

Unity over the Gifts of the Spirit (1 Cor 12-14)
“One Body, One Spirit, but Many Gifts” Part 1 (1 Cor 12:8-11)

Contextualization

After Paul explored the table of supernatural meeting, he begins discussing the gifts of the Spirit which were present in the church. These were assumed, that is, people had supernatural encounters within the congregation. This, in part, is why many became believers in Jesus in the first place. In our modern, skeptical society, we reject the miraculous *a priori* but this was neither the belief or the *experience* of early believers in Jesus. The very beginning of the church was with a miracle, the resurrection of Jesus. They continued then and unto this day. As was evident in the book of Acts, God manifested his power through his people. In doing so in Corinth, confusion erupted because the presence of the miraculous does not disallow the possibility of chaos. Paul had to give instructions on how to **regulate** the gifts of the Spirit in the life of the church.

- **There is a variety or a diversity of giftings, empowerments, or super-powers that the Spirit gives**

The Spirit of the living God, who raises the dead and causes miraculous things to occur, gives to each believer evidence or some kind of proof that he or she is a member of the body of Christ. God works through us with his super abilities to grant us evidence of his presence. He distributes to each one signs of his glory in and through us. The characteristics Paul mentions here are not exhaustive but they show the different kinds of ways the Lord can reveal himself through us.

- **Miraculous Gifts**
 1. **Word of Wisdom-** May be reference to a unique ability to find the right way forward, to give godly counsel from heavenly sources.
 2. **Word of Knowledge-** May be in reference to receiving information from heavenly sources.
 3. **Faith/Faithfulness-** Is a gift to trust God and remain confident in the face of challenges.
 4. **Gifts of Healings-** Is a gift which allows believers to lay hands on sick people and see them made whole.
 5. **Working of Miracles**
 6. **Prophecy-** Grants the believer an ability to speak the word God has declared.
 7. **Discernment of spirits-** Is the ability of the believer to peer into the spirit and judge the nature of a spirit.
 8. **Different Kinds of Tongues-** Is a spiritual endowment to speak in either known (without prior knowledge) or non-human languages.
 9. **Interpretation of Tongues-** Is the ability to translate non-human languages to clarify what the Spirit is speaking.