

**Today's Topic:** Love and Spiritual Gifts

**I. Scripture:** Romans 12; I Corinthians 12-14

**Romans 12: 4-8.** Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. 7If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; 8if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

**1 Corinthians 12.** Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant. . . . 4There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. 7Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. 11All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines. . . . 27Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 28And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. 29Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongue? Do all interpret? 31But eagerly desire[e] the greater gifts. And now I will show you the most excellent way. . . .

**1 Corinthians 13.** If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. . . . 8Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. 9For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears.

**1 Corinthians 14.** Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy. . . . 12So it is with you. Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church. . . . 26What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.

**Ephesians 4: 7-11.** But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. 8This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men." . . . 11It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

**1 Peter 4: 8-11.** Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 9Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 11If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.

**II. Discussion Questions**

a. According to these passages, what seems to be God's purpose in apportioning spiritual gifts to people in the church, the body of Christ?

b. First Corinthians 13, the "love chapter," seems to be strategically positioned between the two most lengthy chapters about spiritual gifts in all of scripture. What message might Paul be trying to communicate to people in the church about spiritual gifts and showing profound love to one another?

c. Do people who are not filled with the Holy Spirit possess spiritual gifts? Please explain.

**III. No class next week. August 15 Topic & Scripture:** Wrath and Rapture / Scriptures TBA.