

Acts 1:8 (NIV) ⁸ *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

This is where we left off at Pentecost. Just as the disciples did back then, the real work was about to begin!

Our Job: Love God – Love People – Be Discipled – Make Disciples

A. The Divine Imperative

Romans 12:1–21 (NIV) ¹ *Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship...so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others... ⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.*

Romans 12: Consecrate Your Whole Life & Love Authentically

The Main Command: Give God your entire life as a living sacrifice. Refuse to conform to the world's patterns; be transformed by Christ. Love others without expecting anything in return.

The Context: Rom 1-11 focuses on SALVATION: Now Paul describes what Salvation does – the Gospel TRANSFORMS. Paul places the list of spiritual gifts explicitly between a command to practice deep personal humility (not thinking of yourself more highly than you ought) and a command to practice genuine love (outdoing one another in showing honour).

QUESTION: Are you holding back areas of your life? Are you loving others unconditionally?

1 Corinthians 12:4–11, 28-31; 13:1-3; 14:1-6, 26-33 (NIV) ⁴ *There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them... ⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good... ^{14:1} Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy... ⁵ I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy... so that the church may be edified... Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.*

1 Corinthians 12–14: Pursue Love & Build Up the Church

The Main Command: Our highest calling is to love others & build up the church; gifts of the Spirit are given for this purpose.

The Context: 1 Corinthians is written to a church in turmoil; they are spiritual infants, often abusing the gifts. This three-chapter block is anchored by the famous "Love Chapter" (1 Corinthians 13) in the middle. The underlying command to a chaotic, prideful church is that edification (building up others) is the ultimate measure of a spiritual gift's maturity. If a manifestation does not strengthen, encourage, or comfort the corporate body, it is being misused.

Question: Are you using your gifts, resources, and abilities to love others & build Christ's Church?

1 Peter 4:7–11 (NIV) ⁷ *The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray.* ⁸ *Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.* ⁹ *Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.* ¹⁰ *Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.* ¹¹ *If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.*

1 Peter 4: Glorify God by Using Your Gifts to Serve & Love Others Deeply

The Main Command: Even when facing trials, glorify God by using your gifts to love and serve those around you.

The Context: 1 Peter 4:12–13 (NIV): *Do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, ...* ¹³ *But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ.* Peter writes this to a suffering church facing intense pressure. His central command is **faithful stewardship under fire**. He instructs believers to view whatever gift they have, whether a speaking gift or a serving gift, as a means to glorify God! **(NOTE: Persecution is different than debilitating illness!)**

Question: When suffering, how can you show God’s love? (Pray? Worship? Encourage? Serve? Sometimes suffering includes physical limitations – can you pray?)

WOW! WHAT A CALLING! Love God – Love People – Be Discipled – Make Disciples

B. The Divine Inventory of Gifts!

A Non-Exhaustive New Testament Spiritual Gifts & Manifestations List:

#	Gift / Role / Expression / Manifestation	Rom 12 (Full)	1 Cor 12–14	1 Cor 7:1–15	Eph 4	1 Pet 4	Other Epistles & Gospels	Book of Acts
1	Acts of Mercy	✓	—	—	—	—	—	✓
2	Administration / Guidance (<i>Kybernesis</i>)	—	✓	—	—	—	—	✓
3	Apostles	—	✓	—	✓	—	—	✓
4	Celibacy / Singleness	—	—	✓	—	—	—	—
5	Casting out Demons	—	—	—	—	—	✓	✓

#	Gift / Role / Expression / Manifestation	Rom 12 (Full)	1 Cor 12–14	1 Cor 7:1–15	Eph 4	1 Pet 4	Other Epistles & Gospels	Book of Acts
6	Distinguishing between Spirits	—	✓	—	—	—	—	✓
7	Evangelists	—	—	—	✓	—	✓ (2 Tim 4:5)	✓
8	Exhortation / Encouragement	✓	—	—	—	—	—	✓
9	Faith	—	✓	—	—	—	—	✓
10	Gifts of Healing	—	✓	—	—	—	—	✓
11	Giving / Generosity	✓	—	—	—	—	—	✓
12	Helps / Assistance (<i>Antilempsis</i>)	—	✓	—	—	—	—	✓
13	Hospitality	✓ (v. 13)	—	—	—	✓ (v. 9)	—	✓
14	Hymn / Song / Psalm	—	✓	—	—	—	—	✓
15	Interpretation of Tongues	—	✓	—	—	—	—	✓
16	Leading / Leadership	✓	✓	—	—	—	—	✓
17	Marriage	—	—	✓	—	—	—	—
18	Miracles / Workings of Powers (Raising the dead)	—	✓	—	—	—	—	✓

#	Gift / Role / Expression / Manifestation	Rom 12 (Full)	1 Cor 12–14	1 Cor 7:1–15	Eph 4	1 Pet 4	Other Epistles & Gospels	Book of Acts
19	Prophecy / Prophets	✓	✓	—	✓	—	—	✓
20	Revelation	—	✓	—	—	—	—	✓
21	Serving / Ministry / Helping	✓	✓	—	—	✓	—	✓
22	Shepherds / Pastors	—	—	—	✓	—	—	✓
23	Boldness (<i>Parresia</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	—	✓ (Acts 4:31)
24	Endurance (<i>Hupomone</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	✓ (Phil 1:29; 2 Tim 1:6)	✓ (e.g., Acts 5:41)
25	Physical Teleportation	—	—	—	—	—	—	✓ (Acts 8:39)
26	Visions & Dreams	—	—	—	—	—	—	✓ (Acts 2:17)
27	Teaching / Teachers	✓	✓	—	✓	—	—	✓
28	Tongues of Men & Angels	—	✓	—	—	—	—	✓
29	Word of Knowledge / Mysteries	—	✓	—	—	—	—	✓
30	Word of Wisdom	—	✓	—	—	—	—	✓
31	OTHER: _____ (The Spirit empowers in ways which may not be listed here!)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

C. The Divine Invitation

1 Cor. 12:31 *"But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way."*

1 Cor. 14:1 *Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.*

1 Cor. 14:12 *...since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.*

1 Cor. 14:39 *...earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues."*

Acts 1:8 (ESV) ⁸ *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

The Idea of the Holy Spirit is not merely intellectual or symbolic!

**Acts 1:8 "power" (Dynamis): Spiritual power, ability to perform an activity, etc., to DO God's will!
And bear much fruit!**

The ENTIRE book of Acts demonstrates ALL of these gifts in operation in the early church! **And there is NO verse or passage that even IMPLIES they are no longer present.**

Luke 11:13 (NIV) ¹³ *If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"*

Matthew 7:11 (NIV) ¹¹ *If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!*

QUESTION: Do we need the Holy Spirit? Do YOU need the Holy Spirit in your life?

PRAY & COMMIT – PRAY FOR THE FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT & ASK FOR THE GIFTS (Get people to ask for specific GIFTS)