



GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the Gifts: Reconcile sinners to the Father w/compelling power & love
2 Corinthians 5:18–20

18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

Where it comes from | 1 Corinthians 12:4–7

4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. 7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

Remember Who we imitate | Luke 6:40

The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher.

Demonstrating His love: Jesus' character alive in us | 1 Corinthians 13:1–3

1 If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Gifts are for service, not for self | Matthew 20:28

...just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Do not undermine the Holy Spirit | 1 Thessalonians 5:19

Do not quench the Spirit.

LET'S OBSERVE THE TEXT...

Observe 2 Corinthians 5:18–20 - 18 *All this is from God, who _____ us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of _____: 19 that God was _____ the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of _____. 20 We are therefore Christ's _____, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be _____ to God.*

- Humanity and God were separated by sin. What is the solution to this problem? How are we reconciled to Him?
 - Based off of this, what is our mission / agenda as Christ's ambassadors?

Observe 1 Corinthians 12:4–7 - 4 *There are different kinds of _____, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5 There are*

different kinds of _____, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of _____, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. 7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common _____.

- If there are different gifts, services, and works, but given by the same Spirit...then all of us should have a shared agenda in why we use them. To reconcile the lost to God by introducing them to Christ by both our words and our demonstration of Spirit-filled works and service.

Observe Luke 6:40 - *The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will _____ their teacher.*

- Jesus modeled servant-leadership. We reflect Him when we use His power and authority with humility.
 - **Read John 17:18, Matthew 28:18-20, and Acts 1:8**
 - We are sent to carry on Jesus' Ministry of Reconciliation, reconciling sinners to the Father. The Great Commission (Matthew 28), shows that our authority comes from Christ, and the people we reach go beyond our territory. Acts 1, teaches us that the Spirit empowers us to be witnesses of the risen Christ, not performers.

Observe 1 Corinthians 13:1–3 - 1 *If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have _____, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have _____, I am _____. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have _____, I gain _____.*

- Gifts demonstrate the Spirit's power, but love demonstrates Christ's character. Gifts without Christ are meaningless.
 - **Read Matthew 7:22-23**



CONCORDANCE



Reconcile (katallassō)

Strong's G2644

Found in 2 Corinthians 5:18-20



Ambassador (presbeuō)

Strong's G4243

Found in 2 Corinthians 5:19



Love (agapē)

Strong's G26

Found in 1 Corinthians 13:1



ONLINE RESOURCE ACTIVITIES

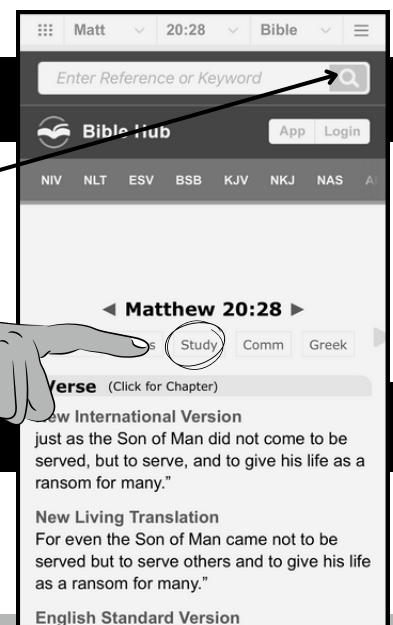
Observe Matthew 20:28 & 1 Thessalonians 5:19

- Go to BibleHub.com and do a search for **Matthew 20:28** in the "Enter Reference or Keyword" box and then click on the magnifying glass.
- Once it loads, click on the button titled "Study"
 - Read the **Study Bible** section.
 - Now do the same for **1 Thessalonians 5:19**



LET'S INTERPRET...

- What do you believe all of these verses mean?
- What is God speaking to you personally through this study?
- Read a trusted commentary and compare to your interpretation.





LET'S READ THE AFTER-SUMMARY TOGETHER

The gifts of the Spirit are not random talents or badges of spiritual status. They are divine tools, given by God and distributed by the Holy Spirit, to accomplish one main mission...reconciling people to the Father through Jesus Christ. Every believer has been entrusted with a unique expression of His power, but all these gifts flow from the same Spirit for the same purpose. They are meant to reveal the heart of the Father to a world still at war with sin and separation.

When Paul calls us “Christ’s ambassadors,” he reminds us that our lives are not our own. We carry the message of reconciliation, both through our words and through how we live. The world doesn’t just need to hear about Jesus. It needs to see Jesus living through us. That is what the Spirit empowers...our ability to introduce people to the risen Christ not by preaching alone, but by embodying His love, His humility, and His compassion.

It’s easy to treat spiritual gifts like performance skills or markers of maturity, but without love, they lose their meaning. Paul made it clear that even the most dramatic displays of faith or generosity are empty if love is not at the center. The Spirit’s power draws attention, but love gives it purpose. Every miracle, every prophetic word, every act of service should point people to Christ’s character, not our own.

Jesus modeled this perfectly. The One with all authority chose the posture of a servant. He didn’t come to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many. His kind of greatness is found in humility. That’s the same Spirit we are called to walk in, a Spirit that transforms ambition into compassion, and gifting into grace.

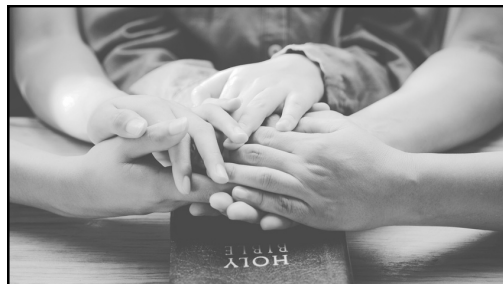
Finally, Paul warns us not to quench the Spirit. That means we must stay sensitive to His voice, available for His direction, and bold in our obedience. When the Spirit prompts you to act, speak, pray, or serve, that moment could be the spark that brings someone face-to-face with Jesus. The gifts were never about us having more power, they’re about revealing the One who already has all of it. The same Spirit who raised Christ from the dead now works through you to bring life to others. That’s not just ministry. That’s partnership with God’s heart.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- **Applying 2 Corinthians 5:18–20** - How can you practically live as an ambassador of Christ this week, using your words and actions to help reconcile someone to God?
- **Applying 1 Corinthians 12:4–7** - What spiritual gift or ability has the Holy Spirit placed in you, and how can you use it for the common good rather than personal recognition?
- **Applying Luke 6:40** - In what ways is your life starting to resemble your Teacher, Jesus, and where do you still need His Spirit to shape your character to look more like His?
- **Applying 1 Corinthians 13:1–3** - Are your spiritual gifts and acts of service motivated by genuine love to win sinners over to Christ, or have they become more about being right, performance or self-image?
- **Applying Matthew 20:28** - How can you model Jesus' servant leadership in your daily life, especially in moments when you would rather be noticed or served?
- **Applying 1 Thessalonians 5:19** - What might it look like for you to stop quenching the Spirit and start yielding more fully to His promptings in your life and ministry?
- **Applying John 17:18** - Jesus said, "As You sent Me into the world, I have sent them into the world." How are you living out the same mission Jesus was sent for, showing His heart to the world around you?
- **Applying Matthew 28:18–20** - Knowing that all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Jesus, how does that truth give you confidence to go, disciple, and teach others about Him?
- **Applying Acts 1:8** - When the Holy Spirit empowers you to be a witness of Jesus, what areas of your life or community do you feel called to reach first, and how can you begin that work today?

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, we thank You for giving us the Holy Spirit, who fills us with power and purpose. You have entrusted us with gifts that are meant to reflect Your heart and reveal Your Son to the world. Help us to remember that these gifts are not for our glory, but for the ministry of reconciliation. Teach us to walk in humility, to serve with joy, and to love with the same compassion that moved Jesus to give His life for us. Let every word we speak and every act we do point others back to You.



Holy Spirit, we invite You to move freely in us. Stir up the gifts You have placed within us, and give us courage to use them boldly but with love. Guard us from pride, comparison, and fear that would silence Your work through us. Reignite our passion to see the lost come home, the broken restored, and the name of Jesus lifted high. May our lives become living testimonies of the risen Christ within us, and may everything we do bring honor to the Father's heart. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

WHAT'S AHEAD...

Next Session

Discover your Spiritual Gifts

Homework

Read Romans 12