

Spiritual Gifts (Part Four) **(The Spiritually Gifted Church Body)**

During the month of June, we are engaged in our annual study of Spiritual Gifts. Our church program is based on the exercise of Spiritual Gifts by spiritually advancing believers.

In our final lesson, we will study three aspects of Paul's teaching on the Spiritual Gifted Church Body.

1. We will begin by reviewing nine permanent spiritual gifted ministries within the church body.

In (1 Pet.4:10-11), Peter put these 9 gifts into two categories: **speaking** and **serving** gifts.

- **Speaking gifts** (2) (Eph.4:11)
 - Evangelist and Pastor-Teacher
- **Serving gifts** (7) (Rom.12:7-8; 1 Cor.12:28)
 - Ministry, Exhortation, Giving, Leading, Mercy, Helps and Administration

Eventually, we should **all** be known by our spiritually gifted ministry in the church body, not just the pastor-teacher and evangelist. **THERE ARE NO UNGIFTED CHURCH AGE BELIEVERS** (Rom.12:3-8).

2. The placement, part, and performance of each spiritual gift are predetermined in the plan of God (1 Cor.12).

- Each gift has been predetermined in the plan of God (1 Cor.12:4-6, 11, 18, 24, 28; Rom.12:3).
- Each gift is placed in the body of Christ, the Church, by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor.12:11-12, 14, and 27).
- Each part becomes gifted in the body of Christ by the baptism of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor.12:13).
- Each gift is performed by the ministry of the Holy Spirit for the common good of the body of Christ (1 Cor.12:7, 11, 25-27).

This means that composition of the body of Christ, the Church, is the same everywhere in the world.

3. The function of spiritual gifts is not self-edification but for the edification of the church body. (Rom.12:3-6a).

(1 Cor.14:12) "So also you; since you are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek to abound for the edification of the church."

Spiritually gifted ministries are for the common good and edification of the body (1 Cor.12:7). Paul makes this point by illustrating different parts of the body: ("If the foot / hand and ear/ eye say") (1 Cor.12:15-20)

Note the questions in (1 Cor.12:17 and 19) and the answers in (1 Cor.12:18-20).

The characteristic of a spiritually healthy church body is the diversity of spiritually gifted ministries. (Rom.12; 1 Cor.12-14; Eph.4).