

The Function of Spiritual Gifts.

The complete list of Spiritual Gifts are found in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10,28; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Peter 4:10-11 and Romans 12:5-7. Peter breaks the Gifts into two main categories, that of speaking and serving.¹ The “Service Gifts” require stewardship while the “Speaking Gifts” require reverence. Both are given by the Holy Spirit so they are not to be used carnally (Gal 5:22-23).² Both types of gifts are to gain strength from God.

Each list teaches different important principles:

- 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 addresses an attitude of unity of the Body.
- 1 Corinthians 12:28 presents the value of differences in the Body.
- Romans 12:6-7 encourages the use of the Gifts.
- Ephesians 4:11 teaches the need to equip the Body.
- 1 Peter 4:10-11 refers to the motivation of the Body to glorify God.

A Spiritual gift is a God-given ability to excel in a different area of service within the Body of Christ. It is different from a talent or human ability which comes with natural birth in that Jesus Christ established the gifts (Eph 4:11) and the Holy Spirit sovereignly distributes them at the moment of salvation (1 Cor 12:11,18) to the entire Body of Christ (Eph 2:20).

It is important to realize that all gifts are to function in love (1 Cor 13) and that they are designed to serve others (1 Pet 4:10). The Apostle Paul made it clear in 1 Corinthians that even though there are spiritual gifts, given by the Holy Spirit, they can be used in a fleshly way to draw attention to oneself or to become arrogant (1 Cor 1:7 cf 1:11 cf 3:1). Spiritual gifts are to be used to build up the church, not to cause divisions and confusion (1 Cor 14:12,33).

Spiritual gifts were given to the Church which began on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2). Some gifts were designed to lay the foundation (Eph 2:20) so that the Church could begin, be built up and stabilized (1 Cor 14:40). These gifts were called “sign” gifts and were designed to evangelize the unbeliever and stabilize the new Believer (1 Cor 14:20-22) until Scripture for this new dispensation could be written. Thus, they were temporary and not needed after they accomplished their necessary functions in the early church, so they disappeared (1 Cor 13:8-10). Other gifts were designed for the function of the Church after it passed the

¹ **1 Pet 4:10-11** As each one has received a special Gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

² **Gal 5:22-23** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

“infancy” stage (1 Cor 13:10-13) and therefore were permanent. These involve gifts that communicate God’s Word and serve others (1 Pet 4:10-11).

We are told that the gifts of “Prophecy,” “Languages,” and the “Word of Knowledge” will be done away when the “perfect” comes (1 Cor 13:8-10). Since those gifts will be done away, then “Distinguishing of spirits,” “Interpretation of Languages” and “Word of Wisdom will also disappear because they function in union with the previously mentioned gifts. Notice that all of these gifts concern communication. When the book of Revelation was written, prophecy (referring to new information) was closed for the Church Age (Rev 22:18-19). Therefore, the “perfect” must be the completed, God-breathed, inspired Word of God. No more new information was needed for the Church. The teaching gifts then focused on the communication of what had been revealed through the written Word that became the New Testament.

Revelation 21:14 indicates that there were only twelve apostles. While it is clear that other people held a position that was called “apostle,” it did not mean that they possessed the gift but held a delegated authority from an apostle (Gal 1:19; the Lord’s brother was not one of the original twelve). It is clear that this spiritual gift was limited and temporary.

The gifts of “Healing” and “Miracles” were also temporary as evidenced by their historical usage in the New Testament. God still can and does heal people and perform miracles, but not through a spiritual gift given to an individual. The Lord still answers prayer (Jas 5:16), but the function of these gifts were based on the decision of the one possessing it. Those with the gift of healing could call on the Lord and healing would occur (Acts 3:6-8; 5:12-16; 9:34). Many recipients did not even know they were going to be healed until they were, so it was not simply a matter of the degree of faith that the “healed” possessed but rather the power of the gift. These gifts were used in the early Church to draw attention and authenticate the message of the resurrected Christ (Acts 8:1-8; 39; 13:4-12; 14:1-4; 19:11-12). The Believers’ love for one another is the mature way of drawing attention to the message of Jesus Christ (John 13:34-35). In a very real sense it is a “spiritual gift” in that it is a “fruit of the Spirit” (Gal 5:22).

The following is a summary of the functions of Temporary Gifts:

- The Word of Wisdom (1 Cor 12:8) refers to supernatural instructions given for the application of Church Age truth.
- The Gift of Faith (1 Cor 12:9) is a supernaturally great trust in the Lord in the face of seemingly impossible situations (1 Cor 13:2 cf Acts 12:1-19).

- The Word of Knowledge (1 Cor 12:8) was the supernatural utterance of direct information for the Church, not of a prophetic nature, which was to guide them until the New Testament was completed.
- Healing (1 Cor 12:9,28) was the supernatural, immediate and total physical healing of individuals from various medical conditions.
- Miracles (1 Cor 12:10,28) was the supernatural setting aside of the normal natural laws and was viewed in conjunction with healing and the casting out of demons (Acts 19:11-12).
- Prophecy (1 Cor 12:10,28; Rom 12:6; Eph 4:11) was the supernatural ability to foretell information in the Church concerning the near and distant future (Acts 11:27-28).
- The Gift of Distinguishing of Spirits (1 Cor 12:10) was gift used to evaluate false teachers and false prophets (1 Cor 14:32).
- Tongues/Languages (1 Cor 12:10,28) was the supernatural ability to speak a human language that had not been previously learned.
- Interpretation of Tongues/Languages (1 Cor 12:10) was the supernatural ability to translate human languages that had not been previously learned.
- Apostle (1 Cor 12:28; Eph 4:11) was a spiritual gift held by only twelve men (Rev 21:14) who were handpicked by Christ Himself and not man (Luke 6:13-16; Acts 9:15; Gal 1:1).

These temporary gifts were vital for the First Century Church because they established an early check and balance system to protect, receive and confirm and spread new information given to the church, prior to the completion of the Canon of Scripture. They were given for the common good of the Church (1 Cor 12:7).³

Today, while there may be unique instances where one or more of these gifts appear to function it may be a special empowering for an unusual set of circumstances, but it is not the gift or it would function every time the recipient of the gift chooses to use it. For example, God can and does heal, and at times miraculously. If a person had the Gift of Healing they could visit a hospital and immediately clear it of the sick, whether or not the patients had faith.

Since there are Permanent Gifts which are operational today we will expand their explanation.

- The Gift of Giving (Rom 12:8) teaches important principles about the function of all the Gifts. It seeks the well-being of others (Rom 1:11-

³ 1 Cor 12:7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

- 12).⁴ It is sacrificial in nature (Luke 3:10-12).⁵ It has a desire to share with others (Eph 4:28-29).⁶ It gives not just from one's things but from one's person (1 Thes 2:8).⁷ It is truly generous (2 Cor 8:1-2).⁸ It is promised a "return on investment (2 Cor 9:10-15)."⁹
- The Gift of Service (Rom 12:7; 1 Pet 4:11) is the supernatural ability to carry out the physical functions of ministry in a practical manner. It is the Gift that is able to complete various tasks.
 - The Gift of Helps (1 Cor 12:28) is the supernatural ability to assist other Gifts, not to necessarily complete but to help along the way. It is probably the most diverse of the Gifts.
 - The Gift of Leadership (Rom 12:8) is the supernatural ability to guide and direct individuals in the accomplishment of the ministries of the Church. It is a visionary Gift that focuses on leading others to "good deeds (Titus 3:5-9,14)."¹⁰
 - The Gift of Administration (1 Cor 12:28) is the supernatural ability to organize and oversee the resources of the Church. It assists other ministries so that they are done "honorably and in an organized manner (1 Cor 14:40)."¹¹

⁴ **Rom 1:11-12** For I long to see you so that I may impart some Spiritual Gift to you, that you may be established; 12 that is, that I may be encouraged together with you while among you, each of us by the other's faith, both yours and mine.

⁵ **Luke 3:10-12** And he would answer and say to them, "The man who has two tunics is to share with him who has none; and he who has food is to do likewise."

⁶ **Eph 4:28-29** He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need.

⁷ **1 Thes 2:8** Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.

⁸ **2 Cor 8:1-2** Now, brethren, we wish to make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia, 2 that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality.

⁹ **2 Cor 9:10-15** Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness; 11 you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God. 12 For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God. 13 Because of the proof given by this ministry, they will glorify God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all, 14 while they also, by prayer on your behalf, yearn for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you. 15 Thanks be to God for His indescribable Gift!

¹⁰ **Titus 3:5-9,14** He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. 8 This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage (lead) in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men. **Titus 3:14** Our people must also learn to engage (lead) in good deeds to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.

¹¹ **1 Cor 14:40** But all things must be done properly and in an orderly manner.

- The Gift of Mercy (Rom 12:8) is the supernatural ability to recognize and get help for those in Spiritual or physical need. Some of the other gifts will often be the ones to help those in need.
- The Gift of Exhortation (Rom 12:8) is the supernatural ability to have a word or action that is fitting for the need of the moment. It can be manifested in exhortation to do the right thing, encouragement to keep doing the right thing or comfort in the midst of things.
- The Gift of Teaching (1 Cor 12:28; Rom 12:7) is the supernatural ability to take what has been revealed and make it understandable to a given audience. It is responsible for the education of the Body.
- The Gift of Evangelism (Eph 4:11) is the supernatural ability to make the gospel clearly understandable to a given audience. This Gift is designed to get new souls into the Kingdom.
- The Gift of Pastor-Teacher (Eph 4:11) is the supernatural ability to shepherd God's flock through teaching and applying the Word. It is the primary nurturing Gift in the Church.

From looking at these gifts it is easy to see that there are spiritual Motivations and Strategies to their function. It is summarized in the following chart:

Spiritual Gift	Motivation	Strategy
Giving	Physical Support	Give
Service	Complete Tasks	Tenacity
Helps	Assist others	Seek Opportunities
Leadership	Direction	Vision
Administration	Efficiency	Organization
Mercy	Identify Needs	Respond
Exhortation	Emotional Support	Network
Teaching	Explanation	Study
Evangelism	Expansion	Exploration
Pastor-Teacher	Affirmation	Counsel

It is also easy to document that all Spiritual Gifts are to function in love (1 Cor 13:4-7; Rom 12:9-16) and each has a response to God's love and becomes an example of it. This is expressed in the following chart:

Spiritual Gift	The Love Response
Giving	Thanksgiving for Love
Service	Actions of Love
Helps	Humility of Love
Leadership	Opportunities to Love
Administration	Efficiency to Love
Mercy	Depth of Love
Exhortation	Encouragement of Love
Teaching	Explanation of Love
Evangelism	The Spread of Love
Pastor-Teacher	Assurance of Love

Let us draw some conclusions about Spiritual Gifts. It is amazing how divisive this issue has become among Christians over the last century. Emotions run very high on both sides of this issue. In the history of the church we have managed to divide over several issues, including church government, the Lord's Table and Baptism.

Often we have "rushed to judgment" of one another rather than fully considering the position taken. Therefore, let us take time to fully consider the evidence before making a hasty judgment.

Many times this subject is taught from an attitude of fear, hatred, or arrogance, from both sides. This tells us that there will be some inherent flaws in the discussion. The goal of any Biblical instruction must be "love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. For some men, straying from these things have turned aside to fruitless discussion, wanting to be teachers of the Law, even though they do not understand either what they are saying or the matters about which they make confident assertions (1 Tim 1:5-7)." People from both viewpoints may think some portions of these conclusions heretical. Some, however, will consider, evaluate, adopt and grow in the love of Jesus Christ.

Scripture tells us to not make an issue out of spiritual gifts, but rather have a care for one another (1 Cor 12:24b-5).¹² The real issue of Spiritual Gifts is the display of love to edify the Church (1 Cor 13:4-8a; 14:1,5,12,17; Rom 14:19).¹³ Does the love of Christ control us (2 Cor 5:14-15)?¹⁴ Love

¹² **1 Cor 12:24b-25** But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked, 25 so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.

¹³ **1 Cor 13:4-8** Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, 5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, 6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails; **1 Cor 14:1** Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. **1 Cor 14:5** Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues, but even more that you would prophesy; and

tests the correct function of any Spiritual Gift. Are we willing to give our brother the same grace consideration that we desire for ourselves?

The last place that we would want to find ourselves is "fighting against God," because we have taken a Pharisaic, self-righteous stand. If we love one another as God loves us, then condemnation will not occur even though we do not agree with the attitudes or actions of a brother in Christ that are not clearly sinful. No one is any less a brother or sister in Christ for their position on Spiritual Gifts than the one who is involved in works of the flesh (Acts 5:39; Gal 5:19-21).¹⁵ Is the brother or sister in Christ to be loved? Without question (1 John 4:18). Is the brother or sister to be feared? Absolutely not! (1 John 4:18).¹⁶

Fear frequently comes from what we do not understand or what we are afraid to lose. Many profess to care only for what God thinks, but actually fear being wrong and looking bad in front of other people. All those who truly seek the things of the Spirit of God through His Word, without fear, will eventually come to the same conclusions. God is not the author of confusion, Satan is (1 Cor 14:33).¹⁷ Are we not all indwelt by the same Holy Spirit? Sometimes we lose our "holiness" when trying to put down another Christian for their position on various questionable things.

How shall we all now live? Here are some comments and suggestions that may help lead toward a peaceful resolution of the theological differences in the Body of Christ concerning Spiritual Gifts.

Clearly, there is a Problem with division in the Body of Christ. We know that God does not desire division within His Body (1 Cor 12:24-25),¹⁸ but at

greater is one who prophesies than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may receive edifying. **1 Cor 14:12** So also you, since you are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek to abound for the edification of the church. **1 Cor 14:17** For you are giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not edified. **Rom 14:19** So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.

¹⁴ **2 Cor 5:14-15** For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; 15 and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

¹⁵ **Acts 5:38-39** So in the present case, I say to you, stay away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or action is of men, it will be overthrown; 39 but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them; or else you may even be found fighting against God." **Gal 5:19-21** Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

¹⁶ **1 John 4:18** There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

¹⁷ **1 Cor 14:33** for God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

¹⁸ **1 Cor 12:24b-25** But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked, 25 so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.

times division must occur (Rom 16:17-18).¹⁹ The Body of Christ is called to preserve the unity of the Spirit (Eph 4:1-6).²⁰ The first part of the any resolution of this issue must begin with an attitude of love toward one another. This attitude does not have to agree with the other's position but must extend grace toward those who think differently than we do about spiritual things. It is a call for me to extend to others the same grace that I desire.²¹

Problems always stem from a lack of love for fellow Christians. We easily become more interested in who is right rather than what is right. When this happens it inherently means one is more interested in the messenger of truth than in the truth itself. The Truth is found in the person of Jesus Christ (John 14:6) whose words became the standard for sound doctrine (1 Tim 6:3-5).²² On both sides of the issue the opposition to one another often runs from mere tolerance to outright disgust and hatred. Both groups often think that the other side is lost, yet the Bible says "whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16)." "Whosoever" is not a difficult word to understand. Salvation is based in belief in the Son's work on the cross and resurrection (1 Cor 15:1-3). The "whosoever" fall into many different theological areas. If we are one of the "whosoever" who have accepted Jesus Christ, then we are brothers and sisters all other "whosoever" who have also accepted Him.

It appears obvious that the Lord is more interested in whether we "love one another" than whether or not we agree on everything (1 John 2:9-11; 4:19-21).²³ After all, this is the greatest evangelistic tool given to men

¹⁹ **Rom 16:17-18** Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them. 18 For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.

²⁰ **Eph 4:1-6** Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

²¹ **Matt 7:12** "In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

²² **1 Tim 6:3-5** If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, 4 he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, 5 and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain.

²³ **1 John 2:9-11** The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now. 10 The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him. 11 But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes. **1 John 4:19-21** We love, because He first loved us. 20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates

(John 13:34-35).²⁴ Honorable people must consider the cost of the battles within the church to the unsaved who look at Christians fighting with one another (Gal 5:14-15) instead of serving one another (Gal 5:13) and do not want any part of this “religion.”²⁵ We must learn to treat one another the way we would want to be treated (Matt 7:12). By application, it is valid to pray that the Lord “correct others,” if we are willing to honestly ask the same for ourselves. What do you think would happen to the Body of Christ if we spent as much time praying that error be corrected, whether with myself or others, as we did criticizing one another?

Problems often stem from a lack of understanding of Scripture. The Scribes and Pharisees of the first century arrogantly thought they fully understood the Law, and ended up demanding our Lord’s crucifixion. We come to know that their real problem was adding to what the Word had said through their “traditions of the elders (Mark 7:3).”²⁶ Jesus points out that they should have been seeking the author of the Law rather than holding to the letter of it (John 5:37-44).²⁷ They knew a lot of Scripture, but did not know the Author. Those who do not desire to live the Word will never fully understand it (John 7:17-18).²⁸ God looks on the hearts on men and has given us a “Royal Law” to fulfill (Jas 2:8; Matt 7:12).²⁹

his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. 21 And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

²⁴ **John 13:34-35** A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 " By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

²⁵ **Gal 5:13-15** For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. 14 For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." 15 But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

²⁶ **Mark 7:1-3** The Pharisees and some of the scribes gathered around Him when they had come from Jerusalem, 2 and had seen that some of His disciples were eating their bread with impure hands, that is, unwashed. 3 (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they carefully wash their hands, thus observing the traditions of the elders;

²⁷ **John 5:37-44** "And the Father who sent Me, He has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time nor seen His form. 38 "You do not have His word abiding in you, for you do not believe Him whom He sent. Witness of the Scripture 39 " You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; 40 and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life. 41 " I do not receive glory from men; 42 but I know you, that you do not have the love of God in yourselves. 43 "I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, you will receive him. 44 "How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and you do not seek the glory that is from the one and only God?"

²⁸ **John 7:17-18** If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself. 18 "He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who is seeking the glory of the One who sent Him, He is true, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

²⁹ **James 2:8** If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF," you are doing well.

The Solution has to be found in the Word of God. We must all continue to seek the Truth. Truth comes from the Holy Spirit whose role is to reveal the Son, not Himself (John 15:26-27; 16:12-15).³⁰ No matter what position is taken, the Truth is found in the Son Himself.

Let us try to understand each other. This comes from the Biblical exhortation to “honor one another (Rom 12:10).”³¹ In fact, if we would learn and understand the Biblical principles of “one another” we might just learn to unify and take the Gospel to a lost and dying world. We can work on our disagreements in the process.

Let us develop “One Another Attitudes,” which is Love through Membership in the Body of Christ.

- Recognize we are “Members of One Another,” meaning that we already have a relationship because we are part of Christ’s body. (Rom 12:5; Eph 4:25)
- “Think the Same toward One Another,” meaning that we recognize other people as fellow recipients of God’s grace. (Rom 12:16; 15:5).
- We are to “Accept One Another,” just as Christ accepted us as creatures in need of His grace. (Rom 15:7)
- We are to “Consider One Another More Important” than ourselves. (Php 2:3)
- We are to “Bear With One Another,” which means being patient with each other. (Eph 4:2; Col 3:13)
- We are to “Submit to One Another,” which means that we recognize others needs first. (Eph 5:21)
- We are to “Forgive One Another,” just as the Lord forgave us. (Col 3:13).
- We are to “Consider how to Stimulate One Another to Love and Good Deeds.” This involves thinking about how others may be helped and urging them to action. (Heb 10:24)
- We are to “Eagerly Await One Another” which refers to a joy of association with other Believers. (1 Cor 11:33)

³⁰ **John 15:26-27** "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, 27 and you will testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning. **John 16:12-15** "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. 14 "He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. 15 " All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.

³¹ **Rom 12:10** Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;

- We are to “Care for One Another” which means we are concerned for other members of the body of Christ. (1 Cor 12:25)
- We are to be “Humble toward One Another” which refers to our attitudes concerning each other. (1 Pet 5:5)

Let us develop “One Another Speech” which is Love through verbal encouragement of the Body of Christ.

- We are to “Encourage One Another” which involves helping them when they are spiritually down. (Rom 1:12; 1 Thes 4:18; 5:11; Heb 3:13; 10:25).
- We are to “Admonish One Another” when we see spiritual danger approaching. (Rom 15:14)
- We are to “Confess Our Sins to One Another.” This involves the people whom we have wronged and is done to bring peace to relationships that have been harmed. (James 5:16)

Let us produce “One Another Actions,” which is Love to Build Up the Body of Christ.

- We are to “Build Up One Another” which involves encouragement and instruction to others. (Rom 14:19; 1 Thes 5:11)
- We should have “Fellowship with One Another.” (1 John 1:7)
- We are to be “Devoted to One Another” which means that we are to develop a tender affection for each other that includes commitment to the well being of others. (Rom 12:10)
- We are to “Honor One Another” meaning that we recognize the value of others before God. (Rom 12:10)
- We are to “Greet One Another with a holy kiss.” This means to acknowledge the presence of a person in a way that appreciates their value to God. (Rom 16:16; 1 Cor 16:20; 2 Cor 13:12; 1 Pet 5:14)
- We are to “Serve One Another” which is illustrated by the washing of another’s feet. (John 13:14; Gal 5:13)
- We are to Bear the Burdens of One Another which means to help them deal with sin in their life. (Gal 6:2)
- We are to “Be at Peace with One Another.” This means that we are not to stir up trouble with our actions or opinions. (Mark 9:50)
- We are to “Pray for One Another.” (Jas 5:16)
- We are to “Seek Good for One Another” meaning that we desire each person to have a closer relationship with God. (1 Thes 5:15)

- We are to “Be Kind to One Another,” which involves the removal of bitterness, anger and a desire to harm others. (Ephesians 4:31-32)
- We are to Recognize One Another’s Service. We should not serve for the purpose of man’s recognition, but honor within God’s family recognizes each others’ service. (Luke 7:32)
- We are to “Show Hospitality to One Another.” This means that we should welcome strangers into our assemblies. (1 Peter 4:9)

Let us seek to avoid “One Another” situations that harm or destroy relationships:

- Betraying One Another. Matt 24: 10
- Hating One Another. Matt 24:10
- Questioning grace provision with One Another. Mark 8:16
- One-upmanship with One Another. Mark 9:34
- Mocking Christ with One Another. Mark 15:31
- Conspiracy with One Another to harm others. Luke 6:11; 23:12; Acts 4:15
- Inconsiderate of One Another. Luke 12:1
- Seeking glory from One Another. John 5:44
- Grumbling with One Another. John 6:43
- Arguing with One Another. John 6:52
- Looking with accusation at One Another. John 13:22
- Distributing ill-gotten gain with One Another. John 19:24
- Injuring One Another. Acts 7:26
- Wrongful separation from One Another. Acts 15:39 cf. 10:26-28
- Bringing false charges against One Another. Acts 19:38
- Judging One Another. Acts 28:4; Rom 14:13
- Not agreeing with One Another on the truth of the gospel. Acts 28:25 cf Gal 1:6-8
- Lust for One Another. Romans 1:27
- Marriage partners sexually depriving One Another. 1 Cor 7:5
- Devouring One Another. Gal 5:26
- Challenging One Another. Gal 5: 26
- Envyng One Another. Gal 5:26
- Lying to One Another. Col 3:9
- Speaking against One Another. Jas 4:11
- Complaining about One Another. Jas 5:9
- Killing One Another. Rev 6:4
- Happiness with One Another over another’s demise. Rev 11:10

These principles apply to every relationship, and should begin in the home with one's spouse and family.