

“Keys To Your Discovery” (1 Corinthians 12: 4-30)

Personal Definition:

*SPIRITUAL GIFT – ✓ A ministry characteristic of the Holy Spirit,
 ✓ which God has given me in special abundance,
 ✓ through which I can supernaturally serve the body of Christ, the church*

This week: KEYS TO YOUR DISCOVERY (of “Spirituals” in you) v. 4-31

1. Spirituals come in VARIETY v. 4 - 6

- 4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.
- 5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord.
- 6 There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all *persons*.

- a. Note “varieties” in all 3 verses – lit. “distributions” - implying the uniqueness of “spirituals” in every individual
- b. Note “gifts”, “ministries” and “effects” (NIV: gifts, service, working)
 - (1) many kinds of gifts (v. 4)
 - (2) many ways the gifts can be used, in combination (v. 4)
 - (3) many results the gifts can have (v. 5)
- c. Example of “jelly bellys” - many flavors, many combos, many combo flavors
- d. Note “one Spirit”, “one Lord”, “one God”
 - (1) This indicates that all the infinite combinations are part of our one God
 - (2) Each person of the Godhead is reflected
 - (a) The GIFTS are the specific ministry character of the Spirit
 - (b) The MINISTRY is the ministry of Jesus the head, working through His body, the church
 - (c) The RESULTS are by our good and gracious Heavenly Father
- e. Note the Greek words used – each a facet of a what a spiritual gift is
 - (1) v. 1 “pneuma t ikon” - a characteristic of the Holy Spirit
 - (2) v. 4 “charisma” (charity) - lit. grace gift – a free gift of God
I am a charismatic Christian! – given a “grace gift” by God
 - (3) v. 5 “diakonion” (deacon) - a “service” or “ministry” done for others
 - (4) v. 6 “energeo” (energy) - a supernatural power

2. Spirituals are ASSIGNED v. 7-11

- 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.
- A visible assigning - “Manifestation” in v. 7 means a visible display of the Spirit – just as Jesus was a visible display or “manifestation” of God
 - The Holy Spirit assigns “just as He wills” (v. 11) Note every verse mentions or implies the Spirit’s leading in the distribution
 - For the good of the church - “for the common good” (v.7)
 - Uniquely to each “to each one individually” – lit: “idios (idiot) = peculiar, one of a kind (unique gifting – like a snowflake is unique)
 - Implied: No exchanging! No trading! No complaining!

3. Spirituals are FOCUSED: for one body through one Spirit (v. 12, 13)

- 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.
- True of each individual CHURCH BODY - emphasis in v. 12
We are one, but with many members (or parts) - just as Christ’s body is one, yet has many parts. The many are ONE, all a part of the ONE Christ.
 - True of the UNIVERSAL BODY – emphasis in v. 13
We were all individually baptized (lit: immersed) by the Spirit (the “one true baptism”) into one body. The many are ONE. And all drink of the ONE Spirit

4. My spiritual is CRITICAL FOR THE MANY (v. 14 - 19)

or “*I am not an appendix*” ! Emphasis: INDIVIDUALITY / Independence

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 If they were all one member, where would the body be?

- a. As a Christian, I am “a part” of the whole whether I realize it or not
- b. My spiritual is essential for the proper functioning of the whole
- c. The church is missing something without my spiritual in action

5. My spiritual is **DEFICIENT** to satisfy the ONE (v. 20 – 26)

or “*I can't do it all*”

Emphasis: UNITY / Dependence

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,

- a. We desperately need one another's “spirituals”
- b. “I couldn't do it without you” – extra emphasis for others
- c. Those who think they might be less important need more encouragement

6. My spiritual is about **CARING** for the body v. 25 – 26)

25 so that there may be no division in the body, but *that* the members may 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.

- a. We act as one (“no divisions”)
- b. We care as one (“same care for one another”)
- c. We suffer as one (“all the members suffer with it”)
- d. We rejoice as one (“all the members rejoice with it”)

7. The key to my spiritual is **INTERDEPENDENCE** (summary)

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

- a. Spirituals contribute to a CRITICAL WHOLE (“Christ’s body”)
- b. Spirituals are a CRITICAL PART of the whole (“individually members”)
- c. GOD APPOINTS the various leaders and gifts (“God has appointed”)
- d. Spirituals are INTERDEPENDENT (“all are not. . . are they?”)

Keys to My Discovery about “Spirituals” in 7 WORDS:

1. VARIETY
2. ASSIGNED
3. FOCUSED
4. CRITICAL
5. DEFICIENT
6. CARING
7. INTERDEPENDENT

Next week, for Mother’s Day: 12:31 and Chapter 13: LOVE, THE GREATER WAY