

Message Series Program Notes: 1 Corinthians *Unity out of Division*  
Spiritual Gifts Pt. 3  
1 Corinthians 12:8-11, 28  
Tim Armstrong, Senior Pastor

## Spiritual Gift Categories

### Teaching

Wisdom  
Knowledge  
Prophecy  
Discernment  
Tongues  
Interpretation of Tongues

### Signs

Faith  
Gifts of Healing  
Miracles

### Leadership

Apostles  
Prophets  
Teachers  
Miracle “Workers” (see vs. 29)  
Healers (See vs. 30)  
Helps  
Administration  
Tongue “Speakers” (see vs. 30)

## #1 The Teaching Gifts

**A. Utterance** (*word*) **of Wisdom:** The ability to practically apply truths of Scripture to life.

**B. Utterance** (*word*) **of Knowledge:** The ability to grasp the deep meanings of Scripture.

**C. Prophecy:** The ability to declare (forth-tell) the Scriptures.

## D. Discernment

Discernment is not divine **INTUITION** or **FORESIGHT**

“As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had *a spirit of divination* and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. She followed Paul and us, crying out, ‘These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.’”

Acts 16:16–17 ESV

“There shall not be found among you anyone ... who practices divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer or a charmer or a medium or a necromancer or one who inquires of the dead, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD.” Deut. 18:10–12 ESV

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“The ability to **distinguish** between **spirits**.”  
1 Cor. 12:10

**Distinguish** (διάκρισις)

“To evaluate or judge.”

**Spirits** (πνεῦμα)

“Breath of mouth, spirit  
of a person.”

## Definition: Discernment

**The ability to determine if a teacher or teaching is genuinely from God.**

*“To differentiate the Word of God proclaimed by a true prophet from that of a satanic deceiver.”*  
The Bible Knowledge Commentary

*This gift enables one to ascertain whether someone is preaching “another gospel.”*  
Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament

*“A critical capacity to discern the genuine transcendent activity of the Spirit from merely human attempts to replicate it.”*  
Thiselton, A. C., The First Epistle to the Corinthians :  
A Commentary on the Greek Text

*“The gift of discernment is given to tell if the other gifts are of the Holy Spirit, if they are merely natural imitations, or if they are demonic counterfeits.”*  
MacArthur, J., 1 Corinthians

## E. Tongues

**CONTEXT is critical to understanding tongues.**

“Because of the extreme carnality in the church at Corinth, we can be sure that much of the tongues-speaking there was counterfeit. Believers were in no spiritual condition to properly use true spiritual gifts or properly manifest true spiritual fruit. How could a congregation so worldly, opinionated, selfish, cliquish, envious, jealous, divisive, argumentative, arrogant, disorderly, defrauding, inconsiderate, gluttonous, immoral, and desecrative of the Lord’s Supper exercise the gifts of the Spirit? For them to have done so would have defied every biblical principle of spirituality. You cannot walk in the Spirit while exercising the flesh.”

cArthur, J. (1996). *1 Corinthians* (370–371)

## The Use of Tongues – Acts 2:1-11

Crossroads Community Church  
1188 Park Ave. W.  
Mansfield, OH 44904  
419-529-0750  
crossroadswired.com

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## The Definition of Tongues

**“The ability to speak a known language without any prior training.”**

“to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,...” 1 Corinthians 12:10 ESV

**Tongues** (γλῶσσα)  
“Tongue, word; Language or dialect”

## The Purpose of Tongues – 1 Corinthians 14:20-25 ESV

## F. Interpretation of Tongues

“...and to still another the interpretation of tongues....” 1 Corinthians 12:10 ESV

**Interpretation** (ἑρμηνεία *hermēneía*)  
“The ability to translate.”

## Definition: Interpretation of Tongues

**“The ability to translate a known language without any prior training.”**