

Pursuing God's Presence Through Spiritual Gifts

Introduction

God manifests his very presence to us *through* spiritual gifts.

1 Corinthians 12:4–7, “There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. **To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.**”

Three Goals

I want to 1) encourage you to pursue spiritual gifts as a means to the end of pursuing God's presence, 2) encourage you to pursue spiritual gifts in order to build others up, and 3) encourage you to pursue spiritual gifts in their wider variety than the gifts listed in 1 Corinthians 12–14.

What Other New Testament Passages Teach

God gives us both various spiritual gifts to use for upbuilding others and the faith necessary to use those spiritual gifts.

Romans 12:1–8, “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the **mercies** of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the **grace** given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with **sober** judgment, each **according to the measure of faith that God has assigned**. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ **according to the grace given to us, let us use them**: if prophecy, **in proportion to our faith**; if service, in our serving [by faith]; the one who teaches, in his teaching [by faith]; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation [by faith]; the one who contributes, in generosity [by faith]; the one who leads, with zeal [by faith];

