

PRECEPT  
UPON  
PRECEPT

*Spiritual  
Gifts*

# SPIRITUAL GIFTS

## PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT

© 1978, 1980, 1982, 1984, 1985, 1989, 1998 Precept Ministries International. All rights reserved. This material is published by and is the sole property of Precept Ministries International of Chattanooga, Tennessee. No part of this publication may be reproduced, translated, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are from the New American Standard Bible, ©1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, and 1977 by the Lockman Foundation, and are used by permission.

7th edition  
Printed in the United States of America

7.1

OF 1-00

LESSONS

PAGE	1	LESSON ONE: <b>Observation Worksheet on I Corinthians 12</b>
PAGE	15	LESSON TWO: <b>Observation Worksheets on Romans 12:1-8 and I Peter 4:7-11</b>
PAGE	27	LESSON THREE: <b>Observation Worksheet on Ephesians 4:1-6</b>
PAGE	43	LESSON FOUR: <b>Apostleship, Prophecy</b>
PAGE	59	LESSON FIVE: <b>Evangelism, Pastor-Teacher</b>
PAGE	81	LESSON SIX: <b>Teaching, Exhortation</b>
PAGE	101	LESSON SEVEN: <b>Leadership, Administrations, Giving</b>
PAGE	119	LESSON EIGHT: <b>Helps, Service, Mercy</b>
PAGE	133	LESSON NINE: <b>Word of Wisdom, Word of Knowledge, Faith</b>
PAGE	155	LESSON TEN: <b>Gifts of Healings, Effecting of Miracles, Distinguishing of Spirits</b>
PAGE	173	LESSON ELEVEN: <b>Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues</b>
PAGE	197	LESSON TWELVE: <b>Love</b>

EPILOGUE

PAGE	215	<b>About Precept Ministries</b>
------	-----	---------------------------------



## HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY

**How to Study Your Bible Precept Upon Precept**

*Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 1994.*

**Greek Word Study Tools**

**Commentaries and Books on Spiritual Gifts**

*(See commentary list below.)*

## RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

FLYNN, LESLIE

**The 19 Gifts of the Spirit**

*Colorado Springs, Colorado: Chariot Victor, 1994.*

GRAHAM, BILLY

**The Holy Spirit**

*Waco, Texas: Word Books, 1978.*

STEDMAN, RAY

**Body Life**

*Grand Rapids, Michigan: Discovery House Publications, 1995.*



THIS LESSON  
INCORPORATES

Observation  
Greek word study

The 1970s saw an influx of books into the Christian market dealing with the subject of spiritual gifts. It was a subject about which the body of Jesus Christ knew relatively little at that time; its teaching had been, for the most part, neglected. Of all the gifts, the one that was prominently taught before the 1970s was the gift of tongues. At that time there was great confusion and controversy within the body of Jesus Christ over this gift!

How grateful I am to the Lord for the many men who have taken the time to provide Christian literature for the body of Jesus Christ on this neglected subject of spiritual gifts. Yet, with all the literature available, I wonder how many of us can speak with confidence and authority on the subject of the gifts of the Spirit? As you read different books on the subject, you will find varied teachings on these gifts. These variations with regard to the gifts include their number, their operation within the body of Christ, and even their definition.

If you and I were to read any two of these books, and they varied in their teaching on the gifts, how would we know which interpretation was correct?

O Beloved, we will never be sure of what is true until we know truth for ourselves. His Word is truth. Jesus' prayer was, "Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth" (John 17:17).

Our approach to this subject of spiritual gifts will be to search out what the Word of God has to say on this subject; then, we will compare what we have seen with the insights of other men of God. Having searched out truth for ourselves, we will then be better qualified to evaluate that which we have read or heard from others; and above all, we will be able to walk in the light which we have received from the Spirit of God through the truth of the Word of God.

So, let us begin . . . with the Word. The New Testament book which contains the most information on the gifts is 1 Corinthians. It is vital that we see Paul's thoughts on spiritual gifts in context.

**What moved Paul to devote so much of this letter to the subject of spiritual gifts? Why, in the middle of this discourse on spiritual gifts, does Paul give that immortal definition of love? These are questions we must answer if we are ever to understand the true nature of these gifts and their importance to the body of Jesus Christ.**

**Observation is the key that unlocks the door to correct interpretation of Scripture. Be diligent this week as you lay a strong foundation through observation of these passages on spiritual gifts. It will make all the difference in a biblical understanding of the gifts, for this is where some teachers take entirely different tracks on spiritual gifts.**

DAY  
ONE

Paul wrote 1 Corinthians 1-6 responding to problems reported to him. Chapters 7-16 deal with questions that the Corinthians had written to him. Chapters 12-14 answer their questions about spiritual gifts.

1. Your study time for this week will be spent doing observations on 1 Corinthians 12. Begin today by reading through your Observation Worksheet without stopping to meditate so that you might gain a general understanding of the main thrust of this passage. The Observation Worksheet on 1 Corinthians 12 is located on page 11.
2. Read through 1 Corinthians 12 again and mark your Observation Worksheet noting key repeated words, contrasts, lists, etc., as you are taught to do in *How to Study Your Bible Precept Upon Precept*. If this is your first Precept course, you need to take time to read through the section "Part One, Observation — Discover What It Says!" in *How to Study Your Bible Precept Upon Precept*.

DAY  
TWO

1. Now read through 1 Corinthians 12 again noting any new insights. When you observe Scripture, you should always ask the 5 Ws and an H: **who, what, when, where, why, and how**. The answers to these questions will give you a basis for understanding 1 Corinthians 12.

Let me show you how to do this by giving you some basic 5 Ws and an H questions. Be sure to note the address of the Scripture verse that contains your answer. (There may be more than one answer to the questions.)



- h. **What** gifts are mentioned in this chapter? List them.
- i. **What** analogy is used in 1 Corinthians 12 with respect to spiritual gifts?
- 1) **What** is Paul showing through the use of this analogy?
  - 2) **Why** do you think Paul chose this analogy to communicate truth?





e. ministries (administrations, KJV) — 1 Corinthians 12:5

f. effects (operations, KJV) — 1 Corinthians 12:6

g. manifestation — 1 Corinthians 12:7

h. works (worketh, KJV) — 1 Corinthians 12:11

i. individually (severally, KJV) — 1 Corinthians 12:11

j. division (schism, KJV) — 1 Corinthians 12:25

k. desire (covet, KJV) — 1 Corinthians 12:31 (See if you can find out if this verb is singular or plural.)

2. Now read through 1 Corinthians 12 again, incorporating these definitions into the text, and see if this gives you any further insight into what God is saying to us through Paul.

DAY  
FIVE

1. Read through 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 carefully and note the reference to the “Spirit,” the “Lord,” and “God.”
2. Why do you think the Godhead is referred to in this way in 1 Corinthians 12:4-6? Remember, Beloved, each word of God is significant (Psalm 12:6); thus, there must be something special or significant that God is trying to convey to His people in this passage.

Is God reiterating the same truth three times in verses 4, 5, and 6? What is He teaching us in this passage? Study, pray, and meditate on the passage carefully; then, record your insights. Do not panic thinking that you may not have the right answer or the exact answer. There are several different interpretations of these verses; therefore, before we look at men’s interpretations, we need to glean all we can for ourselves so that we will be better able to evaluate what others say.





## 1 CORINTHIANS 12

- 1 Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware.
- 2 You know that when you were pagans, *you were* led astray to the dumb idols, however you were led.
- 3 Therefore I make known to you, that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus is accursed”; and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.
- 
- 4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.
- 5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord.
- 6 And there are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all *persons*.
- 7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.
- 8 For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit;
- 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,
- 10 and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to

---

another *various* kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues.

11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

---

12 For even as the body is one and *yet* has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.

13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

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

15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not *a part* of the body," it is not for this reason any the less *a part* of the body.

16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not *a part* of the body," it is not for this reason any the less *a part* of the body.

17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?

18 But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired.

- 19 And if they were all one member, where would the body be?
- 20 But now there are many members, but one body.
- 21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”;  
or again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.”
- 22 On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the  
body which seem to be weaker are necessary;
- 23 and those *members* of the body, which we deem less honorable,  
on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our unseemly  
*members come to have more abundant seemliness,*
- 24 whereas our seemly *members* have no need *of it*. But God has so  
composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that  
*member* which lacked,
- 25 that there should be no division in the body, but *that* the  
members should have the same care for one another.
- 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if  
*one* member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.
- 27 Now you are Christ’s body, and individually members of it.
- 28 And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second  
prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings,  
helps, administrations, *various* kinds of tongues.

29 All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not *workers of miracles*, are they?

30 All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they?

31 But earnestly desire the greater gifts.

---

**A**nd I show you a still more excellent way.