

1 Corinthians 14:12

Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel.

Did you know that you, as a Christians, have at least one, if not more gift(s) of the Holy Spirit? I personally know that I have the gift of teaching, giving and worship.

So, what if I never used them for anyone other than myself?

What if I just studied the bible and created studies just for me to read.

What if I kept all the money that I made for myself, never doing for anyone other than me.

Or what if I created these awesome worships songs and never let anyone listen to them or worship the Lord with them?

Talk about selfish, that's exactly what I would be. But if I did not use them as they were intended when the Holy Spirit gave them to me, I think over time I would lose them or just have no more interest in using them and they would just sit there collecting dust.

But I love teaching God's word and love when others want to read the devotionals and teachings and learn from them. The same is true with all the music I create and have out there for all to listen to and worship the Lord with. As far as giving goes, I love giving and helping others.

But let's look at this another way. Say that my wife and kids had the flu, and I gave them some flu meds that I had to help them get better. But on the other hand, what if I didn't give them the meds that I had and let them suffer and I kept the meds for myself? I would be an awful husband and dad.

Maybe you know what gifts from the Holy Spirit that you have, or you are seeking what gifts you have. Why? So you can look cool as a Christian and have everyone say how cool of a Christian you are with these gifts, or do you truly want them to help others? That's exactly what today's verse is talking about.

† *Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel.*

Yet how many Christians have to be urged simply to go to church each week or read their bibles? You see, if you are not reading your bible, you may not be using your Spiritual gifts correctly or using them at all, because you don't know what they are. But the bible is not only an instruction manual on how to live life here on the earth (**Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth "BIBLE"**), but also how the gifts should be used for the glory of God.

Think of it as the instructions that come with anything you buy. If you actually take time to read the instructions, you will enjoy what you buy more, because you know how to properly use it.

Also in today's verse it says that the purpose of the gifts are ***"for the edification of the church."*** It's not so you can look cool or profit off of them or use them for yourself. Just like the gift of giving, The Holy Spirit didn't give me that gift so that I can give to myself, that's greed not giving.

But, if you are not going to church on a weekly bases, then you are not using the gifts that the Holy Spirit has given you for their intended use, which is ***"for the edification of the church."*** And not yourself.

If you don't know what your gifts are, ask the Lord and He will show you. If you are not sure how to use them, then read your bible, the instruction manual, or I always recommend the book "Living Water" by Pastor Chuck Smith who teaches (based upon scripture) how to use the gifts and what they are. Finally, stop hoarding the gifts for yourself, and get involved in church, because being involved in church is not an option, it's a command for us as Christians.

† **Hebrews 10:24-25** *And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*