



PREACHING THE CROSS  
God's Remedy for a Troubled Church

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LAKE ORION

*EXCURSUS: Desire Earnestly Spiritual Gifts*

Sunday

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**TEXT:** 1 Corinthians 14:1

## **I. REVIEW:**

First Corinthians 12—14 centers on *spiritual gifts and the abuse of one such gift—the gift of tongues*. As Paul navigates through these chapters, he seeks to address the issue of “*what it means to be people of the Spirit*.” A discussion on the spiritual gifts is essential in establishing which gifts are relevant today.

## **II. THE DELINEATION OF THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

### **A. General Observations**

1. A distinction must be made between the *initial spiritual gifts* and the *continuous spiritual gifts*.
  - a. The *initial miraculous gifts* given to the church of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century ended with the Apostolic age.
  - b. The *continuous spiritual gifts* given for the Church's growth are present today for the purpose of ministry, 1 Cor.12:28; Rom. 12:6-8; Eph. 4:11; 1 Pe. 4:10- 11.
    - (1) Administration: *The ability to understand what makes an organization function and the special ability to plan and execute procedures that increase the church's organizational effectiveness* (1 Cor 12:28).
    - (2) Exhorter/Encourager: *The ability to effectively listen to people and assist them with their individual needs from a biblical perspective in a one-on-one setting. The ability to reassure, strengthen and affirm those who are discouraged or wavering in their faith* (Rom. 12:8).
    - (3) Helps: *The ability to attach spiritual value to the accomplishment of practical and necessary tasks which support the body of Christ* (Rom 12:7-11). *The gift of helps facilitate ministry through the creative construction of necessary tools for ministry.* (1 Cor 12:28).

- (4) Creative Communication: *The ability to communicate God's Truth through a variety of art forms (1 Cor. 12).*
  - (5) Confrontational Evangelist: *The ability to effectively communicate the message of Christ to unbelievers by which the Word enables a spiritual response of faith moving them to discipleship (Ephesians 4).*
  - (6) Hospitality: *The ability to care for people by providing fellowship, food or shelter (Romans 12:13).*
  - (7) Leader: *The ability to instill vision, to motivate and to direct people to accomplish the work of the ministry (Romans 12:8).*
  - (8) Mercy: *The ability to minister cheerfully and appropriately to people who are suffering (Rom 12:8).*
  - (9) Shepherd: *The ability to guide, care for and nurture individuals or groups in the body of Christ as they grow in their faith (Ephesians 4:11).*
  - (10) Teacher: *The ability to understand, clearly explain and apply the Word of God to the lives of listeners (Romans 12:7).*
  - (11) Giver: *The ability to give generously in the cause of meeting the need of the body (Romans 12:8).*
2. A distinction must be made between miracles of the Gospels and the spiritual gifts of the Epistles.
- a. Spiritual gifts are given to build up the body of Christ that began at Pentecost, Act 2.
  - b. Miracles and signs were given to authenticate the message and messenger, Mk. 16:17–20.
  - c. Miracles and signs were given to validate a message where there was no Scripture, John 20:30–31.
    - (a) The *signs and miracles* show that God was validating and certifying Christ's mission, John 5:36; 10:37-38; Acts 2:22
    - (b) The signs and miracles were to validate the message of Messiah, John 14:1-11.
    - (c) The signs and miracles were done so that men might believe that Jesus is Messiah, the very powerful Son of God, John 20:30-31 (Pre-conversion

purpose)

(d) The signs and miracles were designed to lead to faith in Jesus Christ, so that man might have eternal life, “*and that believing you may have life in His name*” (Also Acts 10:38-42).

3. Unlike *miracles and signs* that are to validate the message of Messiah in the Gospel, *spiritual gifts* are given to build up the church.

*Some gifts are oriented toward ministry to unbelievers; other gifts are oriented toward ministry to believers.*

- a. What happened at Pentecost? Acts 2:1ff

God initiated the Church by sending the promised Spirit. With the Spirit, came the *initial gifts* to get the Church started— *specifically, the gift of tongues.*

- b. What is happening Today?, 2 Peter 1:19-21

(1) *The more sure word of prophecy*, 2 Peter 1:19-21.

(2) The completed revelation for this Dispensation, 1 Cor. 10:13.

## **B. Application for the Use of Spiritual Gifts in the Church**

1. The danger’s to avoid with *spiritual gifts*
  - a. Pride
  - b. Inactivity
  - c. Apathy
  - d. Impatience and irritability

<b>EXTROVERT</b>	<b>INTROVERT</b>
<b>Energized by Interaction with People</b>	<b>Energized by Solitude</b>
<b>Focuses on the Outer-World</b>	<b>Focuses on the Inner-World</b>
<b>Experience Oriented</b>	<b>Understanding Oriented</b>
<b>Prefers Action and Interaction</b>	<b>Prefers Reflection and Concentration</b>

- (1) Impatience and irritability come when you fail to recognize the different personality types in ministry.

- (2) Impatience and irritability come when you ignore the different personality types of those with whom you minister.

<b>THINKER</b>	<b>FEELER</b>
<b>Concerned with Objective Facts</b>	<b>Concerned with Subjective Feelings</b>
<b>Concerned with Policies/Procedures</b>	<b>Concerned with People/Relationships</b>
<b>Inclined to Brevity and is "To the Point"</b>	<b>Inclined to Description and is Verbal</b>
<b>Just and Reasonable</b>	<b>Merciful and Empathetic</b>

<b>JUST SETTLE IT</b>	<b>PLAY IT BY EAR</b>
<b>Planned, Ordered and Structured Life</b>	<b>Flexible and Unstructured</b>
<b>Seeks Decisions</b>	<b>Seeks Spontaneity</b>
<b>Detail Oriented</b>	<b>Big Picture Oriented (Adaptable)</b>
<b>Finishers</b>	<b>Starters</b>

2. The biblical truths concerning *spiritual gifts*
  - a. You are created for ministry, Ephesians 2:10.
  - b. You have been converted for ministry, 2 Timothy 1:9.
  - c. You have been chosen for ministry, 1 Peter 2:9-10.
  - d. You have been gifted for ministry, 1 Peter 4:10.
  - e. You have been authorized for ministry, Matt 28:19-20.
  - f. You have been encouraged to do ministry, Matt 20:28.
  - g. You are to be equipped for ministry, Eph 4:11-12.
  - h. You are accountable for ministry, Romans 14:12.
  - i. The body of Christ needs your ministry, 1 Cor 12:27.
    - (1) Only believers have spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 2:14).
    - (2) Every Christian has at least one gift (1 Cor 7:7).
    - (3) No one receives all the gifts (1 Cor 12:27-30).
    - (4) No single gift is given to everyone (See Above).
    - (5) The Holy Spirit decides what gifts you get (1 Cor 12:11).
    - (6) You are to develop the gifts God gives you (1 Tim 4:14).
    - (7) It is a sin to waste the gifts that God gives (1 Cor 4:1-2).
    - (8) Using your gifts glorifies God and gives growth (Jn 15:8)