

# 1 Corinthians - Week 10

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2022



## Summary

In the church of Corinth, the followers of Jesus Christ were struggling in their sin-filled city, full of idol worship and false teachings. The church struggled with division at every turn and in chapter 12 we see that they are also divided on their views and responses to spiritual giftedness. Which ones were better, more important, more desired? Paul is attempting to realign the church in unity, purpose, and even direction. Bottom line, Paul is presenting to the church of Corinth, and also to us, that whatever gifting the church has, it must be under the leadership and authority of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

## Scripture - 1 Corinthians 12

Lists of gifts from God, given to us include 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 28, Romans 12:6-8, Ephesians 4:11, 1 Peter 4:10-11. We have to ask when we begin to explore gifts given by God, through the spirit of God...

- Am I using this gift to make Jesus known or myself?
- Is this gift being used to edify, grow, and mature others?
- Is my use of this gift bringing unity to my local body of believers?

As you read through and study 1 Corinthians 12 (and other verses listed above), take the time to truly seek biblical and historical understanding of these gifts. Pray that God would reveal your area of giftedness and how to best use your gift to make Jesus known, help edify, grow, and mature others, and bring unity to your local church body rather than division.

A great tool for diving deeper into scripture is the Blue Letter Bible. You can download the app on your phone or go to the website for further study...

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/>

## Key Terms - Strong's and Thayer's Definitions

Common Good: (from vs. 7) Greek word *sympherō* (soom-fer'-o); to bear or bring together; to carry with others, to collect or contribute in order to help; to conduce especially for an advantage; to benefit.

# Key Thoughts

The church is most effective when our gifts from the Spirit of God unify us in purpose and direction. The gifts from the spirit of God have a common good. Spiritual gifts are given for the edification, growth, and maturity of the entire body of Christ, the church.

We have to ask when we begin to explore gifts given by God, through the spirit of God:

- Am I using this gift to make Jesus known or myself?
- Is this gift being used to edify, grow, and mature others?
- Is my use of this gift bringing unity to my local body of believers?

Your gift is a privilege; so accept it, but don't flaunt it! - Most of the issues people have with some of the more public gifts and outward gifts, is that those with those gifts grow in pride in their giftedness, instead of humility to dispense the gift.

Your gift is a responsibility; so use it, don't abuse it! - If you have a gift or ability that you have that is not being used, you are neglecting part of your spiritual and God-given design.

Your gift is from God; so don't minimize it or hide it! - You may not believe your gift of mercy found in Romans is needed, but it is crucial to our body of believers.

# Reflect & Respond

What sign would fit best around your neck right now?

- "No Help Wanted" - I don't want to share my burdens, essentially I am going to neglect using part of God's body for my spiritual growth.
- "I'm not gifted" - Straight-out lie that leads to isolation
- "Don't bother me, I've got bigger things to do." - Translation - your problems are too small, your struggle is for someone else, and my gifts are greater than yours.
- "How can I serve you?"

In this last month, did you share with someone an area of need in your life?

In this last month, did you express gratitude to another member of the body for what that person means to you?

If someone asked you, "How can I help you this week?" Would you be embarrassed or offended?

Are you currently using your God given gift(s) to serve your local church body? If not, why?

