



# Spiritual Gifts – A More Excellent Way



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We have noticed that in the twelfth chapter of this epistle [1 Corinthians] we have the gifts which the risen Christ gave to His church. In chapter 14 we have the use of the gifts; but in between the two chapters we have the spirit in which they are to be exercised. Someone has said that the thirteenth chapter of 1 Corinthians is “the divine smithy,” alluding to the furnace in the blacksmith’s shop, where the tools of chapter 12 are heated red-hot to be properly used in chapter 14. Gift without love is a poor thing. One might preach with great clarity and even eloquence, but if there is no love behind it, it would be almost wasting words.

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## 1 Peter 4:7-11

**7** Now the end of all things is near; therefore, be clear-headed and disciplined for prayer. **8** Above all, keep your love for one another at full strength, since love covers a multitude of sins. **9** Be hospitable to one another without complaining. **10** Based on the gift they have received, everyone should use it to serve others, as good managers of the varied grace of God. **11** If anyone speaks, *his speech should be* like the oracles of God; if anyone serves, *his service should be* from the strength God provides, so that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To Him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. [Amen.](#)

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- ▶ Verse 8 – keep love for one another
- ▶ Verse 9 – be hospitable without complaining
- ▶ Verse 10 – we **all** have received a gift(s) to use to serve each other
- ▶ Verse 10 – we do this as good managers (stewards) of the varied grace of God
- ▶ Verse 11 – Speak – as “oracles” of God
- ▶ Verse 11 – Service – in God's strength/forcefulness
- ▶ Verse 11 – All for the glory of God through Jesus Christ
  - ▶ Doxazo – honor, magnify
  - ▶ Doxa – dignity, glory, honor, praise, worship



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**“Spiritual gifts are bestowed upon believers according to the purposes of God and distributed by the sovereign wisdom of God. Our spiritual gifts never belong to us; they’re an expression of the Holy Spirit doing the Father’s will.”**

**~ Henry and Mel Blackaby**

***What’s So Spiritual About Your Gifts? (2004)***





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**“Which way soever a man’s genius lies, he should endeavor to honour God and edify the church with it.”**

**~ Matthew Henry**

***Commentary on the Whole Bible (1706)***





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**“It is therefore quite in keeping with my Christian profession to seek to be at my best for God. Worldly ambition is obnoxious and unholy, but, on the other hand, there is a laudable ambition which I can consistently entertain, and that is to desire spiritual gifts. But I must be sure that I do this in love. Every gift is given for the blessing of the whole assembly, and not in any sense for the glory of the individual possessing that gift.”**

**~ H. A. Ironside**

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Questions?