

# 1 Corinthians Ch 12:7-11

“The Manifestation Of The Spirit”

As we fall back into the flow of this particular Ch realize that Paul is heading *towards* and ultimately leading up *to* the principle of unity through diversity. He’s speaking about the ways *in* which and the whys *of* which the Holy Spirit moves in the midst of the body of Christ. and As he approaches the subject he makes known to us that there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit, there are differences of ministries, but the same Lord, and there are diversities of activities, but it’s the same God who works all of *it* in all of *us*. and We spent some time last week developing this idea of “different, but the same,” and thought there is that every gift of the Spirit originates from the same source, it’s the same God who works all in all. So then we’re to recognize (via the same Spirit, same Lord, same God) that thread of unity that is woven into the very fabric of the diversities of the gifts. Or to understand all that another way we’re all gifted in different ways by the Holy Spirit of God, but those differences aren’t to divide us, but rather they’re to unite us. If we’re to operate as a body in the way God intended, I need you, and you need me, we both benefit from each other by those things that God is doing in each of our lives respectively. and God has structured it in such a way so as to unify us and bring us together as the body of Christ. Because human nature drifts towards isolation, I like my space, but God desires unification among us.

Now, as we approach this list of spiritual gifts there’s a few things to just kind of tuck away and remember as we go through them so that we’re not pigeonholed thinking that having spent 45 minutes talking about it that we’re now complete in our understanding of how these gifts operate and what God does through them. #1 We need to realize that *gifts* of the Spirit are just that, they are *gifts*, you can not *earn* them, and you can not *learn* them. We’ll see that with a few of these gifts there are what we might call *natural* nuances to them, and then there are also *supernatural* aspects, and when we’re talking about the gifts of the Spirit we’re always defaulting to the *supernatural*. (and You’ll see what I mean as we begin to develop it). But the gifts of the Spirit can’t be learned; now they can be stirred by way of use, that is if God has given you a gift of teaching, you can hone it, develop it, refine it through use. The scriptures exhort us to *stir up* the gift that is in us. But God’s gift to teach isn’t the same as a natural academic teaching degree learned and earned at college. There are plenty of people who are “teachers” but that doesn’t mean that God has called them and anointed them to expound upon His word to His people, you understand the difference. So you can’t learn them, nor can you *earn* them, you can’t do enough good deeds in order to get God to reward you with say the gift of the working of miracles, we’ll see when we get to Vs 11 that the reasons that the Holy Spirit chooses to gift certain people in certain ways doesn’t lie in them, they lie in Him, He does as *He* wills, not as we will. Now it’s not sin to *pray* for a particular gift, but you can’t somehow earn that gift.

Something else you’ll want to remember is that God pours out in measure sometimes the same gift in people’s lives but to different degrees. So that if we both have the gift of administrations, it may be much stronger in your life than mine, so that how it operates in your life, may be different from how it operates in my life even though it’s the same gift.

So as we see various examples of these things throughout the scriptures realize that that's how these gifts were operating in *their* lives, but it doesn't mean that that's the only circumstance, and the only way it'll surface in *your* life. We're not trying to box God in here. We're all different in our personalities one from the other, therefore God will operate uniquely in each of us.

Again all within the parameters of His word, but variation is not a problem, disorderliness is, but variety is not. Finally I want you to realize that Paul is not trying to give us a full inventory of the gifts of the Spirit. He lists these by way of example, he lists others in Rom 12, still others in Eph 4, Peter lists a couple in 1<sup>st</sup> Pet 4, and none of those lists are exhaustive. It's much like when he's mentions various lists of sins, there's no exhaustive listing of every sin that you could possibly commit. **and So you find him in Gal 5 after he mentions the works of the flesh he says, "and the like," all of these things, and anything like this; well, so to in situations like this. I'm persuaded that you could take these various listings of the gifts of the Spirit and place the word, "and the like" after them. Because these aren't the only ways that God will gift you, but these are examples of ways in which He might, again we don't want to box God in. Let's catch the context beginning in Vs 4 and read through Vs 11.**

#### **Vs4-11**

So these are some of the *ways* in which the Holy Spirit will manifest Himself and as for the "why" we find that in Vs 7, "for the profit of all." Paul has been speaking of the variety of ways in which the Holy Spirit ministers to the body of Christ, differences in gifts, or diversities of ministries, differences in activities, but the reason *behind* the manifestation of the Spirit is always the same, look at Vs 7 (read).

**Now again remember the overarching theme here of unity and order. and What Paul is saying here is that none of the gifts of the Spirit are given for personal enjoyment, but rather for corporate employment. In other words God does not gift me so that I can carve out an agenda that will benefit me and/or exalt me or exploit the gift simply for some sort of personal profit. But rather He gifts me by His Spirit so that I might be a benefit and a blessing to the body of Christ. Remember what he said back in Ch 10? "Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being." 1 Cor 10:14**

In Ch 14 we'll read it like this, "...since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel." 1 Cor 14:12 So we're not gifted for personal profit, but so that we might bless the body, which brings up a question; how are you blessing the body through the gift/gifts God has invested into you? **and It doesn't have to be limited to something you're doing in these 4 walls, though that's not a bad place to start, but how is the body of Christ being blessed through what God is doing and has done in your life?**

Now he speaks here of the "manifestation" of the Spirit, what does that mean? Another word for manifestation is "revelation." In 2 Cor Ch 4 Paul speaks of manifesting of God's truth by sharing God's Word honestly and openly as opposed to handling the word of God deceitfully. God's truth is revealed through him by his handling of the word with integrity, with honesty. **Another way we might understand the word, "manifestation" is that of an appearing. Something that is made openly known among us is something that has been made manifest in our midst. If right now my water is in this room, but it's not been made manifest because I haven't taken a drink, if I take it out from under the pulpit it's being made manifest.**

Now it was never any less in this room just because you couldn't see it, but once it was held up we could all openly discern its presence. So to with the Holy Spirit, He is always with us. Remember Jesus said in reference to His sending of the Holy Spirit into the lives of believers in general, "...I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever -- the Spirit of truth," John 14:16-17 So the Holy Spirit is always abiding with us, in the midst of us, but there are times when He will *manifest* Himself among us, that is, make Himself known in a tangible way, through a discernable expression. and Paul here lists for us various ways in which the Holy Spirit might express Himself among us, for instance...

### Vs8

The Holy Spirit may choose to manifest, or reveal Himself through your life to another, or in the midst of the body through a word of wisdom. Now what is a word of wisdom? The proverbs tell us, "*Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom.*" Prov 4:7 and Again, "*How much better to get wisdom than gold!*" Prov 16:16 So in one respect we realize that wisdom is something that is attainable by man. and Certainly every child of God should be growing in the wisdom of God by spending time in the Word of God.

and That's what I was referencing when I said that there were natural nuances to some of these gifts. Because all of us can and *should* grow in wisdom. However when we read of the "Word of wisdom" as given by the Holy Spirit we're not speaking about the type of wisdom that we can glean and grow in over time. We're talking about a supernatural word given to you by God that brings an appropriate understanding, closure, or proper application to a given situation.

and There are both OT and NT examples of this gift and most all of the gifts listed found in operation in various people's lives throughout the scriptures. I'm reminded of Joseph when he was in prison and Pharaoh had a dream and no one could interpret it. Long story short Joseph did, but not only did he have the interpretation, he also had an application for that situation. Remember there was going to be 7 yrs famine throughout the land, but prior to that there would be 7 good yrs. and So Joseph told the Pharaoh, "Hey during the 7 good yrs you're going to tax the people and save up vast amounts of excess, then during the 7 yrs of famine you'll be able to sell the grain back to the people so that they can survive." Now believe me when I tell you that that was a radical revelation, that was a word of wisdom for that situation. and The Pharaoh said, "'Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?' Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, 'Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you. You shall be over my house, and all my people shall be ruled according to your word; only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you.'" Gen 41:38-40 God gave to him a word of wisdom, of course Solomon was gifted supernaturally with wisdom, remember when the 2 women were both claiming one baby to be theirs? and Solomon said, "Cut the child in 2 and give ½ to each woman." and The one woman said, "No, no, give the child to her," and The other was all, "Sounds fair to me." Solomon said, "Give the child to the woman who wanted to spare it's life, she's the real mom. It was a word of wisdom. Look at Matt Ch 22 (Vs 15-22)

You see the Holy Spirit supernaturally gave Him a solution/practical application to a sticky situation, and that's the way the word of wisdom works in a person's life. God gave Paul a word of wisdom in Acts 23 when he was on trial in order to get himself free from a potentially life threatening situation.

Now it's not always as dramatic as that, but it serves as a practical solution, or an appropriate direction, given by God by His Spirit in a given moment. But there's not a reservoir of this type of wisdom waiting upon the person to tap at his/her will; it's a gift that the Holy Spirit gives, to a particular person at the appropriate time, for a specific situation.

To another a word of knowledge, again when we think of knowledge we think of "knowing" something. and Surely we're to grow in what we know about the heart and mind of God through the study of the Word of God. But we're not in reference here to an accumulation of information gleaned over a period of time. **This word speaks of supernatural insight, or information give about a person or situation that you couldn't otherwise know if the Lord hadn't revealed it to you.** God gave the prophet Nathan a word of knowledge about David concerning his sin with Bathsheba, you can read of that in 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel Ch 12. I suppose another classic illustration of this would be found in 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings Ch 5.

Remember Naaman the Syrian had leprosy, and Elisha had him dip 7 times in the Jordan and he was miraculously healed. and He tried to pay Elisha but he wouldn't take any money, so Naaman left and when he got down the road Elisha's servant followed after him and stopped him. Naaman said, "What is it?" He said, "My master has changed his mind, he'll take a little compensation after all." So Naaman loaded him up, and when Gehazi (Elisha's servant) returned to him Elisha said, "Where did you go Gehazi?" He said, "Nowhere." and We read where Elisha said, "*Did not my heart go with you when the man turned back from his chariot to meet you? Is it time to receive money and to receive clothing, olive groves and vineyards, sheep and oxen, male and female servants? Therefore the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and your descendants forever.*" And he went out from his presence leprous, as white as snow." 2 Kings 5:26-27 Elisha was given supernatural insight to the situation.

You see this gift at work in Jesus' life all the time. He told the woman at the well to go call her husband. She said, "I don't have a husband." He said, "*You have well said, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.*" John 4:17-18 **Supernatural insight into her life, you read of Him knowing the thoughts of the Pharisees that they thought with in themselves when He was around or when they were trying to entrap Him. That's a word of knowledge. and Often times it's through a word of knowledge that a persons heart is pricked or pierced, opened up to the Lord by this supernatural insight.** Of course the adverse effect can happen to when people think someone has talked to you about them, or with me in a study sometimes people think someone told me they were coming so I tailored my message just for them, to point out their sin. I find that the word of wisdom and the word of knowledge are very prevalent in the expounding upon God's Word to God's people. **People have issues that they need solutions to, God may give you a Word of Wisdom throughout the study. Or maybe there's an issue that's going on and no one knows but you and your spouse, or whatever and suddenly it becomes the object of illustration in a bible study. That's God ministering supernaturally in a very practical way.**

Often times people want to know, "How does that work?" Does your body start shaking? Do you get a warm sensation? Let me be honest with you, more than not, I don't even realize when it *is* happening. It's often in retrospect as someone shares a testimony with me that I come to realize the way God used my life. The bible tells us that wisdom is justified by her children, the net effect bears witness to the wisdom in the situation.

Or perhaps as you're praying with someone, or ministering to them, God just begins to reveal to you what's going on in their lives, it just sort of flashes in your mind. and So as you're praying you're just offering encouragement or giving scripture for them to be comforted by. It's happens quite a bit in people's lives and it's so non-invasive that people often times don't even realize that it took place. and Then someone says, "You were hitting the nail right on the head with that, I knew it was the Lord." and You just praise God. Oh some people would be more assured if you made a huge drama out of the deal, but God knows where we live and He often ministers to us supernaturally in very practical ways. Now time will fail us to look at all these in depth and there are multiple examples we could consider. But I'm just wanting to touch on them so you might follow up on them and begin to discern for yourself the way God orchestrates these things in people's lives so that other's might be blessed and benefit from them.

Next he brings up faith in Vs 9. We're not talking about saving faith here, it's by grace that we've been saved, *through faith*. Every believer has been given a measure of faith. But we're not talking about that, we're talking about extra-ordinary faith given in a particular moment in order to believe God for the otherwise impossible. and Of course often times these gifts work in conjunction with one another. For instance you may be given a word of knowledge and then on the heels of that God gives you the wisdom regarding how to handle it.

Of course this gift of faith often times would work in conjunction with say the gifts of healings or miracles. Elijah exercised this gift when he face the 400 prophets of Baal. and He said, "Let's set up 2 altars, and the god who answers by fire, he's God." and They said, "Sounds fair enough." You know the story, all day they danced, and chanted, and cut themselves, worked themselves into a fervor with no response. When they were finished Elijah said, "Pour water all over mine." and So they saturated it, "Elijah lifted up his voice and said, God let it be known that You are the God of Ab, Isaac and Jacob and that I'm Your servant, let them know that You are the Lord God and that You've turned their hearts back to You." and Fire fell from heaven and consumed the sacrifice, licked up all the water, melted the stones, and all the people fell on their faces and said, "The Lord He is God, He is God." This is the type of faith that parts the Red Sea so that you walk through on dry ground. It's the type of faith that Jesus said could say to a MT "Be removed and cast into the sea" and it would obey you. You remember there in Acts Ch 3, turn to Acts Ch 3 (Vs 1-16)

Now there was obviously an act of healing that took place there, but it was orchestrated through the gift of faith. It's the same faith that caused Peter to walk on the water. Which brings us back to the previous point, these aren't gifts we can simply call on at anytime. Peter stepped out on the water in faith, but then what happened, he faltered in it. Elijah after he killed 400 prophets of Baal fled for his life from a single woman who threatened to behead him by the next day. Ab had great faith, but it faltered on several occasions, even in the birth of his promised son. Instead of holding on to the promise in faith, he went into Hagar at the advice of Sarah and had Ishmael 1<sup>st</sup> the ramifications of which still plague the world to this day. So just because God gifts us in various areas at various times doesn't mean that we never falter, or fail, we can't call upon these gifts whenever we feel the need, they're given as He wills. For His plans, His purpose, and His pleasure.

Of course we could think of George Mueller, or Hudson Taylor as guys a little closer to our time that God did amazing things through by the gift of faith (you'll have to look those guys up on your own).

To another gifts of healings, of course this one seems fairly self explanatory seen numerous times throughout the OT and the New. We realize that all healing comes from God be it over time, through medicinal means or whatever. But again we're speaking here of that direct supernatural intervention. Now one thing you might note is that we see it in the plural, "gifts of healings." (and Again it's not something you can call on to heal whoever, whenever you want.) We know that God healed several people through the apostle Paul, yet he himself had a thorn in the flesh that God wouldn't remove and Timothy was a sickly young guy who wasn't healed when he was prayed for. But this gift seems to be something that can flow *through* you, or be given *to* you. Hence the plural nature of the phrase. If I pray for you and you're healed, that's a gift of healing, yet if I'm the one that's ill and I'm the one healed than I've received a gift of healing, so this could be in reference either to God working *through* you, or giving the gift of healing *to* you in your ailment. I've been on both sides, how many times have you gotten a call and someone has a mass or a tumor that the doctors are going to examine. and So you pray for them and when they go back to the doctor they can't even find it? That's the Lord healing that person, I've been ill (common cold, whatever) and God has taken it from me in the course of a single night or a day. Go to bed completely sick, pray and wake up 100%. 2-3 times that kind of thing has happened for me over the course of my 15 yr journey with the Lord thus far. More than not, I endure illness (we all do) but occasionally God will find it in His grace to heal us supernaturally.

To another miracles, again the scriptures share numerous examples of the miraculous. We're talking here about wonders that go against the laws of nature. The raising of the dead, Jesus took 5 loaves and 2 fish and with them fed somewhere around 15,000 people, causing the blind to see, the paralytic to walk, a healing kind of miracle. Moses worked miracles before the Pharaoh, signs and wonders.

To another prophecy, now we're not talking about the office of a prophet, but the gift of prophecy. It can involve the foretelling of the future, but it's generally a forth-telling of the Word of God. We'll see prophecy again in Ch 14, but we read there that prophecy is speaking edification, exhortation, and comfort to men under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. and Again it's not preparing a message and giving that to the body, that may be preaching and teaching, but it's not prophecy, though prophecy can certainly be woven throughout our time of study as God exhorts you, edifies you and comforts you. **But prophecy is again that supernatural spontaneous word given in a moment of need that ministers to a particular situation regarding the heart and mind of God. Perhaps directing you to God's Word, or exhorting you to trust in the Lord and lean not on your own understanding. (More on that in Ch 14)**

To another discerning of spirits, the bible tells us to test the spirits because not every spirit that goes forth is from God. and God's Word gives us a measure by which we're to discern situations and circumstances and surely God's word causes us to grow in our discernment. But we're not referencing that kind of discernment here.

We're talking about the supernatural ability to "see through" a situation, or realize that something isn't of the Lord even if it all seems well on the outside. (We're not talking here about justify a critical spirit in our carnal nature) and this is a great gift to pray for and seek God concerning because it seems that it's greatly neglected in the body of Christ today. People seem to believe anything, it doesn't matter how wild, or whacky, or out of order it may be. But there are times when everything seems right yet it's still not of the Lord. Case in point, turn to Acts Ch 5 (Now in order to get a little background lets actually begin in Vs 32 of Ch 4-Vs 11 of Ch 5).

Things seemed great on the outside, they were giving of their resources to the Lord, the Holy Spirit spoke to Peter and said, "They're not pure in their motives," and Peter was able to discern the situation, even uttering a word of knowledge in the process God revealing to him what had taken place. We see this gift again in Peter in Ch 8 turn there, (Vs9-23) We enter into the equation with a great revival taking place in Samaria, look at Vs 9.

The Spirit enabled Peter to discern the motive of his heart, it wasn't the Holy Spirit motivating him even though he seemed so genuine in his desire from the outside. You see Paul exercise this gift in Acts 16 when a certain girl in Philippi was following him and Silas around shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, proclaiming to us the way of salvation!" You say, "Well, what's wrong with that?" What's wrong with it is the fact that she was demon possessed and Paul discerned that, and cast the demon out of her. You see Jesus using it all the time as He discerned the thoughts and intents of the hearts of those around Him.

Finally we have here tongues, and interpretation of tongues, now again we'll see these in Ch 14 so we won't say a lot here. Except to say that you won't find a scripture that says that this gift is the verification of the presence of the Holy Spirit in a person's life. As a matter of fact though I wouldn't say it dogmatically it seems fairly typical of Paul when he's speaking of various gifts and offices that he lists them from the greater to the lesser (not pertaining to their origin but to their benefit to the body).

and So you see wisdom and knowledge 1<sup>st</sup> and tongues and interpretation of them last. Now that makes some people mad, but it's simply an observation. We note from Ch 14 that tongues isn't speaking man to man, but man to God in prayer and in praise, that's why it's not a whole lot of benefit to the body though it edifies the individual greatly.

But what I want you to note here is that the word "interpretation" is used here, not "translation." A translation would be a word for word transfer from one language to another. An interpretation conveys the general concept. Remember the hand writing on the wall? Daniel Ch 5? "MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN." Now when Daniel came in he didn't translate that or else he'd have said 4 words. But rather he interpreted it so that what was communicated was God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it; You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting; Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians. So through an interpretation a few repetitive phrases being uttered might be articulated through a very colorful and expressive interpretation. and We'll speak more on this topic in Ch 14 regarding tongues and what happens when a person speaks in tongues and the proper environment for an expression in tongues. But let's wrap up here in Vs 11

## Vs11

The reason that God gifts a particular person in a particular way resolve completely in Him, and never in the person. and Sometimes that drives us crazy because it bugs us that God would gift *that* guy, or *that* gal in that way. But God is sovereign, now often times we assume a particular spiritual gift makes a person particularly *spiritual*. That's not necessarily so either, don't confuse giftedness with maturity. **God can pour out a gift upon someone in a moment, maturity is cultivated in a person's life over a period of yrs as they walk with the Lord. That's why when you read of the requirements for Christian leadership in Timothy and Titus, spiritual giftedness isn't mentioned as critical or needed. What's needed is men of mature character and integrity who've walked with the Lord and know the heart and mind of the Lord through the Word of God.**

But these are a few of the ways in which the Holy Spirit might manifest Himself among us. and He works all these things, distributing to each one as *He* wills, for the profit, the benefit and blessing of all.

### Prayer Points:

God we thank You for Your love for us. How You desire to bless and build up Your body, to unify us, and bring us together that we might strengthen one another. and God we just pray that You would pour out Your Spirit in a mighty way upon this fellowship, and give us boldness along with wisdom and understanding as to the operation and exercising of the gifts. That we might be a spiritually strong and healthy body, growing and maturing more and more in You each day. We're just open to You Father, having Your way in us.

We've been spending a lot of time today discuss various gifts of the Spirit, but you should know that the greatest gift that the Holy Spirit wants to impart to you is that of everlasting life. The gift of salvation, if you've never given your heart to Christ and you know in your heart that God is dealing with you and drawing you to Himself, let me encourage you to respond to that by **receive Jesus Christ today**. Jesus went to the cross, laying down His life, shedding His blood so that You might be forgiven of all your sin. Why resist that, why reject that, God loves you so much, receive Jesus today, just open Your heart and invite Him in.