

4. Paul also addresses spiritual gifts in Romans 12:4-8. How is your understanding deepened through what Paul says in this passage?

Romans 12: ⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

5. What safeguards does Paul put in place to keep us from abusing spiritual gifts?

6. Take one of your spiritual gifts and reflect on what God might write to you in a letter about your use of this gift? (Share your answer with your group only if you feel comfortable doing so.)

SPIRIT
"The Spirit's Symphony"
1 Corinthians 12:1-11

The Orchestra and the Symphony

Within the Christian orchestra (so to speak) there were some [in the church in Corinth] who considered themselves superior to others, and there was a danger as a result that the whole symphony might be played out of balance and even out of tune. (N.T. Wright)

How Spiritual Gifts Work

- They are _____ of the Spirit.

- They are for the _____ good.

- They are united in their _____.

Where is God leading you with your BLESS list this week?



How Spiritual Gifts Can Be Abused

1. E _____

2. D _____

3. O _____

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Of the following professions, which one would you most prefer (assuming you excelled in it) and which one would you most dislike (even if you excelled in it): playing or singing in a band (pick your role and style of music), playing on a sports team (pick your team sport and position), serving in a Navy SEAL team, serving on a medical team in a hospital emergency room (pick your role), or serving in the kitchen of a world-class restaurant (pick your position)?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-11. This passage repeatedly refers to the Spirit. List below all the things the Spirit does (and how and why he does what he does) according to these verses.