

**GRACE BIBLE TRAINING CENTRE (GBTC)**  
**SCHOOL OF MINISTRY**  
**ARUSHA - TANZANIA**

**SUBJECT:**    **SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

**LESSON 1**

**COURSE TEACHER:**     **BISHOP EKONG**

**Introduction:**        1 Corinthians 12:1

Spiritual gifts are very important to the Body of Christ, which is the church. Without it the church cannot exist or make progress.

It is meant to be a blessing to the family of believers and for effectiveness in the spread of the gospel.

Every believer is an important member of the Body of Christ.

God gives each member gifts, which vary from person to person.

These gifts are given for the effective functioning of the Body.

Christ is the Head and the Body must relate to it if it is to have a meaningful activity (*Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:15-16, 5:23, Colossians 2:19*).

A head without a body is as useless as a body without a head.

Just as our physical bodies have many members, which differ from each other in shape and function, so also each member of the body of Christ is unique in its functions and abilities. (*1Corinthians 12:14; Romans 12:5*)

A body, which does not have all its members, is limited in what it can do. For example, a man with only one leg cannot run a race; a blind man cannot read; a man without arms cannot climb a tree; etc.

Every member in Christ's body is important to Him (*1Corinthians 12:27*)

Each member of the body does not have the same use.

Each member has its own function or special ability or duty, for example, the function of the eye is to see.

The eyes cannot do the work of the ears although they are both equally important.

Without the toe, the body cannot maintain balance and will stumble easily.

Without the thumb, the hand cannot grab and the whole body suffers because of lack of a thumb.

God placed each member in the body where He sees appropriate. The eyes are not on the legs and so also the ears are not on the belly. They are where they could function most effectively.

We can therefore not compare gifts because each gift is suited to each individual (*Romans 12:5*). Just as the members of the body are different to each other in function, it is fruitless to compare the mouth with ears. They both serve the body very well.

### **Talents and Spiritual gifts**

Talents are abilities with which people are born.

Different people have different natural abilities.

Many unbelievers have talents, for example, in music, oratory, arts, etc.

These are not spiritual gifts.

A Spiritual gift comes only from God (*James 1:17*)

Every spiritual gift is meant for the benefit of the body of Christ and must be used:

- (a) For its intended purpose and not for selfish gain (*1 Corinthians 4:2; 1 Peter 4:10*)
- (b) In love (*Galatians 5:6*)

### **1.1 - You must Have Knowledge of God's gifts**

Faith is at the heart of all spiritual gifts and their use

Faith is produced through the knowledge of the Bible, and hence knowledge of spiritual gifts (*Romans 10:17; 1 Corinthians 12:1*)

The disciples at Ephesus did not know or heard of the Holy Spirit baptism and therefore did not have its experience (*Acts 19:2*)

Through Paul's teaching, they received knowledge and then faith for receiving and recognising the gifts, and also for their effective use.

Without the knowledge of spiritual gifts, it will not have a place in our lives and ministries that God meant them to have.

Knowledge also governs faith, that is, it gives it a sense of direction and sets its limits.

Knowledge must therefore be complete and true otherwise it gives faith a faulty foundation.

For example, if one is taught that the gift of tongues is not for our day, then one will not be able to receive this gift until it is corrected.

Faith cannot carry anyone beyond their knowledge.

Knowledge also determines experience.

If we follow this order, that is, (1) Knowledge, (2) Faith, (3) Experience, we have a better understanding of the value of knowledge.

Until we know about spiritual gifts, we cannot believe by faith in them. Until we believe in spiritual gifts, they will not likely be a part of our experience.

Knowing the truth about these gifts leads us to a more fruitful experience in their use.

### **1.2 - Groups of Gifts (Read 1Corinthians 12:4-6)**

There are three different groups of spiritual gifts, that is,

- (1) Gifts of Ministry
- (2) Other Ministry gifts
- (3) Gifts of the Spirit

The Bible does not make an exact list under each grouping of spiritual gifts, and sometimes the groupings are run together.

It shows that all the spiritual gifts are closely related, and may sometimes overlap each other.

This should not cause any problem because all the gifts come from God and for a common purpose, which is

- (a) The building up of the body of believers
- (b) For the glory of God.

#### Gifts of Ministry - (Ephesians 4:7-8, 11)

These are believers who Christ gives to the Church to be its leaders

They are listed as:

1. Apostles
2. Prophets
3. Evangelists
4. Pastors
5. Teachers

Pastors and Teachers are sometimes one and the same person and may be referred to as Pastor-Teacher.

These gifts are given to prepare all God's people for the work of the ministry in order to build up the body of Christ (*Ephesians 4:12*)

Other Ministry Gifts - (*Romans 12:6-13; 1Corinthians 12:28*)

These gifts are available to all believers.

They are listed as:

1. Ministering
2. Teaching
3. Exhorting
4. Giving
5. Ruling (Governments)
6. Showing mercy
7. Helps

Gifts of the Spirit - (*1Corinthians 12:7-10*)

These are nine gifts, which the Holy gives to believers as He wills

They are listed as:-

1. Word of Wisdom
2. Word of knowledge
3. Faith
4. Gifts of healings
5. Working of miracles
6. Prophecy
7. Discerning of spirits
8. Gift of tongues
9. Interpretation of tongues

These gifts are supernatural in a special way. They have their source in God and their power comes from God.

These gifts are not possible by human means and no human abilities can reproduce them.