



# HOUR OF POWER

Reverend Dr. Major A Stewart



## ON USING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS





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December 12, 2023

## On Using Your Spiritual Gifts – 1 Corinthians 12:1-26

Tongues, prophecy, teaching, evangelism, mercy. In recent years a wide spectrum of views has developed among Christians about spiritual gifts. In *Fire in the Fireplace* Charles Hummel describes a common misconception: “Christians are often urged to inquire: ‘What is my gift? How can I discover and use it?’ Our culture pressures us to ask: ‘Who am I? How can I be fulfilled and realize my potential?’ ” But is this the emphasis of the New Testament’s teaching on spiritual gifts?



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**Personal Reflection: How does your view of yourself affect the way you interact with other Christians? Pray that God will help you to understand your spiritual gifts.**



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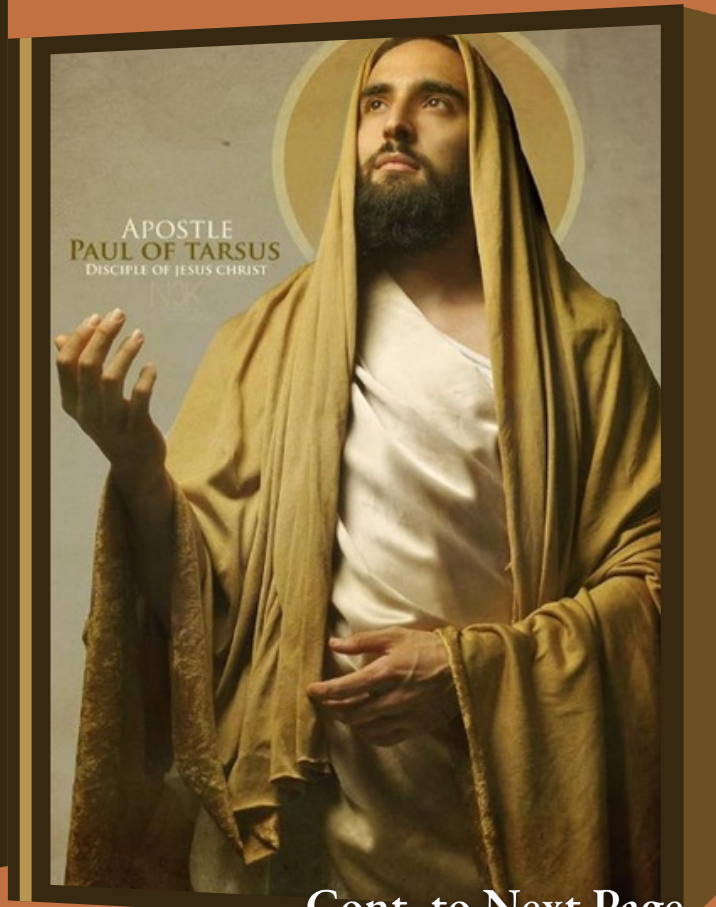
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Questions and confusion about spiritual gifts prevailed in the church at Corinth. In 1 Corinthians 12–14 Paul discusses the nature, purpose and use of spiritual gifts as a corrective to the abuses which had arisen. Read 1 Corinthians 12:4–26.

1. In what ways can our entire body be hindered if one of its parts isn't functioning properly?
2. In verses 4–11 what do we learn about the similarities and differences among spiritual gifts?
3. What is the purpose of the gifts?
4. How does Paul respond to the misconceptions in verses 15–16?



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5. How do the people described in verse 21 view themselves and those with less “spectacular” gifts?

6. In contrast to verse 21, how should we view and treat those who seem to be weaker or less honorable (vv. 22–23)?

Where do you see examples of this in your church or fellowship group?

7. Why would the “presentable parts” of the body need no special treatment (v. 24)?

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8. If the more “spectacular” members of the body don’t need special treatment, why are they usually the first to receive it?

9. How does this passage correct some of our misconceptions about the difference between so-called “full-time Christian workers” and everyone else?

10. Comment on your understanding of your own place in the body of Christ. For instance, do you feel inferior? Superior? Unsure of how you fit? Are you a lone ranger?

11. According to 12:7, each Christian is given gifts “for the common good” of the body. In this light, what can you be doing to build up your local church or fellowship group?



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**PRAY THAT GOD WILL FILL EACH OF YOU WITH THE LOVE OF JESUS AS YOU USE YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS.**

**NOW OR LATER**

**FOR FURTHER STUDY OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS, EXAMINE THE FOUR PRIMARY PASSAGES IN SCRIPTURE WHERE GIFTS ARE DISCUSSED: ROMANS 12, I CORINTHIANS 12, EPHESIANS 4 AND I PETER 4. EACH OF THESE CONTRIBUTES TO OUR OVERALL UNDERSTANDING OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS.**



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