**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | You Are a Gifted Child |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | 1 Corinthians 12:1-12 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2201 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. In the Christian world, we have a tendency to divide people into two categories:
      1. The clergy, who are in full-time ministry.
      2. The laity, which are the ones in the pews.
   2. As Christians, we are all called into the ministry.
      1. God has a ministry for each of us.
   3. Many Christians feel frustrated and don’t see any victory in their lives or have any joy.
      1. We need to find a ministry.
      2. Discover your spiritual gift and put it to work for the Lord.
   4. There are three kinds of people in every church:
      1. Those who make things happen.
      2. Those who watch things happen.
      3. Those who don’t know anything is happening.
   5. As believers, we need to go to work for the Lord.
      1. The need is desperate.
      2. The hour is late.
         1. We only have so many years, months, days, etc., before the end of all things is at hand.
      3. In spite of the sin and debauchery prevalent in our world today, there is also a great hunger for spiritual things.
         1. Many are turning to humanism, New Age-ism and false cults because we have failed to declare the truth.
   6. Do you want your life to count for Jesus?
      1. One day, we will all give an account for our lives.
   7. God has called each of us to serve Him, and He has equipped us to serve Him.
      1. God has given each of us at least one spiritual gift.
      2. We are to discover our spiritual gift, develop it and deploy it for Jesus.
2. THE DESCRIPTION OF THE GIFTS (1 Corinthians 12:1)
   1. These are spiritual gifts.
      1. 1 Corinthians 12:4
         1. In this passage, the word translated for “gifts” is “charismata.”
            1. “Charis” is the word for “grace.”
            2. These gifts are grace gifts.
      2. These are not material gifts.
      3. These are not natural talents.
      4. A spiritual gift is a supernatural ability that comes from God.
         1. As Christians, we should be supernatural and not superficial because God has gifted us.
   2. These spiritual gifts are not earned, and they are not learned.
      1. They are given to us by God as a gift.
3. THE DISTORTION OF THE GIFTS (1 Corinthians 12:1-3)
   1. The devil wants to take something that is good and distort it and pervert it.
      1. The enemy wants to give the Holy Spirit a bad name.
      2. The devil has no raw material; God made everything.
         1. Anything that is bad is a perversion of that which was once good.
      3. The enemy wants to take spiritual gifts and distort them.
         1. He does not want us to understand our spiritual gifts.
   2. In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul addresses the church at Corinth, which was carnal.
      1. The Corinthians were led away by “dumb idols.”
      2. Some would get into such a frenzy that they would even call Jesus accursed.
      3. In churches today, we sometimes hear of “revivals” where people are roaring like lions or barking like dogs.
         1. We must remember that real revival is demonstrated by the fruit of the Spirit, which is love, mercy, long-suffering.
         2. Real revival does not put you out of control; real revival brings you under the control of the Holy Spirit.
         3. 1 Corinthians 14:32
         4. 1 Corinthians 14:40
   3. Any worship that draws you away from the Lord Jesus is false, even worship that magnifies the Holy Spirit rather than the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
   4. John 16:13-14
      1. The work of the Holy Spirit is to magnify Jesus Christ, not Himself.
      2. Any movement or teaching that has the Holy Spirit for a figurehead is distorted.
         1. We may go deeper into Jesus, but we will never go beyond Jesus.
   5. Colossians 1:18
      1. A church that is Spirit-filled gives the preeminence to Jesus Christ.
      2. Your spiritual gift is operating when it gives preeminence to Jesus Christ.
4. THE DIVERSITY OF THE GIFTS (1 Corinthians 12:4-6)
   1. The word “diversities” in this passage means different kinds.
      1. The “gifts” speak of God’s provision.
      2. “Administrations” speak of God’s purpose.
         1. God has given your gift a purpose.
      3. “Operations” speak of God’s power.
         1. God makes a provision, He has a purpose for that provision, and He gives us power so that we may fulfill the purpose of that provision that God has given.
   2. There is a diversity of gifts, but it is the same Holy Spirit.
      1. God wants unity in diversity.
      2. As members of the body of Christ, we have different functions and capacities, but it is the same Spirit.
         1. The power source is the same - the Holy Spirit.
   3. There is unity in diversity.
      1. Diversity in the church is not bad, but good.
         1. Division is bad.
      2. Unity is not unison.
         1. God does not want us all to be alike.
            1. He makes us different.
      3. Unity is not uniformity - everyone doing the same thing.
         1. Uniformity comes from pressure from without.
         2. Unity comes from life from within.
      4. Unity is not union.
         1. Members of the same church may be in union but not necessarily in unity.
      5. It must be unity of the Spirit.
5. THE DESIGN OF THE GIFTS (1 Corinthians 12:7)
   1. Spiritual gifts are not selfish gifts.
      1. They are to profit the entire body of Christ.
   2. Spiritual gifts are not for our enjoyment but for our employment.
      1. Your spiritual gift is a tool, not a toy.
      2. God gives us spiritual gifts so that we might do a job in the church of the Lord Jesus.
   3. Spiritual gifts are designed so that we might be a blessing to the body of Christ.
      1. We are to be a blessing in our local church and, therefore, make the church a blessing to the local community and the community a blessing to the world.
6. THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE GIFTS (1 Corinthians 12:8-11)
   1. The gifts are distributed by the Holy Spirit.
      1. He chooses the gift.
      2. You receive your gift when you receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
   2. All we need to do is to discover the gift and develop the gift that God has already given us.
   3. 1 Peter 4:10
      1. When the Holy Spirit comes to reside within us and to place us into the body of Christ, He does not come empty-handed; He comes with a gift.
      2. Every believer receives a gift.
   4. Here are some spiritual gifts that the Holy Spirit distributes:
      1. Wisdom
         1. 1 Corinthians 12:8
         2. Wisdom is not just being smart or having worldly wisdom.
         3. It is not common sense.
         4. It is uncommon sense.
         5. Those who have the gift of wisdom make good counselors.
      2. Knowledge
         1. 1 Corinthians 12:8
         2. In the Greek language, it is “a word of knowledge.”
         3. This is the ability to know things that one could not know, other than by divine intuition or revelation.
         4. This is not something that is learned from school.
         5. This is God giving insight.
         6. The devil counterfeits this gift (as he does of all spiritual gifts).
            1. The counterfeit of this gift is clairvoyancy.
         7. Acts 5:4
            1. Simon Peter had a word of knowledge regarding Ananias and Sapphira.
      3. Faith
         1. 1 Corinthians 12:9
         2. This is not natural faith or even supernatural faith that all of us have.
            1. Romans 12:3
         3. This gift is a super-abundant faith.
            1. 1 Corinthians 13:2
            2. This is mountain-moving faith.
      4. Healing
         1. 1 Corinthians 12:9
         2. God heals by miracle and by medicine.
         3. God heals instantaneously, and He heals in time.
         4. God also heals by doctors.
            1. Matthew 9:12
         5. The apostles had the gift of healing.
         6. Isaiah 53:5
            1. When Jesus died on the cross, He not only took our sins but our sicknesses, too.
            2. But we are waiting for the redemption of the body.
            3. Romans 8
         7. God does heal today in answer to prayer and in many ways.
      5. Miracles
         1. 1 Corinthians 12:10
         2. These miracles normally came in clusters in the Bible.
            1. Miracles around creation.
            2. Miracles around the ministry of Moses.
            3. Miracles around the ministry of Elijah and Elisha.
            4. Miracles with Jesus and the apostles.
         3. The gift of miracles is not necessarily a good tool for bringing the lost to Christ.
            1. Jesus had to rebuke the miracle mongers of His day for following Him for what He did instead of who He was.
            2. John 10:41-42

John the Baptist performed no miracles.

It was the Jesus that John preached that made the difference.

The lasting miracle is the new birth – the greatest miracle of all.

* + 1. Prophecy
       1. 1 Corinthians 12:10
       2. Prophecy is the ability to speak for God.
       3. It is not merely foretelling, though, some of that is included.
       4. Prophecy is forth-telling; it is speaking the Word of God.
       5. In 1 Corinthians 14, the apostle Paul states that this is a gift greatly to be desired among the church.
          1. There are some today who claim to have the office of a prophet, but the office of a prophet is no longer; though there is the gift of prophecy.
          2. The church is built upon the foundation of the apostles and the Bible prophets. And the foundation is complete.
       6. 1 Corinthians 14:3
          1. The gift of prophecy is to edify, which is to build up.
          2. To exhort is to fire up.
          3. To comfort is to shore up and to hold up.
    2. Discerning of spirits
       1. 1 Corinthians 12:10
       2. Not everything that is spiritual is of God.
          1. Spiritual wickedness exists, and demons are masters of deception.
       3. This gift is greatly needed in the church today to discern the spirits.
          1. The enemy has come with much counterfeit.
       4. Matthew 7:1
          1. This gift is not the ability to judge who is saved and who is lost.
    3. Tongues
       1. 1 Corinthians 12:10
       2. A gift of tongues is not primarily a prayer language that you don’t understand.
       3. Speaking in tongues, or in other languages, is not a sign that you are Spirit-filled.
          1. The Corinthian church was Paul’s most carnal church, and they practiced the gift of tongues.
       4. Tongues is not a sign that you are saved.
       5. Tongues is not a sign to the saved but to the unsaved.
          1. 1 Corinthians 14:22
       6. The gift of tongues is the ability to speak in a language you have never learned; not an unknown language, but a known language (unknown to you but not unknown to others).
          1. Acts 2:8
          2. The gift of tongues is the ability to praise God in a language you have never learned as a sign to unbelievers.
       7. The sign that you are Spirit-filled is not the ability to speak in a language you have never learned, but the ability to control the one tongue you do have.
          1. 1 Corinthians 13:1
          2. The fruit of the Spirit is love.
    4. Interpretation of tongues
       1. 1 Corinthians 12:10
       2. Spiritual gifts are given to profit the entire body.
          1. When someone is speaking in tongues, an interpreter is needed so that everyone understands.
       3. There are two heresies concerning tongues:
          1. One is to say that you must speak in tongues.
          2. The other is to say that you must not speak in tongues.
       4. God is God, and He can choose to use the gift of tongues and interpretation of tongues if He chooses.
  1. Romans 12
     1. Other gifts include the following:
        1. Ministry
        2. Teaching
        3. Exhortation
        4. Giving
        5. Ruling
        6. Mercy

1. THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE GIFTS (1 Corinthians 12:12)
   1. God brings us together as a body.
      1. We all have different gifts, yet those gifts are to be put to work in the body of Christ.
   2. We can discover our spiritual gifting in the context of the body of Christ.
2. CONCLUSION
   1. You are a gifted child. God has given you a spiritual gift.
   2. The only way to discover your gift is to have it, and the only way you can have your gift is to be saved; and the only way to be saved is to put your faith in Jesus Christ.
   3. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   4. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31