

SOVEREIGN & FREE

A Biblical Case for the Holy Spirit's Freedom to Work As He Wills,
the Believer's Call to Believe What Scripture Teaches About Him

UNIT 2: 1 Corinthians 12-14

1.	12.1-11 Opening the topic of spiritual gifts
2.	12.12-31 Illustrating unity & diversity of giftings in comparison to the human body
3.	13.1-7: The how of spiritual gifts: in love
4.	13.8-13 Love in relation to giftings: the timing of God's purposes
5.	14.1-19 In the gathering: preferable gifting, correcting imbalances
6.	14.20-25 Higher giftings in the greater context of the watching world
7.	14.26-40 Principles & applications for gathered worship

Outline of 1 Corinthians 12

1.	12.1-11 Opening the topic of spiritual gifts
1.1	v.1 undesirable to be ignorant of them
1.2	v.2 Consider the contrast between your unsaved past and your life in Christ now
1.3	v.3 loving Jesus is the mark of having the Spirit
1.4	vv.4-11 diversity & unity
1.4.1	v.11 HS wills, distributes, works all these things
1.4.2	v.4 Holy Spirit linked to varieties of "xarismáton" spiritual gifts, charismata
1.4.3	v.5 Jesus linked to varieties of "diakonion" services, ministries
1.4.4	v.6 Father linked to varieties of "energymáton" energies, workings
1.4.5	v.7 summary statement on the gifts of the Spirit
1.4.5.1	Each believer receives a gift, not just a select or special few people
1.4.5.2	The use of the passive "divdotai" clearly rules out any human effort or excellence that could attain the gifts on its own
1.4.5.3	The focus again on the Spirit-source for the gifts is a rebuke to Corinthian pride
1.4.5.4	The Corinthian opinion was that tongues were a sign of true spirituality, but Paul says the gifts are given for the common good
1.4.6	vv.8-10 list of 9 giftings
1.4.7	v.11 it's all from Him and through Him
2.	12.12-31 Using the human body to illustrate unity & diversity of giftings
2.1	vv.12-13 body unity compared to unity in Christ by the Spirit's baptism and libation
2.1.1	vv.12-13 the unity through the Spirit into Christ has nothing to do with a person's status or background, but all pass through the same kind of Spirit-wrought experience in Christ
2.2	vv.14-20 a sense of inferiority is corrected by God-designed functional diversity in the body
2.2.1	vv.15-16 your place in the body has nothing to do with the differing function of other members, i.e. differing giftings
2.2.2	vv.17 the body doesn't function if all member have the same function - full functionality requires diversity of abilities, i.e. giftings
2.2.3	vv.18 God is sovereign in that - it isn't ultimately left up to merely what people decide, nor are they left on their own without God's sovereign guidance
2.3	vv.21-26 a sense of superiority is corrected by Christ's call to intentional love
2.3.1	v.21 no lone rangers in the body, and no lack of respect for the role played by others
2.3.2	vv.22-24 rather, greater honor and deference are added to the members who seem weaker, less honorable, unrepresentable
2.3.3	v.25-26 to the end that all members experience the same love, and to maintain unity. This results in unity in both suffering & rejoicing
2.4	vv.27-30 God-given unity through God-designed diversity
2.4.1	vv.27 restating the present reality of the unity of the church and the diversity of each believer from one another
2.4.2	vv.28 - 8 diverse spiritual gifts specified
2.4.3	v.29-30 - 7 rhetorical "no" questions to illustrate the diversity
2.5	v.31a command: be zealous for the higher gifts
2.6	v.31b segue to showing the more excellent way to pursue the things of the Spirit

1. 1Cor 12.1-11 Opening the topic of spiritual gifts

1.0 Background: The Corinthians - messy but beloved

1.0.1	Paul is responding to their letter, ch.12-14 is the response to 1 of the big issues	
1.0.2	Paul's response on spiritual gifts is mostly correcting errors in belief and practice that they were holding	
1.0.3	In spite of their issues, Paul makes it clear they are loved by a gracious God (1.4), that correcting is loving (cf.13.1-7), and that the way to practice spiritual gifts is with love (ch.13)	

1.1 v.1 Undesirable to be ignorant of them

1.1.1	"The Spirituals"	
1.1.2	Willful ignorance - heart	

1.2 v.2 Consider the contrast between your unsaved past and your life in Christ now

1.2.1	True spirituality	
1.2.2	"however you were led"	

1.3 v.3 Loving Jesus is the mark of having the Spirit

1.3.1		
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1.4 vv.4-11 Diversity & Unity

1.4.1	Who wills, distributes, and works the following 3 things? gifts, service, activities	
1.4.2	v.4 "gifts" linked to who?	
1.4.3	v.5 "services" linked to who?	
1.4.4	v.6 "workings" linked to who?	
1.4.5	v.7 summary - purpose	
1.4.5.1	each believer receives	
1.4.5.2	passive "is given"	
1.4.5.3	Spirit focus	
1.4.5.4	opinion vs. apostle	
1.4.6	vv.8-10 - lists 9 giftings	
1.4.7	v.11 powered by	