

Bible Basics 2024

Session 5

Gifts

What I'm trying to do in this presentation

My aim
is to establish
general principles & truth
and not focus on details

we will identify:
12 noteworthy principles
6 tragedies
7 warnings
and briefly comment on 4 questions₂

Noteworthy principle

Every good gift
and every perfect gift
is from above,
and comes down from the Father of lights,
with whom there is no variation
or shadow of turning.
[James 1:16-17]

All good gifts come from God

Gifts

**Bible Basics Conference 2024:
topic = the assembly**

**We will focus on gifts given
for the benefit of the assembly ...**

**Some other gifts from God - not our topic -
include:**

The Holy Spirit [Acts 2:38, 10:45; Hebrews 2:4]

Righteousness [Romans 5:17]

Salvation [Ephesians 2:8-9]

Eternal life [John 10:28, 17:2; Romans 6:23]

The gift to remain single [1 Corinthians 7:7]

To suffer for Christ's sake [Philippians 1:29]

Topics

The Giver

Gifts to the assembly*

Gifts to individuals**

Summary of noteworthy principles

Warnings

Questions

*Individuals with special abilities
who are given to the assembly

**Abilities given to individuals
for the benefit of the assembly

Topics

The Giver

Gifts to the assembly

Gifts to individuals

Summary of noteworthy principles

Warnings

Questions

The Giver

To each one of us
grace was given
according to the measure
of Christ's gift.
Therefore He says:
"When He ascended on
high,
He led captivity captive,
And gave gifts to men."
[Ephesians 4:7-8]

Gifts given by
the Lord Jesus Christ
following His ascension

Gifts given by
the Lord Jesus Christ -
through the Holy Spirit

The manifestation of the
Spirit is given to each one
for the profit of all:
for to one is given
the word of wisdom
through the Spirit ...
[1 Corinthians 12:7-8]

But one and the same Spirit
works all these things,
distributing to each one
individually as He wills.
[1 Corinthians 12:11]

Topics

The Giver

Gifts to the assembly

Ephesians 4

1 Corinthians 12

Gifts to individuals

Summary of noteworthy principles

Warnings

Questions

Gifts to the assembly (Ephesians 4)

He Himself gave
some to be apostles,
some prophets,
some evangelists,
and some pastors
and teachers ...
[Ephesians 4:11]

Note: unlike the offices of elder, overseer etc these gifts are for the assembly on earth in the widest sense, not just the local assembly

Purpose of these gifts to the assembly

... for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head — Christ — from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.
[Ephesians 4:12-16]

Gifts to the assembly (Ephesians 4)

apostles
prophets
evangelists
pastors
teachers

to equip the saints
for serving the Lord

to spiritually
build up the
body of
Christ

to provide
doctrinal
stability

to bring to
maturity in
Christ

The purpose of these gifts:

- for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry
- for the edifying of the body of Christ
- that we should no longer be carried about with every wind of doctrine
- that we may grow up in all things into Him who is the head, Christ

You are no longer strangers
and foreigners,
but fellow citizens
with the saints
and members
of the household of God,
having been
built on the foundation
of the apostles and prophets
[Ephesians 2:19-20]

The assembly's foundational gifts

apostles
prophets
evangelists
pastors
teachers

The assembly's foundational gifts

You are no longer strangers
and foreigners,
but fellow citizens
with the saints
and members
of the household of God,
having been

**built on the foundation
of the apostles and prophets,**

Jesus Christ Himself
being the chief cornerstone

...

[Ephesians 2:19-20]

apostles
prophets
evangelists
pastors
teachers

Why these foundational gifts of apostles & prophets?

these early believers didn't have
the New Testament

so they were instructed in correct
doctrine & practice
by the apostles and prophets

the mystery of the Christ ...
has now been revealed
to His holy apostles and prophets
in [the power of the] Spirit
[Ephesians 3:4-5]

The continuing gifts for the assembly

prophets*

to provide a suitable word from God for the assembly at that time & place

evangelists

for telling others about Christ
- & adding to the Body

pastors

to help care for the spiritual & emotional needs of the saints

teachers

to explain God's word, the Scriptures, to the saints

purpose & result:

- to equip the saints for serving the Lord
- to spiritually build up the body of Christ
 - to provide doctrinal stability
 - to bring to maturity in Christ

* with the assembly having the complete scriptures the foundational aspect of the prophet's role no longer exists

Gifts to the assembly (1 Corinthians 12)

Now you are Christ's body,
and members in particular.
And God has set certain in the
assembly:
first apostles,
secondly prophets,
thirdly teachers,
then miraculous powers,
then gifts of healings,
helps,
governments,
kinds of tongues.
[1 Corinthians 12:27-28]

after
apostles,
prophets &
teachers
other gifts
are mentioned
but as having
a lesser place

Topics

The Giver

Gifts to the assembly

Gifts to individuals

Summary of noteworthy principles

Warnings

Questions

Noteworthy principle

But to each one of us —————> we all have gifts


grace was given
according to the measure
of Christ's gift.

Therefore He says:

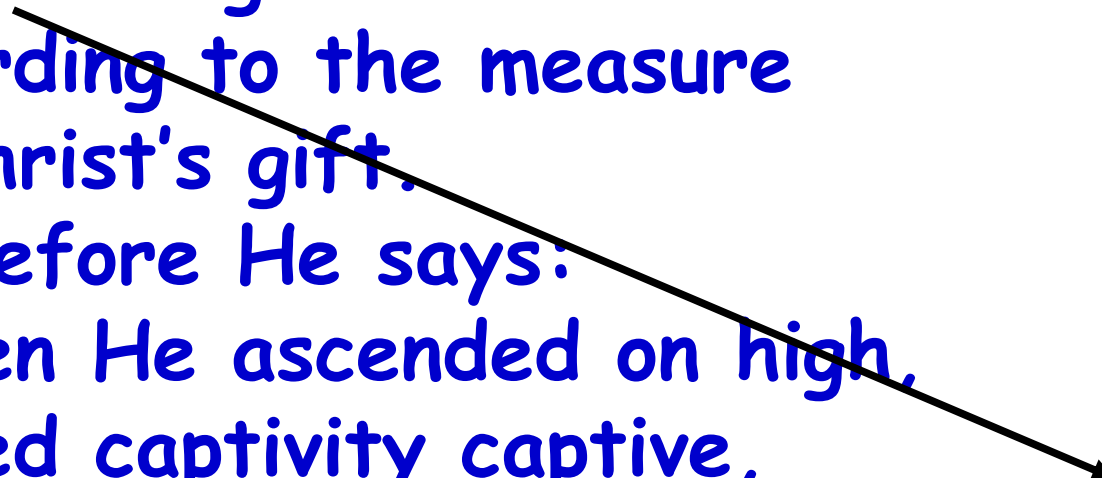
“When He ascended on high,
He led captivity captive,
And gave gifts to men.”

[Ephesians 4:7-8]

Noteworthy principle

But to each one of us  we all have gifts
grace was given
according to the measure
of Christ's gift.

Therefore He says:
"When He ascended on high,
He led captivity captive,
And gave gifts to men."
[Ephesians 4:7-8]

 we don't deserve
these gifts
they are gifts of
grace:
undeserved favour

Noteworthy principle

Each according as he has received a gift,
ministering it to one another,
as good stewards of the various grace of God.
If any one speak — as oracles of God;
if any one minister — as of strength which God
supplies;
that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus
Christ,
to whom is the glory and the might
for the ages of ages. Amen.
[1 Peter 4:10-11]



using our gifts glorifies God

Gifts given to individuals

there are 2 main passages referring to gifts given to individual believers

Romans 12

1 Corinthians 12-14

we will note emphases from each passage plus some noteworthy principles

then list some gifts mentioned

Emphases of Romans 12

For as we have many members in one body,
but all the members do not have the same function,
so we, being many, are one body in Christ,
and individually members of one another.

Having then gifts differing
according to the grace
that is given to us,
let us use them.

[Romans 12:4-6]

Emphases:

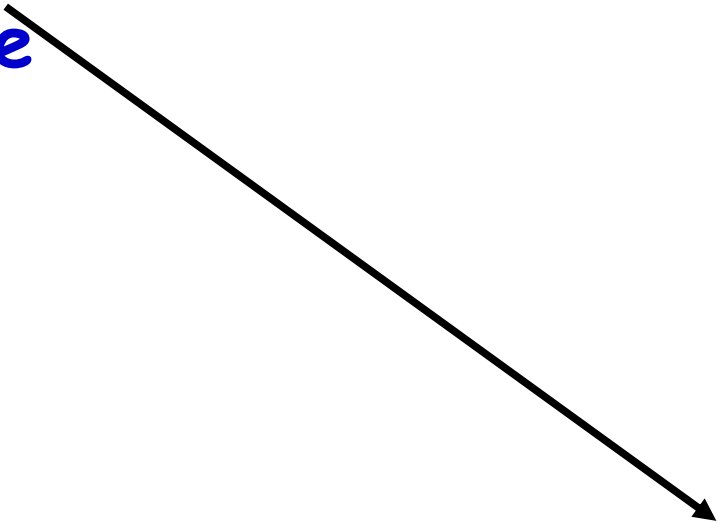
- we are united with each other in Christ
- we are interdependent, we need each other

Noteworthy principle

For as we have many members in one body,
but all the members do not have the same function,
so we, being many, are one body in Christ,
and individually members of one another.

Having then gifts differing
according to the grace
that is given to us,
let us use them.

[Romans 12:4-6]



as individuals we have
different gifts

Noteworthy principle

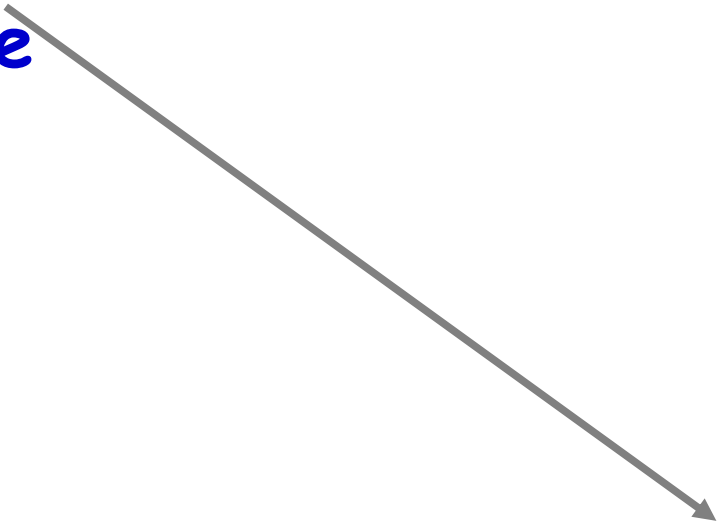
For as we have many members in one body,
but all the members do not have the same function,
so we, being many, are one body in Christ,
and individually members of one another.

Having then gifts differing
according to the grace
that is given to us,
let us use them.

[Romans 12:4-6]



gifts are to
be used



as individuals we have
different gifts

Emphases of 1 Corinthians 12-14

Now concerning spiritual gifts,
brethren,

I do not want you to be
ignorant ...

There are diversities of gifts,
but the same Spirit.

... the manifestation of the
Spirit is given to each one
for the profit of all.

[1 Corinthians 12:1,4,7]

I show you a more excellent
way ... love

[1 Corinthians 12:31, 13:1]

Emphases in these
3 chapters:

- There are many gifts given through the Spirit
- The use of gifts must be under the Spirit's control
- Love should motivate their use

Noteworthy principle

Now concerning spiritual gifts,
brethren,

I do not want you to be
ignorant ...

There are diversities of gifts,
but the same Spirit.

... the manifestation of the
Spirit is given to each one
for the profit of all.

[1 Corinthians 12:1,4,7]



there are many
different
sorts of gifts

Noteworthy principle

Now concerning spiritual gifts,
brethren,

I do not want you to be
ignorant ...

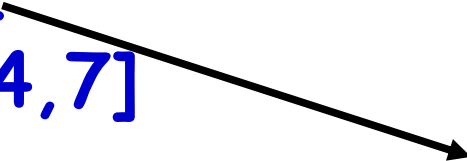
There are diversities of gifts,
but the same Spirit.

... the manifestation of the
Spirit is given to each one
for the profit of all.

[1 Corinthians 12:1,4,7]



there are many
different
sorts of gifts



gifts are given
for the benefit
of all

Noteworthy principle

One and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

[1 Corinthians 12:11]



The Spirit distributes gifts as He wills

Gifts given to individuals

all gifts are for the benefit
of the saints

it is easy to focus on
the use of gifts
in assembly meetings

but there is very much more

so
what are these gifts?

Gifts given to individuals (Romans 12)

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them:
if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;
or ministry, let us use it in our ministering;
he who teaches, in teaching;
he who exhorts, in exhortation;
he who gives, with liberality;
he who leads, with diligence;
he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.
[Romans 12:6-8]

Noteworthy principle

prophecy,
prophecy in
proportion to
our faith

he who teaches,
in teaching

he who exhorts,
in exhortation

he who gives,
with liberality

he who leads,
with diligence

ministry,
let us use
it in our
ministering

he who shows mercy,
with cheerfulness

we need the right attitude
in using our gifts

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

[1 Corinthians 12:7-11]

Gifts given to individuals (1 Corinthians 12)

... miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.

[1 Corinthians 12:28]

Gifts given to individuals (1 Corinthians 12)

the word of wisdom
the word of knowledge
faith
gifts of healings
the working of miracles
prophecy
discerning of spirits
different kinds of tongues
the interpretation of tongues
helps
administrations

Sign gifts

- gifts of healings
- the working of miracles
- different kinds of tongues
- the interpretation of tongues

They were given to the early church as a sign of the Spirit's power & presence.

God is sovereign; His power and ability are unlimited - but Scripture says of tongues that they will 'cease'.

The evidence suggests that the sign gifts ceased very early on - perhaps when the church was established with the complete scriptures, perhaps before.

Noteworthy principle

Are all apostles?

Are all prophets?

Are all teachers?

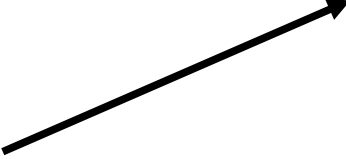
Are all in possession of miraculous powers?

Have all gifts of healings?

Do all speak with tongues?

Do all interpret?

some gifts
are greater
than others



But desire earnestly the greater gifts.

[1 Corinthians 12:29-31]

Noteworthy principle

Are all apostles?

Are all prophets?

Are all teachers?

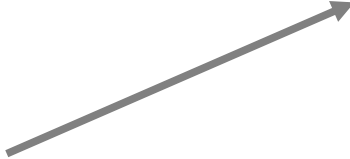
Are all in possession of miraculous powers?

Have all gifts of healings?

Do all speak with tongues?

Do all interpret?

some gifts
are greater
than others



But desire earnestly the greater gifts.

[1 Corinthians 12:29-31]



The Lord will sometimes give
if there is an earnest desire

A more excellent way!

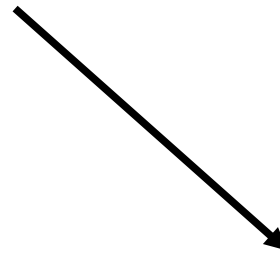
I show you
a more excellent way
[1 Corinthians 12:31]



A more excellent way!

I show you
a more excellent way
[1 Corinthians 12:31]

... **love**



a noteworthy principle!

Tragedies

Speaking in tongues

If I speak with the tongues
of men and of angels,
but have not love,
I am become sounding brass
or a clanging cymbal.

Prophecy

And if I have prophecy ...
but have not love,
I am nothing.

Knowledge

If I ... know all mysteries
and all knowledge ...
but have not love,
I am nothing.

Gifts & practises,
unaccompanied by love ...
[1 Corinthians 13:1-3]

Faith

And if I ... have all faith,
so as to remove mountains,
but have not love,
I am nothing.

Generous giving

And if I shall dole
out all my goods
in food ...
but have not love,
I profit nothing.

Self-sacrifice

And if I deliver
up my body that I
may be burned,
but have not love,
I profit nothing.

is not
irritable

does not boast

rejoices with
the truth

is patient

endures all
things

does not insist on
its own way

believes all
things

A better way
... love
[1 Cor 13:4-7]

does not envy

is not rude

is not
resentful

bears all things

hopes all things

is kind

does not rejoice
at wrongdoing

is not arrogant

Prophecies, tongues, knowledge & love

Love never fails;
but whether prophecies,
they shall be done away;
or tongues,
they shall cease;
or knowledge,
it shall be done away.
For we know in part,
and we prophesy in part:
but when that which is
perfect has come,
that which is in part shall be
done away.

[1 Corinthians 13:8-10]

tongues
shall cease

prophecies &
knowledge
shall be done away
when Christ comes

love
never fails

Tongues

True languages

There are, it may be,
so many kinds of languages in the
world, and none of them is
without significance.

Therefore, if I do not know the
meaning of the language,
I shall be a foreigner to him who
speaks,

and he who speaks will be a
foreigner to me.

Even so you, since you are
zealous for spiritual gifts,
let it be for the edification of
the church that you seek to
excel.

[1 Corinthians 14:10-12]

Prophecies

Messages for building up
the assembly

He who prophesies speaks
edification and exhortation
and comfort to men ...
he who prophesies edifies
the church.

[1 Corinthians 14:3-4]

Tongues v Prophecies

In the church I would rather
speak 5 words with my
understanding, that I may
teach others also, than
10000 words in a tongue.

[1 Corinthians 14:19]

Topics

The Giver

Gifts to the assembly

Gifts to individuals

Summary of noteworthy principles

Warnings

Questions

The noteworthy principles

all good things that we have are given by God

there are many different sorts of gifts

some gifts are greater than others

the Spirit distributes gifts as He wills

we all have gifts

as individuals we have different gifts

we don't deserve these gifts

our gifts are to be used

our gifts are for the benefit of others

we need the right attitude in using our gifts

gifts must be used in love

using our gifts glorifies God

Topics

The Giver

Gifts to the assembly

Gifts to individuals

Summary of noteworthy principles

Warnings

Questions

Being well-gifted does not make you a spiritual Christian

Warning 1

Re the Corinthians:

You come short in no gift ...

[1 Corinthians 1:7]

but:

there are contentions among you [1:11]

you are still carnal [3:3]

there are envy, strife, and divisions among you [3:3, 11:18]

there is sexual immorality among you [5:1]

you are puffed up [4:18, 5:2]

your glorying is not good [5:6]

brother goes to law against brother [6:6]

you come together not for the better but for the worse

[11:17]

Warning 2

Don't think too highly of yourself
(& your giftedness)

Just before gifts are described Paul writes:

For I say,
through the grace given to me,
to everyone who is among you,
not to think of himself more highly
than he ought to think,
but to think soberly,
as God has dealt to each one
a measure of faith.

[Romans 12:3]

Warning 3

Gifts MUST be exercised in love

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels,
but have not love,

I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

And though I have the gift of prophecy,
and understand all mysteries and all knowledge,

and though I have all faith,
so that I could remove mountains,

but have not love, I am nothing.

And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor,

and though I give my body to be burned,
but have not love, it profits me nothing.

[1 Corinthians 13:1-3]

Warning 4

Don't be envious of others' gifts & try to emulate them or denigrate them

One and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

[1 Corinthians 12:11]

Warning 5

Don't say my gift is so trivial I won't bother with it

Do not neglect the gift that is in you
[1 Timothy 4:14]

Warning 6

Don't hide or ignore your gifts - use them

Do not neglect the gift that is in you
[1 Timothy 4:14]

Warning 7

Don't be too focused on the lesser gifts

This probably applied more to the Corinthians than to us, but the warning is there

Desire earnestly the greater gifts
[1 Corinthians 12:31]

Topics

The Giver

Gifts to the assembly

Gifts to individuals

Summary of noteworthy principles

Warnings

Questions

Question 1

How do I know what my gifts are?

I won't find the answer
unless I am serving the Lord

Often they are based on
our natural (God-given) abilities

And to one he gave five talents,
to another two, and to another one;
to each according to his particular ability.

[Matthew 25:15]

Question 2

Do sisters receive gifts?

Gifts are given to sisters as well as brothers but scripture notes some limitations in their use:

Let your women be silent in the assemblies, for it is not permitted to them to speak
[1 Corinthians 14:34]

I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence.
[1 Timothy 2:12]

Question 3

Can I be given other gifts?

Desire earnestly the greater gifts
[1 Corinthians 12:31]

Desire to prophesy
[1 Corinthians 14:39]

So, yes, but note ...

Since you are zealous for spiritual gifts,
let it be for the edification of the church
that you seek to excel.
[1 Corinthians 14:12]

Question 4

Should I do the Lord's work
even if I can't identify my gifts?

Yes, if you prayerfully & carefully
consider that the Lord
wants you to do that work.

If He has called you to do a work,
He will equip you for that work.

And the Lord Jesus said:
"If anyone serves Me,
him My Father will honour."
[John 12:26]