

August 28–September 3. 1 Corinthians 8–13: “Ye Are the Body of Christ”

Gifts of the Spirit

Paul makes it clear that, although gifts differ in their administration and operations, they come from the same Spirit to accomplish an essential purpose.

1Cor 12:4-11

[4] Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

[5] And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

[6] And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

[7] But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

[8] For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

[9] To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

[10] To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

[11] But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

What is the one gift that is given to every member and why do you think that everyone has this gift?

(the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man)

Bruce R McConkie

“Every converted member of the Church has one or more of the gifts of the Spirit. Following baptism in water, new members of the Church receive the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost. This gift is the right to the constant companionship of the Holy Spirit based on faithfulness. Hence, any truly converted person has, as one gift, a witness from the Spirit that the work is true; every person who has a testimony enjoys to one degree or another the companionship of the Spirit; and none can receive the Spirit without partaking of the gifts of the Spirit, for the fact of receiving revelation that the work is true is itself one of the gifts.” (Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, pg 2:373)

In verse 7 Paul states that this gift is given “to profit withal”

How does the whole church profit from each member having a witness from the Spirit?

Shared testimonies

Boyd K. Packer,

“Each member serves as a testimony of the life and teachings of Jesus

Christ. We are at war with the forces of the adversary, and we need each and every one of us if we are going to succeed in the work the Savior has for us to do.” (CR, Oct. 2014)

What do you think Paul means by, "dividing to every man severally as he will"?

Who is “he” in this verse?

Christ decides who gets what gifts

Moroni 10:17-18

17. And all these gifts come by the Spirit of Christ; and they come unto every man severally, according as he will.

18. And I would exhort you, my beloved brethren, that ye remember that every good gift cometh of Christ.

This information about the purpose of gifts and how they are distributed is confirmed in D&C 46

D&C 46:8-12

8] Wherefore, beware lest ye are deceived; and that ye may not be deceived seek ye earnestly the best gifts, always remembering for what they are given;

9] For verily I say unto you, they are given for the benefit of those who love me and keep all my commandments, and him that seeketh so to do; that all may be benefited that seek or that ask of me, that ask and not for a sign that they may consume it upon their lusts.

10] And again, verily I say unto you, I would that ye should always remember, and always retain in your minds what those gifts are, that are given unto the church.

11] For all have not every gift given unto them; for there are many gifts, and to every man is given a gift by the Spirit of God.

12] To some is given one, and to some is given another, that all may be profited thereby.

Why are those who have been given the gift of the Holy Ghost encouraged to seek after other gifts?

(that all may be benefited that seek or that ask of me
that all may be profited thereby)

Paul gives and metaphor of how each member's gift benefits the whole church.

1Cor 12:12-21

[12] For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

[13] For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or

Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

[14] For the body is not one member, but many.

[15] If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

[16] And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

[17] If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling?

[18] But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

[19] And if they were all one member, where were the body?

[20] But now are they many members, yet but one body.

[21] And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.

Why do you think that it's important to understand that all gifts are essential in the Kingdom of God?

(the body is not one member, but many_
But now are they many members, yet but one body)

Jeffrey R. Holland

"It is an immensely satisfying thing to be needed in the body of Christ. Whether I function as an eye or arm is irrelevant; the fact is I am needed in this most majestic organism, and the body is imperfect without me."
("Belonging: A View of Membership", Ensign, Apr. 1980)

M. Russell Ballard

"Don't be intimidated by those whose native talents and capabilities may be more visible-and may therefore seem more valuable-than your own. Every person has a significant contribution to make. Every person."
(Counseling with Our Councils, pg. 122)

Paul makes it clear that these gifts are found in the Lord's church and that He has spread the gifts around.

1Cor 12:27-31

[27] Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

[28] And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

[29] Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?

[30] Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?

[31] But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

JST 1Cor 12:31

I say unto you, Nay; for I have shown unto you a more excellent way, therefore covet earnestly the best gifts.

In verse 31 Paul says "covet earnestly the best gifts."

In 1Cor 14:1 Paul says "desire spiritual gifts."

In D&C 46:8 we read, "seek ye earnestly the best gifts."

What do you think Paul means by, "covet earnestly the best gifts"?

Tad R. Callister

"A second channel for these enabling powers is the gifts of the Spirit. Because of Christ's Atonement, we are eligible to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost and its accompanying spiritual gifts. These gifts are attributes of godliness; therefore, each time we acquire a gift of the Spirit, we become more like God. No doubt that is why the scriptures enjoin us on multiple occasions to seek these gifts." (CR, April 2019)

Is there one gift that we should seek after more than any other?

1 Corinthians 13:13

And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

Moroni 7:46

Wherefore, my beloved brethren, if ye have not charity, ye are nothing, for charity never faileth. Wherefore, cleave unto charity, which is the greatest of all, for all things must fail

Charity

Paul tells us about something that must be present before any gift is exercised

1Cor 13:1-2

[1] Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

[2] 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, and have not charity, I am nothing.

[3] And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

What else must be present in our lives before we can successfully share our gifts with others?

(charity)

D&C 12:8

And no one can assist in this work except he shall be humble and full of love, having faith, hope, and charity

D&C 18:19

And if you have not faith, hope and charity, you can do nothing.

Why is it essential that we have charity before we can successfully use our gifts?

Paul gives us some of the attributes of charity

1Cor 13:4-8,13

[4] Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

[5] Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

[6] Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

[7] Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

[8] Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

[13] And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

These are attributes. These are the signs of charity. But-
How would you define charity?

Moroni 7:47

But charity is the pure love of Christ, and it endureth forever; and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with him.

Ether 12:33-34

33 And again, I remember that thou hast said that thou hast loved the world, even unto the laying down of thy life for the world, that thou mightest take it again to prepare a place for the children of men.

34 And now I know that this love which thou hast had for the children of men is charity.

Russell M. Nelson

“Charity is the spiritual gift that helps us to cast off the natural man, who is selfish, defensive, prideful, and jealous. Charity is the principal characteristic of a true follower of Jesus Christ. Charity defines a peacemaker.

“When we humble ourselves before God and pray with all the energy of our hearts, God will grant us charity....

“The pure love of Christ is the answer to the contention that ails us today.... The pure love of Christ... allows us to demonstrate how men and women of Christ speak and act....

“Today I invite you to examine your discipleship within the context of the way you treat others. I bless you to make any adjustments that may be needed so that your behavior is ennobling, respectful, and representative of a true follower of Jesus Christ.” (CR, April 2023)

Paul states that our understanding of the gospel will grow as we strive to become more like God

1Cor 13:9-12

9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

What do you think Paul means by, “now we see through a glass darkly”?

(now I know in part)

LeGrand Richards

"When we are born into this world, we only have a vague recollection of our preexistent life. By the inspiration of the Spirit 'we see through a glass darkly' and we 'know in part.' Ultimately our previous knowledge will be restored to us, when that which is perfect comes, and then we shall know even as also we are known.... Ultimately the veil of darkness, or forgetfulness, which deprives us of the recollection of our existence in the spirit world before this earth was made and of the acquaintances we had here, will be lifted. Then we will see as we are seen and know as we are known and as we were known before earth life." (A Marvelous Work and a Wonder, pg. 281)