

## WHY SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

January 17, 2016 I Corinthians 12 by Bob Branch  
Tooling Up To Change The World, Part 1

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“Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed.” **1 Corinthians 12:1**

**BIG IDEA:** How God supernaturally equips and endows us with what we need to partner with him in accomplishing his purposes. In short, Why gifts?

**What are gifts?** *“any ability that is empowered by the Holy Spirit and used in any ministry of the church.” Wayne Grudem*

### Why gifts?

1. **It is good for everybody and everybody involved. It’s FAMILY at its best!**

“Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.” **1 Corinthians 12:7**

2. **They help us express ONENESS (in diversity), and God (Father-Son-Spirit) is all about Oneness! Everyone has equal concern for each other.**

“All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines. Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many... As it is, there are many parts, but one body.” **1 Corinthians 12:11-14, 20**

3. **Because God in his wisdom has created INTERDEPENDENCY where each one contributes but oneness is expressed.**

“But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be?” **1 Cor. 12:18–19**

4. **They are part of God’s naturally supernatural way of using us to BUILD UP EACH OTHER.**

“But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort.” **1 Corinthians 14:3**

“Since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.” **1 Corinthians 14:12 ESV**

5. **The 5-fold gifts are all about EQUIPPING others so the church can build up the church, which means establishing and nourishing unity, growing up into maturity, and reaching fullness in Christ.**

“So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” **Ephesians 4:11-13**

6. **Each time God’s gifts are exercised the KINGDOM COMES.**

“Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’” **Luke 10:9**

“But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.” **Matthew 12:28**

“...the kingdom of God is in your midst.” **Luke 17:21**