

1 Corinthians 12: We are gifted by Christ.

1) THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING GIFTED

Corinthians 12 starts with the contrast between idol worship and the worship of God.

Paul is writing to people in a city famous for her gods and goddess.
The idols are mute – no real communication.

- In contrast God is a master communicator. One of his ways of communication is through people in Spirit. He doesn't need human in order to communicate but he has given us the privilege of expressing himself through us.

- Being gifted is not a merit or a reward for your achievement; it is God's grace and willingness to trust us despite our brokenness.

11 All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

Challenge: Beware of pride

2) THE PURPOSE OF BEING GIFTED

7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Without a relationship with others your gift is almost useless.

It is given to you so that you can serve others.

We have opportunity to positively influence others for the glory of God.

Opportunity to be a channel of grace

The bible talks about being an ambassador for Christ.

It is not a gift for self-gratification.

Challenge: Beware of manipulation

3) THE PRACTICE OF BEING GIFTED

7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Your gift needs to manifest in blessing other. You need to activate your gifts and exercise it. All gifts are important to God.

The expression of any gifts needs to be in line with the Holy Spirit, in unity with the rest of the body

3 Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit.

Not everything with a religious packaging is from God.

The expression of the gift is a result of a flowing relationship with God. It is not an expertise or you being good at your trade. It is being vessel of God.

Jude warns again abuse of God's grace

4 For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Challenge: Beware of fleshly performance