

Like controversy? **Spiritual gifts are one of the most divisive subjects.** **1 Cor 12:1-3**
Two extremes have created ignorance

- ***Some freaked out / don't want to know
- ***Others who haven't been taught anything

Good Reading About the Holy Spirit

Living Water	Chuck Smith
Charisma versus Charismania	Chuck Smith
God the Holy Spirit: Great Doctrines of the Bible	Martin Lloyd-Jones
Holy Spirit	Arthur W. Pink
Living in the Power of the Holy Spirit	Charles Stanley
Sermons on the Holy Spirit	C.H. Spurgeon
Showing the Spirit	D.A. Carson
How To Be Filled With the Holy Spirit	A.W. Tozer
The Holy Spirit of God	G. Campbell Morgan
Understanding the Holy Spirit	G. Campbell Morgan
The Holy Spirit	John Walvoord
They Found the Secret	V. Raymond Edman
Those Controversial Gifts	George Mallone

I. Jesus is alive today through each believer

- A. **The Holy Spirit lives in every believer** **John 14:15-20** **Jesus in ME**
 Jesus makes Himself known to world through us He ministers to peoples' needs, through us!
He does this through Fruit of the Spirit and by way of Spiritual gifts
- B. **Vv4-11, 27 Holy Spirit calls each one to work** He determines who gets what... We don't decide!
See vv7,11,27 **EACH ONE...** has a gift
Complete Godhead @ wk in ea of us... if allow
 Spirit determines what gift(s) we each have
 Jesus determines where we use those gifts
Father determines how powerfully we use them
 Not natural talents – **supernaturally** given @ salvation
Don't confuse Gifts of Spirit with Fruit of Spirit

FRUIT	GIFTS
Attitudes	Activities
No Carnality	Carnality possible
Affects me	Affect others
Control of the flesh	Build up Body Christ
All believers/ all fruit	All believers / differing gifts
Result of control of Holy Spirit	Result of salvation and distribution by Sp

II. vv12-20 We Are His Body

- A. **Bible says we are His body** Jesus **still lives** among us BY HIS SPIRIT!!
We are His body... Jn 14:20 "I am in you..."
- B. **Normal healthy body has all its parts in right places**
 Life flows through it No body has just 1 body part
 Parts in disproportion / wrong place = malformed body
Normal healthy body depends on all its parts
Eye can't benefit from food without foot / hand / mouth / stomach
 If each of us is really inter-dependent... Then blvrs who don't use gifts are... **DISOBEDIENT**
That makes Body of Christ... **UNHEALTHY**
No human body parts that don't contribute something
 Why do we think it's okay in church?

Don't throw baby out with bathwater

Sign gifts – Gift of tongues and interpretation of tongues believed until 1700's

Age of Modernism – no miracles... until 1903 Asuza St

Years later – Dallas Seminary – Sought to explain away sign gifts **1Cor 13:8-12**

Poor exegesis – If a body part in 1st C why not now?

Is Jesus limping around w/o certain body parts?

Tongues is “Least of Gifts – but still a gift / God doesn't change

III. Finding your gift & operating in Body of Christ

A. **V 18 We're community Don't hinder God's work in body**

All gifts already present But are they operating?

What are these gifts?

@ 21, Including. sign gifts

Found in 1Cor 12 /

Probably not limited to these

Rom 12 / Eph 4 / 1 Peter 4 **Sampling**

Knowledge

Ability to know the Word / something @ person

Wisdom

Ability to apply that word / or direct person

Teaching

Ability to communicate that word

Shepherding

Pastoring (big P little p)

Faith

Vision / knowing God's direction / confidence to boldly stand

Healings

Plural Phys / Emotional / Spiritual

Prophecy

*Forth*telling more than *Fore*telling

Discernment of spirits

Determining truth from error / attitudes / spirits

Leadership

Youth, home fellowship, elders, other ministries

Administration

Financial, organizational, computer network

Service

Physical

Helps

Personal

Hospitality

Not just food – offering people comfort

B. **No more lone star Christians – Need each other**

Don't hold back – Don't think no time

It's a command of God!

Unstuff calendar!

God will take care of the rest

Can foot say “Not walking because I have other obligations?”

NO – it serves Body / Serves Head – Jesus Christ

C. **Some Spiritual Gift Inventories to Try...**

<https://gifts.churchgrowth.org/>

<https://www.globalimpactatl.org/spiritualgifts/>

<https://spiritualgiftstest.com/spiritual-gifts-test-adult-version/>

IV. Cut thru controversy & get to heart of things

A. **Many important things happened when saved**

Jn 3:5-7 Born of the Spirit Body soul spirit

1Cor 12:13 Baptized into 1 body Body Christ

Romans 8:9 Indwelt by the Spirit

Eph 1:13 Sealed with the Spirit

Eph 5:18 **But commanded 2b filled w/ Spirit** What controls you?

Be continually being filled

It's a command... not an option

If you want 2b normal Christian

B. **Eph 4:30 Alternative is grieving the Spirit**

Persistent sin; Disobedience; indifference to Jesus

Resistance to His control;

When we grieve him, we need to be refilled

Idea is filling for flowing / Kinked hose /

Rev 3:20 Behold I stand at door and knock

YOU must open the door!!!

C. **How to be filled??**

First – do you really want to be filled? Not the benefits / Do you want the cost?

Believe you **can be** filled Ask **(Lk 11)** Trust Him to do it

Then walk on, believing it really happened