

# Studies in 1 Corinthians

---

## *Lesson XXXII: The One and the Many*

TEXT: 1 Cor. 12:1-11 (NASV)

**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.

**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.

**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.

**14** For the body is not one member, but many. **15** If the foot says, "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 says, "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.

# Questions for Thought and Discussion

1. The New Testament includes at least six distinct lists of the spiritual gifts. Compare and contrast the following passages:
  - 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28, 29-30
  - Romans 12:4-8
  - Ephesians 4:11-13
  - 1 Peter 4:10-11.
2. What was Paul trying to get across to the Corinthians about the purpose and exercise of spiritual gifts in the church?
3. How much do we know about the miraculous gifts listed in this passage? What remains a mystery?