

# Why Every Believer is a Charismatic Christian

## 1 Corinthians 12

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### WHAT IT REALLY MEANS TO BE “SPIRITUAL”

*Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant. <sup>2</sup>You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus be cursed,” and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.*

1 Corinthians 12:1-3 (New International Version)

*charismata* = spiritual gifts

*pneumatika* = spiritual things

The ultimate way to tell if someone is spiritual is whether Jesus is exalted in that person's life.

### WHY GOD GIVES BELIEVERS SPIRITUAL GIFTS

*There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup>There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup>There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. <sup>7</sup>Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. <sup>8</sup>To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup>All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines. 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 (NIV)*

The reason the Spirit gives gifts to believers is for the good of that Christian community.

*Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. <sup>9</sup>For we know in part and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup>but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. <sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. <sup>12</sup>Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face . . . 1 Corinthians 13:8-12 (NIV)*

## WHAT UNITY IN DIVERSITY LOOKS LIKE

*The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. <sup>14</sup>If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. <sup>15</sup>And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. <sup>16</sup>If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>17</sup>But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. <sup>18</sup>If they were all one part, where would the body be? <sup>19</sup>As it is, there are many parts, but one body.*  
1 Corinthians 12:12-20 (NIV)

- Unity in diversity means that every each member of a church understands his or her value to the whole Body.

*The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” <sup>22</sup>On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup>and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, <sup>24</sup>while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, <sup>25</sup>so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. <sup>26</sup>If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.*  
1 Corinthians 12:21-26 (NIV)

- Unity in diversity means that each member of the Body treats other members of the Body with honor because they are interdependent.

## HOW A CHURCH STAYS HEALTHY

*Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. <sup>28</sup>And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup>Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup>Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31</sup>But eagerly desire the greater gifts.* 1 Corinthians 12:27-31a (NIV)

In a healthy church, every member of that church takes responsibility to actively use his or her gifts to contribute to the common good of the Body.