

<h1>Your Ministry</h1>	<p>Lesson #2</p> <h2>Gifts of the Holy Spirit</h2>
<p>Scripture: Romans 12:1-13</p>	<p>Juniata Baptist Sunday School</p>
<p>We have learned from the Bible that God has given men many wonderful gifts. <i>“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above. . .”</i> (James 1:17). We have also learned that there are five very special gifts of God: His Word, His Son, Eternal Life, the Holy Spirit, and the Gifts of the Spirit. Each of these is received within the gift that comes logically before it. We receive God’s Son as a result of receiving the gift of God’s Word. We receive eternal life as we receive God’s Son. We receive the gift of the Holy Spirit within the gift of eternal life. And we receive the <i>gifts</i> of the Spirit as we receive the <i>gift</i> of the Holy Spirit. When you acknowledged and accepted the ministry and control of the Spirit of God in your life, you came to the place where you could find and use the special gift God has provided for you through the Spirit to perform a specific ministry! Romans 12:1-2 (Be sure that you have read these two verses carefully and reverently) tells a Christian to surrender fully to God for service, and it promises the surrendered Christian that he will <i>“prove”</i> (or “discern” in Greek) the acceptable will of God for his life! The following verses (especially vs. 3-8) make it clear that primary in the will of God for one’s life is a <i>ministry</i> to perform in the name of the Lord and by his power. Verse 6 calls these various ministries <i>“gifts.”</i> This passage also makes it clear that the gifts involve both the type of ministry a believer is to have and divinely-given power to accomplish it! Actually the gifts of the Holy Spirit are discussed rather thoroughly in <i>three chapters</i> of the Bible: Romans 12, I Corinthians 12, and Ephesians 4. You may well want to read all three of these chapters as you study for this lesson. There is a lot of confusion today in people’s minds about the gifts of the Holy Spirit, but the Bible is quite clear!</p> <div data-bbox="94 1766 761 1818"> <p>1. Romans 12: The Function Gifts</p> </div> <p>Verse 4 speaks of the members of the Body (the church) each having a different <i>“office.”</i> The word for <i>“office”</i> in the original Greek refers to the <i>function</i> of the member in the Body. As we will see in all three</p>	<p>chapters, the local Christian congregation is the Body of Christ in its community. Every saved and baptized member of that church is a member (part) of the Body. As in the human body, in the Body of Christ each member has a function which is actually a ministry to the rest of the Body! The lungs provide oxygen for the rest of the body. The heart pumps blood to the rest of the body. The digestive system works together to provide nourishment for the rest of the body. When you surrender completely to God for service, He will give you a <i>function</i> in the local church that will help supply a need throughout the Body. Notice verse 13: <i>“Distributing to the necessity [needs] of saints.”</i> Everybody has a different gift or function in the supplying of the Body’s needs. A great part in finding fulfillment in life is learning what your God-ordained function in the Body is. Verses 1-3 teach that, when you surrender by a definite decision to serve the Lord any way He wants, He will help you know just what your function is (or functions are), by <i>“grace”</i> (vs. 3 and 6) through <i>“faith”</i> (vs. 3 and 6). We will later study in more detail the seven <i>“gifts”</i> listed in verses 6 through 8, but now let us notice that <i>each one</i> is really a <i>speciality</i> in an area of service that <i>all</i> believers are supposed to render to some degree or another. Get a Strong’s Concordance and find that the Bible tells every believer to prophesy, to minister, to teach, to exhort, to give, to rule, and to show mercy. A function gift means simply that you are called to <i>specialize</i> in one or more of these areas.</p> <div data-bbox="857 1587 1531 1682"> <p>2. I Corinthians 12: The Manifestation Gifts.</p> </div> <p>A study of this chapter, and a comparison with Romans 12, will reveal to us that the gifts of the Spirit here are of a different kind than the gifts listed there. These gifts are described as coming from all three members of the Trinity: the Holy Spirit (v. 4), the Lord Jesus (v. 5), and God the Father (v. 6). In explaining these <i>“spiritual gifts,”</i> I Corinthians</p>

teaches us that manifestations truly generated by God will uphold right doctrine (vs. 1-3), be useful (v. 7), and be chosen by God (v. 11). God decides the who, when, where, and what of these gifts. Verse 7 calls them “*the manifestation of Spirit*,” exhibitions of the presence and power of God’s Spirit. If God lives in your body, and you yield to His control for ministry, miraculous or supernatural things can be expected to happen (Remember I Corinthians 6:19-20). The list of “*gifts*” in verses 8 through 10 (there are nine of them) are not the same as the function gifts. They are not specialized ministries in the local church. Rather they are supernatural manifestations of God’s presence and power in the Spirit-filled person’s life. This Scripture is speaking of *incidents*, not ongoing ministries. Notice the terms used here: “*the word of wisdom. . .the word of knowledge. . .faith. . .gifts of healing. . .*” The gift was a word or some faith or an incident of healing in answer to prayer. This passage doesn’t mention (nor does any other place in the Bible) a *gift* of healing that enables an individual to heal anybody any time he wants. Paul didn’t have such a gift of healing (Study carefully Acts 19:11-12 and II Timothy 4:20). God gave gifts of healing at various times in Paul’s life according to His own will (Look up Hebrews 2:3-4, too). Notice in verses 12 through 31 that not everybody can expect to experience every kind of manifestation gift. Actually, they are given somewhat according to the *function* you have in the Body! Let God send them when He wants. Believe that God can do miracles to help you be useful, but

don’t insist that God must do some particular wonder in order to prove that He is in your life (Look up John 10:41).

3. Ephesians 4: The Perfecting Gifts.

Ephesians 4:1-16 is a fascinating passage to read after you have studied the function gifts of Romans 12 and the manifestation gifts of I Corinthians 12. The gifts described here are not the specific ministries of the individual saints, nor the miraculous manifestations that may accompany the ministries of those who function in the power of the Spirit. They are *people*. Look at verses 11 and 12:

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. . .”

Various kinds of leaders, preachers, and teachers are given to the church to perfect the saints for the work of the ministry. As the saints respond to the ministry of their leaders they begin functioning according to their Romans 12 gifts and with certain I Corinthians 12 gifts, and the result is that the Body of Christ grows both spiritually and numerically. Pastors, teachers, and evangelists are God’s gifts to Christians to help them find and fulfill their individual ministries!

Gifts of the Holy Spirit		
1. Function gifts (Romans 12)	2. Manifestation gifts (I Cor. 12)	3. Perfecting gifts (Ephesians 4)
Exhortation	Faith	Teachers*
Teaching	Word of Wisdom	Apostles*
Ministry (Helps*)	Word of Knowledge	Prophets*
Prophecy	Gifts of Healing	Evangelists
Giving	Prophecy	Pastors
Ruling (Governments*)	Working of Miracles	
Showing Mercy	Discerning of Spirits	
	Kind of Tongues	
	Interpretation of Tongues	
* I Corinthians 12:27-28 mentions all three kinds of the gifts of the Spirit.		

