look at mercy in action!

h. Luke 10:30-37

i. James 2:15-16

j. Colossians 3:12-15

k. I Thessalonians 5:14-15

2. Now record your answer to the question that started the day. If you don't have the gift of mercy, does that exempt you from being merciful. Give a thoughtful answer to that question.

Day 5

The Gift of Faith

1. This gift is mentioned in two places in I Corinthians. It is not only mentioned in I Corinthians 12:9 but it is also in chapter 13 verse 2. Look up this word, its transliteration, and its definition. This is a beautiful word that we need to understand. Make sure you do some digging to find a complete definition.

faith - I Corinthians 12:9; 13:2 - #G4120

believe - #G4100

2. As you can see from your study of these words, they come from the same root. One is the action form (believe) and the other in the noun form (faith). Faith is something that every believer needs because it is by faith that we have been saved. We need to understand the difference between the faith that every believer needs to have to come to Christ, and the faith that certain people have been gifted with. To do this, we are going to need to look up a large amount of Scriptures. We are about to flex your spiritual muscles so I pray that you are well rested and ready to run! Let's start with the verses that show that faith is necessary because it is the foundation of the believer's life.

- a. Romans 1:17 (Habakkuk 2:4)

- b. Hebrews 11:1

- c. Hebrews 11:6

3. Where does this faith come from? What is its basis? This is extremely important to understand.

- a. Ephesians 2:8-9

b. Acts 26:18

c. Galatians 2:20

d. Galatians 5:22

4. Does faith come from believing in anything? Is the basis of faith what we believe or in what God says? This is an extremely important question. There are many people who have a strong faith, but a misplaced faith. Does that matter? Isn't faith, faith?

a. Mark 11:22

b. Romans 10:17

5. With what we have looked at so far, do you think that faith can be passive (waiting around until God zaps us with more faith) or is it active faith (that takes feet and

moves us into action)? Look at these passages to help answer that question. Record what you learn.

a. I Timothy 6:11

b. II Timothy 2:22

c. Acts 14:22

d. Colossians 1:23

e. Luke 17:5

f. I Thessalonians 3:10

g. II Thessalonians 1:3

h. I Corinthians 16:13

i. I Peter 5:9

6. Read Romans 12:6, our spiritual gifts passage, and record what you learn about faith.

Day 1

The Gift of the Word of Wisdom

I Corinthians 12:8 is the passage that talks about the Word of Wisdom and the Word of Knowledge. We are going to look at those two gifts over the next couple of days.

1. Let's begin by looking at the definition of the word "helps" as found in I Corinthians 12:28. Look up the word and record its transliteration and its definition. Let's define the words.

word - I Corinthians 12:28 - #G3056

wisdom - I Corinthians 12:28 - #G4678

2. If someone said that they had the gift of the Word of Wisdom, how would you know if they truly did? It would take some knowledge about wisdom. So we will look at Scriptures about wisdom and knowledge in both the Old and New Testaments. Keep the verses in their context and ask your 5 W's and H questions. Record all that you learn about each one.

a. Job 28:28

b. Proverbs 1:7

c. Proverbs 2:6-7

c. Proverbs 15:33

d. Psalm 37:30

e. Psalm 51:6

f. Daniel 2:23

g. Ephesians 1:17

3. Now read James 3:13-18. James talks about two kinds of wisdom. There is heavenly wisdom that comes from above; it comes from God. There is earthly wisdom that comes from Satan and his demons. We are surrounded by earthly wisdom. Even the church is full of this kind of wisdom. We need to know the difference, so we can make sound judgment based on heavenly wisdom in our lives and discern those who “claim” to be speaking wisdom. Record what you learn about each type of wisdom in the chart below.

Worldly Wisdom	Heavenly Wisdom

4. Sum up what you have learned about the word of wisdom at this point. How do you think it is different from simply being wise? How would you be able to tell if a person had this gift? What kind of ministry could someone have within the body of Christ?

Day 2-3

1. We are going to take a deeper look into God's wisdom over the next two days. So take your time and let these verses soak in. Where does it come from? How is it attained? What does it bring to those who have it? How can you recognize it?

- a. Isaiah 11:2

- b. Colossians 2:3

- c. Colossians 1:9-12

- d. I Corinthians 1:24-30

2. It is important to understand the flip-side of Godly wisdom. Let's look at what happens when someone has worldly wisdom. What does it look like? Act like?

- a. Jeremiah 9:23-24

b. I Corinthians 1:18-25

c. I Corinthians 2:4-13

d. Romans 1:21-32

3. If we are going to be able to discern those who have a word of wisdom, what will have to take place? Record what you learn from these Scriptures.

a. I Corinthians 3:18-19

b. Matthew 7:24-25

c. James 1:21-25

d. James 3:13 (We are looking at this from a different perspective this time.)

e. Colossians 1:28

f. Colossians 3:16

4. What can happen to those who are wise? Are they always appreciated? Read Matthew 23:24 and record your answer.
5. How do you think it is different from simply being wise? How would you be able to tell if a person had this gift? What kind of ministry could someone have within the body of Christ?

6. Do you believe that you have this gift? Why or why not.

Day 4-5

The Gift of the Word of Knowledge

1. As always, we want to begin by defining the word. “Word” is the same word that we saw with wisdom, so let’s focus on “knowledge.”

knowledge - I Corinthians 12:8 - #G1108

2. Our job will be to discern the difference between the last gift and this. What is the difference between wisdom and knowledge. Some of our answer will have to come from our understanding of the definition as well as our cross reference work. As we look at these verses, I want you to note what these verses have to say about our relationship with the triune God.

- a. Isaiah 5:13

b. Proverbs 1:7

c. Proverbs 9:10

d. Isaiah 11:2 (Colossians 2:3) - Yes, we have read these before!

e. Psalms 94:8-11

f. Romans 11:33

3. Is it important for those who don't have the gift of the word of knowledge to still have knowledge? Look up these verses and record what you observe. Again, focus on what this has to do with your relationship with your Heavenly Father.

a. Philippians 1:9

b. Philippians 3:8-10

c. II Peter 1:2-4

d. II Peter 1:5-11

e. Proverbs 8:10

4. Some people shun knowledge. “Knowledge only puffs up,” they say. What is important is faith and love. Is that true? There are many who gain “knowledge,” so to speak, and then use that to beat others over the head. Is that the type of knowledge we are talking about? Do they have a true biblical knowledge? Read these verses (check their context) and record what you learn.

a. I Corinthians 8:1

b. I Corinthians 13:2

c. II Peter 1:8

d. Proverbs 15:1-2, 7, 14

e. Proverbs 17:27

f. Daniel 11:32

5. What happens when people have no knowledge?

a. Hosea 4:6

b. Hosea 6:6

6. If the sheep are to have knowledge, where do they need to get it from? The answer is that the shepherd of the flock needs to have knowledge. If he doesn't have knowledge, how can he possibly lead, protect, and nourish the sheep? There are some shepherds who just don't care? But how many are so busy taking care of little things in the "church" that they don't have time to devote themselves to the study of God's Word in order to lead the flock as they should? Sometimes the sheep can be pretty demanding, and dare I say it . . . lazy! Let's look at ourselves before we point fingers at someone else. How many of our pastors are having to work other jobs because the sheep won't give? If there are more than ten families in your local body, and they were all giving as they are called to give by God (go back and look at last week's study), then the pastors (shepherds) wouldn't have to find a job, so they can afford to live. Let's examine the shepherds, but let's start by examining the sheep!

a. Jeremiah 3:15

b. Malachi 2:7

c. Ephesians 4:11-13

d. Romans 10:2

7. How would you define the gift of knowledge? How is it different from wisdom?

8. Do you believe that you have this gift? Why or why not?

Day 1

The Gifts of Healing

1. What exactly are the gifts of healing? They are mentioned in I Corinthians 12:9, 28, 30. The word “gifts” is the same word we had looked up before. It is the word “charisma” which is in reference to the extraordinary powers given to Christians which enables them to serve the body of Christ through the divine power of the Holy Spirit. Let’s look up the word “healings” and record its transliteration and its definition.

healing - I Corinthians 12:28 - #G2386 - comes from #G2390 (look that up, too)

2. There is something about this gift that is different from all the other gifts. Both the words are plural. There are gifts (plural) of healings (plural). What do you think this is?
3. Let’s start our investigation by looking at the idea of healing in general. What part did healing have in the life of Christ and His apostles? What was the purpose of healing? Was everyone healed when Jesus and the disciples lived? Read through the following Scriptures and record all that you learn about who heals, what is healed, and why. Make sure to read each verse in its context.

a. Isaiah 53:4

b. Matthew 8:17 - an interpretation of Isaiah 53:4

c. Isaiah 53:5

d. I Peter 2:24-25 - a fulfillment of Isaiah 53:5

4. Let's look at the ministry of Jesus and how it relates to healing. Look up the verses and ask the 5 W's and H.

a. Matthew 4:23

b. Luke 9:11

c. John 9:1-7

d. Acts 10:38

5. Jesus gave others the power to heal as well. Look up these verses and record what you learn about this power and its effect, who does the healing, how they do it, who gets healed, etc.

a. Matthew 10:1, 8

b. Acts 3:1-10; 4:5-10, 22

c. Acts 4:23-30

6. As you observed all of these accounts of healing, did there seem to be a purpose for the healing? Is there a common thread in the healing? Do they seem to point to something?

Day 2

1. There are those who say that healing is for everyone because it is part of the atonement. What they are saying is that Jesus' death not only secured our salvation, but it also secured the physical healing for every child of God. We need to evaluate whether this is what is meant by the gifts of healing. If the gifts of healings is a valid gift for today, would it be necessary if healing were for every child of God? If healing were for every child of God, what would it take for a child of God to be healed? Do your best to reason through these questions and answer them Biblically.
2. How does physical healing occur? Read the following passages and record what you learn from each.
 - a. James 5:14-16
 - b. Acts 9:33-34

c. I Timothy 5:23

3. Do you see a gift of healing exercised in any of these incidents?

4. Let's take a look at these Scriptures that relate to the Apostle Paul? Record what you see in these verses.

a. Acts 14:8-11

b. Philippians 2:25-27

c. I Timothy 5:23

d. II Timothy 4:20

e. Galatians 4:12-15

5. With all that we have looked at over the past two days, how would you describe the gifts of healings? Would they serve a purpose and if so in what context? Do all believers receive physical healing? Consider all that you have learned from God's Word as you answer these questions. We aren't looking for answers that don't come strictly from the Word of God!
6. Carefully and thoughtfully answer this question. Is this gift something that is still exercised today? We have seen it proclaimed by some. Do you believe from your study that what we see so many times today is this gift that God has given. Why or why not?

Day 3

The Gift of the Effecting of Miracles

1. The gift of the effecting (working) of miracles is found in I Corinthians 12:10, 28-29. Read these verses and then look up the words. The word for effecting (working in the KJV) is in plural form; therefor it is the effectings or workings of miracles.

effecting (working - KJV) - I Corinthians 12:28-29 - #G1755

miracles - I Corinthians 12:28-29 - #G1411

2. We need to approach this gift the same as we did last time. Last time we looked at what and why healings occurred and how they were used. We are going to do the same thing with miracles. Let's look up some places where miracles were recorded and ask when they were done, by whom, what were they, why were they done, how were they done, and what was their purpose or effect? Question the text was you read and record what you learn.

a. John 2:11

b. John 2:23; 7:31

c. John 3:2

d. John 6:2, 26

e. Acts 2:22

f. Acts 15:12

g. Hebrews 2:4

h. Acts 6:8

i. Acts 8:6, 13

3. What did you learn about miracles? Were there any common threads? What was their purpose? What was their result? Record what you have learned.

Day 4

1. Yesterday we saw the power of miracles to change lives. But now the question is this, "Do all those who claim to have the gift of effecting miracles truly have this gift? And if they do have this gift is it necessarily from God?"

- a. Matthew 7:15-23

- b. Matthew 24:24

c. II Thessalonians 2:8-12

d. Revelation 13:14

e. Revelation 16:13-14

f. Revelation 19:20

2. When we read the pages of the Word of God, we sometimes forget that the timespan from Genesis to Revelation covers about 4,200 years of history. We tend to crunch all that time into one block. It may surprise you that when you look at the concept of miracles throughout the Bible, they are condensed into three main time periods. If you take the time to consider this, you will see that men were given supernatural powers to effect miracles during the time of Moses, during the time of Elijah and Elisha, and then during the time of Christ and His apostles. The sign of miracles were to let people know that God was God and there was none like Him. But today we have people flocking to miracle crusades seeking for signs wanting proof of God. Jesus calls them an evil and perverse (adulterous) generation - Matthew 16:4. Those seeking signs will be led astray by those showing signs and

miracles. When the Bible speaks of these, it is pointing to a future time of those who will be coming to deceive with signs and wonders.

3. With everything that we have studied concerning this gift, how would you describe the effecting of miracles?

4. How and why could these be used of God to further His kingdom?

5. Do you feel that this is a gift for today? If so, how would you see that functioning within the body of Christ?

Day 5

The Gift of Distinguishing of Spirits

1. Today's gift is mentioned in I Corinthians 12:10. Read this verse and using your study tools, look up these words.

distinguishing (discerning - KJV) - I Corinthians 12:10 - #G1253

spirits - I Corinthians 12:10 - #G4151

2. Read the following passages and record what you learn about distinguishing or discerning of spirits. Remember your context for each passage.

- a. Acts 5:9-11

- b. Acts 13:8-12

- c. Acts 16:16-18

3. Do you think that after the time of the apostles, that this was still a necessary gift? Is this still a gift that is necessary today? Write out your thoughts on these questions.

4. Now read these verses and record what you learn from them.

- a. Acts 20:29-30

- b. II Timothy 4:1-3

- c. II Corinthians 11:4, 13-15

5. What is needed in a Christians' life so that they will be able to tell the false from the true and not be deceived and led astray? Look up these verses, record what you learn, and then answer this question.

a. Acts 17:11

b. I Peter 2:2

c. Hebrews 5:12-14

d. I Corinthians 3:1-4

e. John 8:36

f. John 17:17

g. I John 4:1

h. Now answer your question #5

6. What have you learned about this gift? How would you explain this gift to another person?

7. If you believe that this is a gift that is still around today? If you do, how do you think this would be exercised within the body of believers?

8. Do you know any individuals who exhibit this gift?

9. Do you believe that you have this gift? Why or why not?

Congratulations! You made it this far. We have two weeks to go, and I know that this week is the one that so many have been waiting for. What is all the to-do about speaking in tongues. This topic has split churches, divided friends, and has given Satan the ammunition he needs to make the church ineffective because the body is so busy arguing within itself that it doesn't have time to be ministering the gospel to a dying world.

God's family has become divided over the issue of tongues. The church is full of false teaching, misunderstanding, or just plain fear of even bringing the topic up. Why? Is this a place where God's word doesn't speak clearly? Is this somehow shrouded in mystery that only the "chosen select" can understand, and then we have to just trust what they have to say on the topic? I challenge you to go to your local Christian bookstore sometime and see if you can find any books on the topic of tongues? One book? Try hundreds of books! Many will contradict each other. How are we "common" people to understand this if those who are educated can't agree with each other?

We common people have something special that will equip us to tackle this subject. Do you know what that is? A true believer in the Lord Jesus Christ will have a willingness to study God's word, a desire to hold fast to His doctrine, a teachable heart, and a resident teacher, the Holy Spirit, who has been promised to us in order to teach us and lead us into truth.

It is my prayer that you come to this study and allow the Word of God to speak for itself. You need to come with a pliable heart allowing Scripture to say what it says. When God's Word contradicts something that we believed or were taught, we need to be willing to let go of our own thoughts and allow God to renew our minds through His Word. II Timothy 3:16-17 reminds us that all Scripture has been God-breathed and is profitable to us for . . .

doctrine (what we are called to believe)

reproof (to show us where we are wrong)

correction (to show us how to correct what is wrong)

instruction in righteousness (to show us how to live rightly before God)

And all this so that the man (or woman) of God may be adequate (satisfactory, acceptable) before God and equipped for every good work.

So let's learn doctrine and be reproved and corrected if necessary so we can live rightly before God. Then we will be a useful part of His kingdom being equipped to complete the course that He has set before us.

We have worked hard over the last ten weeks to lay a solid foundation for what God's Word says about the gifts. With that background behind us, we can now

attack the subject of tongues. We need to be diligent to study all passages that deal with this topic. It may be a very heavy week of study for you, but it is vitally important to seek the full counsel of God's Word.

Day 1 and 2

1. Instead of having you look up the word "tongues" this week, I am going to give you all the information for the three different Greek words for "tongues." For each reference read the context and ask your questions of the text. Remember the definitions of the word as you look up each passage. I gave you plenty of paper to record your insights for each word. Enjoy your study.
 - a. Glossa - #G1100 - this word is used four different ways throughout Scripture:
 - 1) "the tongues . . . like as of fire" which appeared at Pentecost
 - 2) "the tongue, as an organ of speech"
 - 3) "a language, coupled with "phule" (a tribe), "laos" (a people), "ethos" (a nation)
 - 4) "the supernatural gift of speaking in another language without its having been learnt" - the tongue; by implication a language not naturally acquired

Glossa is found in

Mark 7:33, 35; 16:17

Luke 1:64; 16:24

Acts 2:3, 4, 11, 26; 10:46; 19:6

Romans 3:13; 14:11

I Corinthians 12:10, 28, 30; 13:1, 8; 14:2, 4-6, 9, 13, 14, 18, 19, 22, 23, 26, 27, 39;

Philippians 2:11

James 1:26; 3:5, 6, 8

I Peter 3:10

I John 3:18

Revelation 5:9; 7:9; 10:11; 11:9; 13:7; 14:6; 16:10; 17:15

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b. Dialektos - #G1258

This means language, a conversation, a discourse, dialect. This is only used six times in the New Testament: Acts 1:19; 2:6, 8; 21:40; 22:2; 26:14.

c. Heteroglossos - #G2084

This is a strange or different tongue or language. It means "other tongued," a different language. The only place that it is found is in I Corinthians 14:21.

Spiritual Gifts

Lesson 11

Day 4

1. Read through I Corinthians 14 again. Go back and look through your observations from yesterday. You will see that there is a contrast between tongues and prophecy in this chapter. I want you to take some time to record these contrasts on the chart below.

Contrast of Tongues and Prophecy	
Tongues	Prophecy

2. Now it is time to ask some questions. Are you ready to put this all together in your mind. This is the time that we need to allow God's Word to speak and not the philosophies of man. Let His Word say what it says. Use all the Scriptures you have looked at this week and in the past weeks. Make sure that your answers can be defended by Scripture so be sure to record book, chapter, and verse with your answers. Again take your time and think through these questions carefully.

a. According to what you have studied how would you describe the gift of tongues to another person?

b. What is the purpose of the gift of tongues?

c. How is the gift of tongues (or any gift) received?

d. What commands are given in the Scriptures regarding the gift of tongues?

e. So the Scriptures teach that all Christians should speak in tongues?

f. What should be our attitude toward those who speak in tongues?

g. Are the tongues mentioned in the book of Acts the same as the tongues mentioned in the Gospel of Mark? Explain your answer.

h. Are the tongues mentioned in the book of Acts the same as the tongues mentioned in the I Corinthians? Explain your answer.

i. What does the Scripture say about seeking the gift of tongues?

j. How does a child of God receive spiritual gifts?

k. How would a child of God receive the gift of tongues?

3. Do you believe that this gift is still in use today? If so, explain how and where it would be used. How would this gift be used to further the kingdom of God?

Day 5

1. In our last day on the subject of tongues, we are going to look at the gift of interpretation of tongues. In I Corinthians 13 we read that tongues “will cease.” It is not our intent to study I Corinthians 13 until next week, but we want to look at verses 8-13, so we can put the statement that tongues will cease into its context. At this point in time, we are just going to study I Corinthians 13:8-13.
 - a. Do your observation on I Corinthians 13:8-13 (no more).
 - b. List everything you learn about tongues, prophecy, and knowledge from this section. I left space on the next page for you to write your observations.

Spiritual Gifts

Lesson 11

2. What does it mean that tongues will cease? Theologians seek to discover meaning of passages like this by looking at the tense, mood, and voice of the verbs in verse 8. Let's take a look for ourselves. If you don't have access to a study Bible or Greek word tools to look up the meanings of these tenses, moods, and voices, you can go on line at one of these two places. I found them to be very informative!

http://www.ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/verbs1.htm

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/help/greekverbs.cfm>

a. prophecy will be done away with - future tense, indicative mood, passive voice

b. tongues will cease - future tense, indicative mood, middle voice

c. knowledge will be done away with - future tense, indicative mood, passive voice

4. Considering everything that we have studied, observed, and considered, what do you think Paul meant when he said that tongues will cease? When will they cease? Why will they cease? How will they cease?

5. What is the gift of the interpretation of tongues? We already looked at tongues. This gift is talked about in I Corinthians 12:10. The word for tongues in glossa. Take the time to look at what interpretation means.

interpretation - I Corinthians 12:10 - #G2058

6. Read through I Corinthians 14 one more time. This time list all the facts concerning the gift of interpretation of tongues. Write down everything you observe.
7. Take what you have learned and write out a description of how you would explain to someone what the gift of interpreting tongues is and how that would be used in the confines of what spiritual gifts are used for. Think this through.

I Corinthians 13

1 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

2 If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

3 And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

4 Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant,

5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered,

6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth;

7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away.

9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part;

10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away.

11 When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.

12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.

13 But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.

I Corinthians 14

1 Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual *gifts*, but especially that you may prophesy.

2 For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God; for no one understands, but in *his* spirit he speaks mysteries.

3 But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation.

4 One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but one who prophesies edifies the church.

5 Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues, but *even* more that you would prophesy; and greater is one who prophesies than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may receive edifying.

6 But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking in tongues, what will I profit you unless I speak to you either by way of revelation or of knowledge or of prophecy or of teaching?

7 Yet *even* lifeless things, either flute or harp, in producing a sound, if they do not produce a distinction in the tones, how will it be known what is played on the flute or on the harp?

8 For if the bugle produces an indistinct sound, who will prepare himself for battle?

9 So also you, unless you utter by the tongue speech that is clear, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air.

10 There are, perhaps, a great many kinds of languages in the world, and no *kind* is without meaning.

11 If then I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be to the one who speaks a barbarian, and the one who speaks will be a barbarian to me.

12 So also you, since you are zealous of spiritual *gifts*, seek to abound for the edification of the church.

13 Therefore let one who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret.

14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful.

15 What is *the outcome* then? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also.

16 Otherwise if you bless in the spirit *only*, how will the one who fills the place of the ungifted say the “Amen” at your giving of thanks, since he does not know what you are saying?

17 For you are giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not edified.

18 I thank God, I speak in tongues more than you all;
19 however, in the church I desire to speak five words with my mind so that I may instruct others also, rather than ten thousand words in a tongue.

20 Brethren, do not be children in your thinking; yet in evil be infants, but in your thinking be mature.

21 In the Law it is written, “By men of strange tongues and by the lips of strangers I will speak to this people, and even so they will not listen to Me,” says the Lord.

22 So then tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophecy *is for a sign*, not to unbelievers but to those who believe.

23 Therefore if the whole church assembles together and all speak in tongues, and ungifted men or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are mad?

24 But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an [!]ungifted man enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all;

25 the secrets of his heart are disclosed; and so he will fall on his face and worship God, declaring that God is certainly among you.

26 What is *the outcome* then, brethren? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.

27 If anyone speaks in a tongue, *it should be* by two or at the most three, and *each* in turn, and one must interpret;

28 but if there is no interpreter, he must keep silent in the church; and let him speak to himself and to God.

29 Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others pass judgment.

30 But if a revelation is made to another who is seated, the first one must keep silent.

31 For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all may be exhorted;

32 and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets;

33 for God is not *a God* of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

34 The women are to keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but are to subject themselves, just as the Law also says.

35 If they desire to learn anything, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is improper for a woman to speak in church.

36 Was it from you that the word of God first went forth? Or has it come to you only?

37 If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment.

38 But if anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized.

39 Therefore, my brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak in tongues.

40 But all things must be done properly and in an orderly manner.

Spiritual Gifts

Lesson 11

Day 1

1. I pray that this will be an uplifting week as you discover your place within the body of Christ. We know that if we are part of His body, He has placed us there with the gift(s) that He has given us to accomplish His purpose of the furtherance for His kingdom. This week, you will see what it looks like to live the life God has called you to live. If you can grasp hold of this concept, you could turn this world upside down (at least your little part of it)! Pray that God would allow you to come to this last week of study with a teachable spirit. Allow Him to mold you and shape you into the servant He wants you to be.
2. Begin your study this week by reading I Corinthians 12, 13, and 14. These are found on pages 14-16, 175-181. We will be studying chapter 13, but you need to see that chapter in its context.
3. Do your observation worksheet on chapter 13. I know you did some of this last week, but now is the time to finish it and see if you discover any new insights as you study. Make sure you are marking your key words, making lists on what you learn about those key words, note any contrasts or comparisons that are made, and keep asking those 5 W's and H questions.

Day 2

1. Before we do anything else today, please go back and read I Corinthians chapter 13 again. Pray and ask that God will allow you to objectively examine your life by holding it up to the plumb line of His Word. We are so quick to measure our lives by comparing them to others who are just as flawed as we are. Instead we need to hold up our lives to the light (and conviction) of Scripture.

2. Why do you think that Paul choose to write what he did, here, in the midst of chapter 12 and chapter 14? Does it have a purpose? Does it interrupt his teaching on spiritual gifts or expand it? Could you leave this chapter out and still have the same understanding of gifts?

3. Take a look at the following words. Record what you can about them.

love - agape - #G26

tongues - glossa #1100 - (you can look back to last week's lesson)

4. Make a list of everything you learn about how love behaves in verses 4-8. Leave enough room for each to give an explanation of what each behavior means. You can look them up in your study tools, in a dictionary, or your understanding of what it means. As you look at these, again examine your life! You have this page and the next to write out your insights. Be thorough!

Spiritual Gifts

Lesson 12

Day 3

1. Those are some pretty high standards aren't they? Surely God just means for us to try our best, right? He doesn't expect us to actually do all that, does He? Is God presenting a lifestyle that we can never attain too? Let's see what His Word tells us.

a. Look up the following verses and record what you learn. Watch the context!

1) 1 John 4:4

2) John 10:30

3) John 14:23

4) Colossians 1:27

5) Colossians 2:9-10

6) Galatians 5:22-23

b. From what you have just read, how would you answer the questions posed in question #1 from this lesson? Write out your answer(s).

2. We are going to compare the Galatians passage you just read to the I Corinthians 13:4-8 passage that we have been looking at. In the chart below, record all the fruit of the Spirit from Galatians in the first column. In the second column record how love acts according to I Corinthians 13:4-8 opposite the fruit listed in the first column. For example, patient is going to be placed across from long-suffering (or patience depending on your translation).

Galatians 5:22-23	I Corinthians 13:4-8

3. On pages 197-201 is an Observation Worksheet on I John 3:10-5:5. Read through this passage and put a heart around every occurrence of the word “love.”
 - a. How many did you mark?
 - b. List everything you learn about love from these verses. I will leave room on this page and the next. Make sure you mark the verse with each point you make.

4. In I John 5:2-3 we read “By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.” Look up Romans 13:8-10 and record how and why would be the fulfillment of the Law.

3. To wrap up our time together today, I want you to go back to I Corinthians 13:8-13 and read that. We had looked at these last week, but we want to analyze them today. We saw words like “in part” and “perfect.” We also saw that prophecy and knowledge would be done away with and tongues would cease. Why do you think God included those statements in this teaching? What was He saying about love? What did He want us to understand? Think through this whole passage (chapters 12-14) as you give an answer for this.

Day 5

1. This is our last day together. This is a time to meditate on all that God has revealed to you over these last 12 weeks. Please don't rush through this lesson or skip it all together. This is the time to solidify all that you have studied. This is an opportunity to grasp hold to truth and cling tightly to it so that it shapes our hearts and our minds. We are called to live in love. John tells us that those who don't love, don't love God for God is love. These are strong and convicting words. I would like to encourage you to do something artistic/creative with I Corinthians 13. Below are some suggestions. Anyone who knows me, knows that I am artistically challenged, so I would shy away from drawing, but I know that some of you are very artistic. Make sure to keep the passage in its context with whatever project you may undertake.
 - a. Make a poster with a visual presentation of the chapter.
 - b. Do a cross-stitch pattern or calligraphy picture.
 - c. Outline the chapter so you could teach a Sunday School or Bible class.
 - d. Write a poem or a song that contains the message of chapter 13.
 - e. Write an article for a newspaper or magazine on the topic.
 - f. Write a letter to someone who may hold to a different idea of spiritual gifts and share what you have learned with I Corinthians 13 being your starting point.
 - g. You may have another way of expressing what you have learned.

Spiritual Gifts

Lesson 12

- c. What spiritual gift(s) do you think you have been given and how do you see those gifts being used. Don't ever think that your gifts have to be exercised exclusively inside the walls of a church building. Remember the purpose of the gifts. They are for the building up of the body of Christ, for the common good for the body to be able to accomplish the task of taking the Gospel message to the uttermost parts of the earth.

I John 3:10-24

10 By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.

11 For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another;

12 not as Cain, who was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.

13 Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you.

14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death.

15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

16 We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

17 But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

19 We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him

20 in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things.

21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God;

22 and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.

23 This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.

24 The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

I John 4

1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God;

3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.

4 You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

5 They are from the world; therefore they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them.

6 We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

9 By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.

10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

12 No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.

13 By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

14 We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.

15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

16 We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

17 By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world.

18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

19 We love, because He first loved us.

20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.

21 And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

I John 5:1-5

1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him.

2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments.

3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

5 Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?