



Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians
Wk. 30 Spiritual Gifting for the Common Good
By Pastor Jody May 01/04/2025

1 Corinthians 1:25 - For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Uncommon Sense – *“God’s Wisdom over man’s pride through a Flawed Church.”*

[CALL TO HEAR]

1 Corinthians 12:1-11 ESV

Spiritual Gifts

12 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. ²You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. ³Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit.

⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

Pastor – “People of God, this is the Word of God.”

People – “Thanks be to God.”

Pray

Illustration

The life lived when you have decided to own a truck.
Trucks are never meant to be used just for oneself.



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Trucks will cost you more than your initial projections.
Trucks are an invite into deeper relationship with others.

Introduction

Just because you don't own a pickup doesn't mean you can't get in on this fun. Everything the Christian has in their life is not theirs, it has been provided for the Kingdom of God. When the Lord redeems you, when the Lord buys you back from the world, it doesn't cost you a dime in your earthly possessions, but new ownership requires that you surrender any rights you had to your earthly possessions. New management in your life requires new vision in how you relate to your things. All that you have been given is to be used all to the glory of God.

If you are a good cook, cleaner, or organizer, then do so all to the Glory of God. If you have a large home, like people, and enjoy socializing then host all to the Glory of God.

If you have musical talents, IT skills, or lawn maintenance/construction skills use them all the Glory of God.

**All of God's people got something to give to all the work
that God has for us to do!**

Whatever it is I pray in 2026, as you are practicing **Flourishing**, that you encounter uneasiness when you hold and blessing when you give!

That brings us to our topic today of one's spiritual life or gifting. The things that we receive that are not physical are to be viewed the same way, and according to Paul here in Corinthians it is time to put your best foot forward as we should also remember (from Chp. 11) that the Lord disciplines those He loves, He protects the meek, and He will have an ordered church.

Here in Chapter 12, we come perhaps to the pinnacle of the problem of the factions that have developed in Corinth. These led astray Christians seem to be people who were in love with personal freedoms, pagan lifestyles, and love of money as made evident by the previous chapters and 29 weeks of



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preaching. These anti-Christian drives now show up in the expressions of their spiritual lives that these factions seemed to have adopted. The same delusional people have come to believe that the action of speaking in incoherent tongues/languages proved that they were of a higher caliber than other Christians in Corinth.

1 Cor 14:2 ESV

²For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit.

That is what these wayward church goers, and I would use the term Christian here lightly because the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (**Galatians 5:22-23**) seem to be things the people that Paul keeps correcting don't have. Let me also say that **most likely makes this speaking in tongues here in chapter 14 not an actual gift but a hypocritical attempt** at trying to look holy. We are going to leave the whole discussion of speaking in tongues – does it exist today, what was used for, and so forth, for a future sermon when we get to chapter 14. Because one shouldn't talk about it from Paul's perspective until you teach from Paul's perspective on the more important things first.

What's of first importance is to understand that gifting is only available, is only viable and trustworthy, if it happens under the Lordship of Christ.

Romans 10:9 ESV

⁹because, if you confess with your mouth that **Jesus is Lord** and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Notice that the confession that must be made by the person that ascribes that they are saved must be **Jesus is LORD!** He reigns over your life, your desires, your wants, your likes, your values, your demeanor, your private lives, your public lives, on the job, in the home, driving your car, at every moment of every day Jesus is reigning over you! That person that first confesses Jesus is Lord, that is the person that has spiritual gifts to use, and that person will use them rightly.



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Today's text will reveal us the main point today that solidifies Paul's point here he makes in Romans 10, so let's make sure we spell it out here upfront before we go further.

MP:

**The Holy Spirit (HS) gives many gifts for the church's good
UNDER Jesus' Lordship.**

OR

**All of God's people got something to give to all the work
that God has for us to do!**

We have three things we need to learn from the text today about the Spiritual Life and the gifts that come with it that I believe will set us up for spiritual flourishing for 2026. The first is to understand that new life, the gift of new purposes, living with eternity in mind, to receive gifts from the HS will lead to the **Proclamation that Jesus is Lord**. No one who claims to have a redeemed spiritual life can be for themselves, that person has not love of the Father in them. Secondly, we see that the **Practice** of the things we receive from the Spirit is for the **common good of the church**. That which we have received from God is not for your sole consumption. Lastly, we will see that all good gifts are a **Provision of God's Grace**. That is any gift you have to use for the body was sovereignly given not earned so that no man may boast in their spirituality.

1. Proclaiming that Jesus is Lord!

12 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. ²You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. ³Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit.



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Paul is making a general statement here in v. 1, concerning your *'spiritual gift's*, the Greek word used for that term is πνευματικός (*pneumatikos*)¹ – one who is spiritual. 'Gifts' is placed in the translation here because the topic moves on to spiritual gifts in later verses, so it makes sense to put in in now by the language experts. All that to say though, I think it reads a little better for the first 3 verses just to say **concerning your spiritual life** for Paul is speaking in general terms here in the beginning. He's saying I want to have a talk about how you live your life spiritually, how you function in the Gospel every day, and how that comes out of you.

He starts off with a sign of concern. Something we have already talked about in Corinth, everyone who is in the church was pagan at one time. All of the converted in the city of Corinth were religious before Christianity and therefore had been deceived by the Spirit of this world into whatever false religion appealed to them. Paul loves them and wants them to steer clear from old habits and beliefs as he told them earlier in the letter.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 ESV

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be **deceived**: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

Remember Corinth was a major connector for the Hellenized Roman person of the north to the Eastern Mythicized World of the south, and it functioned with every form of paganistic and demonic cult there was. Paul is like look, and I like this next part for it sets the table right up front, that all are easily deceived: 'however you were led' (v.2). It doesn't matter if you were a free man, ex-slave or current slave, all were led into deception therefore no one had the wisdom to steer clear. No one had the wisdom to move towards God in repentance for no one knows the truth about God until He reveals the truth, as Jesus taught us, **No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him**. And I will raise him up on the last day. **John 6:44 ESV**

¹ James Swanson, [*Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek \(New Testament\)*](#) (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).



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Now what we have in v. 3 is that some people who claimed to be Christian, who claimed to be functioning in the Spirit, to be the ones speaking in tongues were most likely saying this phrase, "**Jesus is accursed**" that is He was put under the power of evil, He is able to be controlled by the Spirit of the World, He could not fight off the machinations of evil. You can see how converted pagans who are used to dueling cults and witchcraft covens could view the cross of Christ as a display of power that was equal to or greater than Christ. But in fact, if a person was still Pagan, after correction in doctrine, would not be able to utter the truth of the Cross which is **Jesus IS Lord**. He is the authority, He is the master, He is in control, and NO ONE takes His life but that He surrenders it up for His people.

John 10:18 ESV

"No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of **my own accord**. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

Family just so you know that narrows down for all of us a big list of people we need to stop listening to in the New Year. All ways do not lead to God, that way is narrow, and for the vast majority of the world, most people believe **Jesus is accursed**, and that is a false Gospel. AND if that is what you believe then family you will never take Him as Lord. As an example of this on a large scale, Islam tells you that Jesus is lesser than Mohamad, therefore, Muslims and Christians do not believe in the same God, for YAHWEH has on one great prophet who is also the King and our high priest, His Son Jesus Christ. -
(False theology seen in the world)

(False Theology seen from within) - Maybe right now you have heard certain things from this pulpit that have hit a spiritual nerve, like men love your wives sacrificially, or lead your homes as the spiritual leaders. Or wives submit to your husbands in all things, or everyone count others as more significant than yourselves. You hear the preacher say it and you shut it out of your mind! It may be because you are listening to yourself believing that Jesus is accursed and has no real power over you or right to reign in your life so why should you listen to Him. Family if that is you REPENT. All of life is spiritual, and all of life therefore is an act of worship, therefore all of life is about constant



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repentance and reminding ourselves Jesus is on the throne 24 hours a day as an all of life King.

If today you proclaim Him as Lord, then know today He has sway on every part of your life and your obedience is in direct relationship to seeing that truth. Your life, your conversion, your salvation was given UNDER the Lordship of Christ, how are we all doing at living that out today?

2. Practicing our Gifting for the Common Good.

⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

The summary of this statement is that the changed life you have, the gifts from Him to you, come from a Holy Triune God. Each person gets something from God and what they get from God is to be used for the common good of the church. Because it is in the church that God manifests Himself through the giving and displaying of such divine gifts, that the world may see Him. That is to bring Him glory!

V.4 – There are varieties/distribution of gifts χάρισμα (*charisma*) /gracious givings based on favor and kindness. All the things we receive from God come from the same source, and are given in the same way, by Grace, meaning you did not earn it, you were not considered more favorable on your presentation to God. Therefore, to treat oneself as more important than another based on a graciously given gift is to misunderstand the point of the gifting. **All receive what they have by an act of God's unmerited favor towards you.** In other words, don't go judging Christians by what it is they offer the body, that is a world paradigm not a Spirit/Kingdom paradigm.

V. 5 – There are varieties/distribution of service/ διακονία (*diakonia*) but the same Lord. **We don't judge an individual by their public service for the body.** Some ministries in the church are of more public in nature than others. The guy that cuts the 10 acres of grass is much more visible than the person that



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cleans the bathrooms when no one is around, because it is outside in full view, and it takes more time. But I bet if you ask the guy who cuts the grass, they praise God they don't have to clean a bathroom! Both are important and both services have been provided for by the same God, through people that God equipped for that service. All people complete their service in duty to, in fear of, and out of love **for the same Lord**, and that alone is the person they should seek to obey, and to perform for.

V. 6 – There are varieties/distribution of activities/ ἐνέργημα (*energēma*) or a working that is empowered by God. The person doesn't become more effective because they are trying harder in their own power but the activities that the person now does is controlled and empowered by God. Any effectiveness that we have in helping the church grow and function is not because of how hard you work but it is due to the work that God is doing through you. Here's where that leads us, the more you push into God and His Lordship over your life the more you will feel energized to do for Him!

Why does this all happen? **For the common good.** All this is a display of a people out of love for God, after first being richly blessed and graciously given new life, demonstrate to the people of God what He has done for them towards each other. It is like a battery that cannot die because the supplier is God and His Grace knows no bounds, and His plans can't be thwarted.

Family just so we are clear on the beauty of what is the church I want us to be aware of the counterfeit systems that spring up in the world, for example, here's something I heard this week.

"We will replace the frigidity of rugged individualism with the warmth of collectivism." – Zohran Mamdani

Counterfeit vs. Church

Socialism builds a system of laws and rules that mandates the seizing of personal freedoms, goods, finances, and resources and forces compliance.

vs.

Christianity is built by the Love of God who changes people by Grace whereby people surrender of themselves freely.



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Socialism sees no value in the individual other than \$ and sees no path forward except through political manipulation, forcing all to accept same services regardless of need.

vs.

Christianity values the individual as an image bearer of God, granting unique skills and gifts to specific individuals to be used for a people that God has ordained answering specific needs.

Socialism sees no use of God for it sees individualistic flourishing as evil and selfish.

vs.

Christianity is birthed by God, that changes the individual and glorifies God by showing a person that now loves others as they love themselves.

Socialism is the attempt to bring everyone down to lower standard of living causing fake equity.

vs.

Christianity is God's victory over sin bringing up the standard of living for all of God's people making them equal in God's sight.

Family, you may not have thought about it yet, but you better get used to thinking about this, because the gloves are off, we need to be active in this battle, and I do believe because **God is the energizer**, that the Socialist tide can be turned. But it won't be turned by a Politician but turned by the life of the church which is using her gifts for the common good of each other.

3. Provision of Spiritual Gifting is a Grace of God.

⁸For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as He wills.



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Paul gives 9 examples of a variety of the things that one can receive from God in the form of a spiritual gift for the common good of the church. If I was to stop and teach here on all the differences of the gifts and how the different denominations categorize them, I would be here for two hours, but I will provide for you here in the sermon transcript a couple of places that you can go read about them more in depth if you so desire:

- ***Spiritual Gifts Survey – What are the different spiritual gifts the Bible mentions?***
- ***1 Corinthians (TNTC) Leon Morris***

You will also find in Romans 12:6-8, Ephesians 4:7-11 and 1 Peter 4:7-11 that we have three other lists, which overlap but spell out there are at least 20 different spiritual gifts listed in scripture. All of that to say is that these 9 things in 1 Corinthians have been viewed in different ways by different denominations over the years. I will also say though, there was almost no disagreement over how to view these things until the birth of the charismatic church and the unregulated teaching of the early Methodist church in the late 1800s that chose to go against foundational and creedal orthodoxy.

One approach is to view these things, and not just tongues, but gifts of supernatural knowledge and wisdom, miracle working, healing of the sick by the saints, which leads to the belief of modern-day Apostleship and the powers that come with it. That is the belief of many Pentecostals and some Charismatics big Eva churches like a Bethel or Elevation church who promote supernatural individuals with powers.

Another approach is to argue that all these signs mentioned here ceased after the age of the apostles. This approach solves why these things are not seen nor recorded today but it raises questions on redemptive history. Where does Paul say such miraculous signs cease? He does not. But he doesn't say they are normative either.

The third approach is to define these gifts so that they are connected to things which occur in the church today but making them far more ordinary and



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mundane than is often claimed. This approach means we must “de-supernaturalize” these gifts and make them less miraculous and dramatic than they were during the NT era. – Kim Riddlebarger

Basically, what a modern conservative reformed Baptists feels comfortable saying is that these things are seen in the church modern but not at the level of the 1st century church, when the birth of the church was dependent on the miraculous.

Are they not supernatural? If you mean does God cause them, ABSOLUTELY! **Because the giving of these things is a GRACIOUS GIFT of GOD!** That though is attributed to God’s intervention, **through His PROVIDENCE**, working through the prayers of His people. That is the *modus operandi* of the church for the last 2K years. For some things to happen God waits for/uses the petitions of His people, that’s just how it is. (examples)

These gifts though in the text **are currently not performed by supernatural people like the Apostles** of the first century, that does not happen like that anymore. And because it happens **through prayer** by all people in the church, all people have the ability to contribute to the church by their spiritual efforts asking God to help them minister and for praying intercessory for the people of the church.

**All of God’s people got something to give to all the work
that God has for us to do!**

You don’t have to be an Apostle to contribute to the church, but you **MUST** be a person of faith and that Jesus is LORD, believing God wants to use you, to work for the common good of the church.

[CALL TO OBEY]

- **Confess and Live Under the Lordship of Jesus.**
 - Repent of any area where your life denies, in practice, that “Jesus is Lord” (speech, habits, media, money, sexuality, schedule). Obedience is the first mark of a Spirit-led life (1 Cor 12:3; Rom 10:9).



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- Fathers/heads of home: lead family worship this week. Read 1 Cor 12:1–11, recite the Baptist Catechism Q/A on the church and the Spirit, pray for each family member by name to confess and follow Christ as Lord.
- Put to death “private spirituality.” Publicly confess Christ: at the table, on the job, and in the public square. Choose one concrete act of costly obedience you’ve been delaying and do it within 7 days.
- **Deploy your Gifts for the Common Good of the Church.**
 - Ask your elders where the body most needs you now. Take one ordinary task (set-up, greeting, nursery, lawn, cleaning) and one relational task (hospitality, discipling a younger believer, visiting a shut-in) and commit for the next 90 days.
 - End gift-envy and gift-pride. Celebrate the diversity of service (vv.4–7). **Thank two members this week** for unseen labors.
 - Practice home hospitality monthly. Use your table, skills, and resources “for the common good” by inviting saints who differ from you in age/stage/background.
- **Steward and Embrace your Gifts with Humility and Prayer.**
 - Remember: gifts are sovereignly apportioned, not earned (vv.8–11). Begin each ministry moment with, “Spirit of God, empower this for Christ’s glory and the church’s good.”
 - **Discern and develop list evident strengths in your household;** ask two mature members to affirm or correct them; choose one way to sharpen a gift (reading, mentoring, practice) by the end of the month.
 - Give thanks, not comparisons. Keep a brief “providence journal” of how God uses ordinary service to bless the body and review it weekly to cultivate humility and zeal.

MP:

**All of God’s people got something to give to all the work
that God has for us to do!**

Family I pray over the next few weeks we learn to develop our spiritual lives for the benefit of each other all to the glory of God alone. Let us practice the



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first step in this corporately together now and go to Him who can and will provide for us all things needed for this good work.

Prayer

Our Father in heaven, We bless You for redeeming us by the blood of Your Son and for giving Your Spirit to dwell within us. Grant that our lips and our lives together confess, without hesitation, that Jesus is Lord. Where our hearts have harbored idols, pride, or fear, lead us to true repentance and restore to us the joy of glad obedience. Holy Spirit, distribute and empower Your gifts among us for the common good. Humble the proud, comfort the fainthearted, and make us eager to serve one another in love. End gift-envy and gift-pride; knit us together in one body with many members, united in purpose, steadfast in doctrine, and rich in charity. Lord Jesus, Head of the Church, rule our homes and our congregation. Strengthen fathers and heads of households to lead in worship and discipleship. Make our tables hospitable, our hands diligent, and our words full of grace and truth. Direct our elders with wisdom and courage, that all things may be done decently, in order, and unto edification. Father, make us faithful stewards of every grace You supply—ordinary and extraordinary—so that in all things You alone are glorified. Teach us to pray, to labor, to rejoice, and to suffer in hope, until the day we see Christ face to face. Send us now in the power of the Spirit to do the works You have prepared for us, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Communion

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 ESV

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."²⁵In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



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Today when you eat of the bread remember the life of Jesus which was lived for us. Even though our Lord was filled with the HS, even though the Father had elevated His Son to be listened to and obeyed at His Baptism and at His transfiguration, our Lord never boasted in His works and abilities. Instead, He always gave all Glory to God the Father, made much of Him, spoke of Him, and used all that He had to boast in Him alone. Even now when we fail to recognize His workings in our lives, we are still credited with the work of Christ. Praise be to Him who lived a life of power in perfect humility.

Today when you drink the juice remember the cost of our sin displayed by His blood for the new covenant. While we try to use the gifts of God for our own good, when we forget that all we have is to be used for the common good, when we fail to glorify God with our lives, we still have God's favor for Jesus' blood has made peace with God again. Praise be to Him for His wonderful love!

[CONFESSION OF FAITH]

* The Congregation will stand

Elder – **"Christians, what do we believe?"** Congregation – recites:

LBCF 1689 Chapter 26 Paragraph 5. Purpose of the Local Churches:

To carry out the authority given to him, the Lord Jesus calls people out of the world who are given to him by his Father through the ministry of his word, by his Spirit. ⁹ He calls them to walk before him in all the ways of obedience that he prescribes for them in his Word. ¹⁰ He commands all who are called to walk together in local congregations, or churches, to edify one another and participate in the elements of public worship that he requires from them while they are in the world. ¹¹

9. John 10:16; John 12:32; 10. Matthew 28:20; 11. Matthew 18:15-20

[OFFERING+LAST SONG] "Our Great God"



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[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father, that has gifted us all with various gracious gifts for the common good of His people.

Go in the name of the Son, that used all His gifts to redeem His people, conquering sin and death for the fame of God.

Go in the name of and power of the HS, that grants us fruitful spiritual life, to be used for God, loving others, glorifying His grace to the world!

[FELLOWSHIP CONVERSATIONS]

- Where did you see the Spirit at work this week helping you confess, “Jesus is Lord,” in word or action?
- What gifts or opportunities to serve has the Lord already placed in your hands, and how might they build up our body for the common good?
- Where are you tempted toward envy or pride about gifts, and how can we help one another receive every gift with gratitude under Christ’s lordship?
- What is one concrete way—this month—you can serve under elder oversight and with peace and order (at church and at home)?
- How does remembering that the risen Christ pours out the Spirit (Acts 2:33) reshape your motivation and joy in using your gifts?



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