

引言 INTRODUCTION

After spending the last two months on basic doctrines, we now return to our study of 1 Corinthians. Remember the big theme of this book is about church orders in an orderly church. So far, Paul has addressed several major issues—conflict, immorality, marriage, food offered to idols, and head coverings in worship. Today’s passage is about spiritual gifts. The Greek word is *charisma*. In everyday English, “charisma” means the charm a leader has. It can be confidence, eloquence, decisiveness. But in the Bible, charisma is not natural talent or learned skill. It refers to abilities God gives believers so they can serve in the church. The first part of the word, *charis*, means grace. That is why the Chinese Bible translates it as “grace-giving.” Spiritual gifts are grace gifts from God for building up His people. We all enjoy receiving gifts. Some gifts carry sentimental value, like drawings children make for their parents. Others are practical, like cars given to children when they need transportation. But a gift loses its purpose if it is not used. A car left in the driveway does not help anyone. In the same way, God gives Christians spiritual gifts not to store them, but to use them. They are meant for ministry, for serving others and for strengthening the church. In view of that, we need to ask ourselves: Do I know my gifts? Am I using them? Serving is part of growing. My hope is that you discover the place God has carved out for you and serve joyfully.

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 唯一的主宰 One Lord (v. 1-3)

First, Paul reminds his readers that there is only one Lord. He is Jesus Christ. Paul contrasts this with idol worship. Many Gentile believers in Corinth once served false gods, but now they follow the true Lord. The difference is obvious: Idols cannot speak, but God speaks through His Word. Idols mislead people, but God guides His people in righteousness. Paul then gives a test of genuine faith: believers’ words reveal their hearts. In verse 3, he writes: **Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit.** On the negative side, true believers do not curse Jesus. This connects to the Third Commandment: **“You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain...”** (Exodus 20:7) To take God’s name in vain means treating it as worthless. Most Christians would never openly blaspheme God. But do we casually say things like “OMG,” “Jeez,” “Shoot,” or “Holy cow” without thinking? When unbelievers hear those expressions and they know that you are a Christian, how would they look at you? Our speech reflects our hearts. By the power of the Holy Spirit, let us clean up our language. Do not feel

pressured to talk like others. Be an example of integrity. Let your words show what you believe even before you tell people who you belong to. May everything that comes from our mouths glorify God and edify others. On the positive side, the Spirit leads believers to confess “Jesus is Lord.” Our lips must match our hearts. In Paul’s day, when Jews said “Jesus is Lord,” they were equating Jesus with Jehovah of the Old Testament. It means that they admitted Jesus as God and the Messiah. Many Jewish peers saw this as abandoning their traditional beliefs. Moreover, in the Roman world, Caesar was worshiped as a god. To call Jesus the only Lord might risk one’s life. However, true believers must decide who their Lord is. Paul makes it clear in Romans 10:9: **For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.** From our attitudes to our actions, we show that Jesus is our Lord. If we treat Him as Lord, we will love His commands, follow His instructions, and honor Him in all we do. Making Jesus their Lord is the biggest obstacle for people to receive Him. It is also the key hindrance to spiritual growth. Many people like the idea that believing in Jesus takes them to heaven. But the question is: How will they live the rest of their earthly life? Sunday Christians are only 1/7 believers. Of course, there is no such thing as a part-time Christian, just as there is no partial child or fractional marriage. Salvation is entering an eternal relationship with Jesus. It begins the moment you receive Him. You are either all-in or all-out. Many hesitate because of a huge misunderstanding. They think following Jesus will kill their fun, as if He will force them overseas as missionaries or make them marry someone they do not like. These ideas are not biblical. God gives us great freedom to make choices. But calling Jesus “Lord” means admitting He knows our needs better than we do. He always has our best interests in mind. You can still pursue your dream career, look for a godly spouse, and spend time and money as you like. But everything must be done according to God’s Word and for His glory. We are no longer owners of our stuff, but we are only managers of what God entrusts to us.

2. 唯一的目標 One Goal (v. 4-7)

Jesus is our only Lord, and Paul carries that truth into the next topic: spiritual gifts. God gives believers different gifts, but He has one goal in mind. Paul says in verse 7: **To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.** “Manifestation” refers to the distribution of gifts by the Holy Spirit. “The common good” in Greek is actually a verb meaning bringing together. In other words, God gives us different gifts so we can work together toward one goal. Think of cooking: You cut meat, vegetables and other ingredients. You add seasonings and sauces. When you mix everything in a frying pan, you get a delicious dish. Each ingredient enhances the others. That is how a church should function. One person alone is a lone-ranger. A few people can form a small group. But a church is built only when everyone is joined together. It is fitting that we are talking about connection right before the retreat. After we return, we will look at the second half of the chapter and learn how we should coordinate with one another. For now, let us think more deeply about what “the common good” looks like. We can borrow some ideas from Ephesians 4. It is another passage on spiritual gifts. Verses 11-12 says: **11 And he gave**

the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. These gifts are often called church offices. Their first purpose behind these gifts is to raise up believers to serve. Leaders use God's Word to motivate, train and prepare people for ministry. The second purpose is found in verse 13: **Until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.** By assigning believers to serve, leaders help them grow up in their faith. Paul compares spiritual growth to child development. Young Christians are similar to small children. They may believe in everything they hear. But maturity means learning to discern right from wrong and making wise choices. Next, we see the third purpose of spiritual gifts in verse 16: **From whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.** Through active participation in ministry, believers will grow toward maturity. When all members work together, they will build a church up. Paul uses the human body as an illustration. A normal body requires muscles, bones, nerves and joints to work together. A healthy church is the same. Let us use these principles to examine our church. What does "the common good" look like for us? Are you actively working with brothers and sisters toward that goal? It makes a big difference whether you see yourself as a church-goer or a family member. There are many "20/80 churches," where 20% of the people do 80% of the ministry. Which group do you belong to? Participation does not require a title. Everything counts. If you see trash on the floor, will you pick it up? Once in a while I see candy wrappers, used tissue and worship bulletins around the pews. If you see a used cup in the dining area, will you take it to the kitchen? One Sunday, a senior sister told me she killed two flies. I told her she did a good job. Here is another thing everyone can do – pray! You can pray for church leaders, ministries and people in need. Let each of us serve actively in some way. When every part works together, the whole body grows.

3. 唯一的源頭 One Source (v. 8-11)

True believers confess Jesus as their only Lord. God gives them spiritual gifts with the only goal to build up the church. Third, these gifts come from one source—the Holy Spirit. Paul tells us in verse 11: **All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.** The Holy Spirit decides which gifts to give to each believer. You may admire someone else's gift. You may ask God for it. But ultimately, the Spirit chooses what He gives. With that in mind, let us briefly define the gifts Paul lists. This list is not complete—other gifts appear in Ephesians 4, Romans 12 and 1 Peter 4. 1. Utterance of wisdom and utterance of knowledge are related. Wisdom is direct insight from the Holy Spirit. Knowledge is the Spirit-given ability to understand difficult truths or passages in the Bible. 2. Faith. All believers have faith, but this gift is a strong conviction that God will accomplish something in the future. 3. Gifts of healing and miracles involve supernatural power. In Acts, Peter confronted a couple who lied about their offering, and they dropped dead on the spot. These gifts show God's power

breaking into the natural world. 4. Prophecy can mean predicting the future, but more broadly it means speaking for God—preaching or teaching His Word. 5. Distinguishing between spirits is the ability to discern whether a message comes from God or Satan. 6. Tongues and interpretation of tongues work together. “Tongues” are languages a person has never learned. In Acts 2, Jews from many regions heard Christians speaking in their own dialects. Tongues may be foreign languages or even languages not spoken on earth. We see a few supernatural gifts on the list. Some people may ask if they still appear today. God can do anything He desires. In the New Testament, especially in Acts, supernatural events were more common for two reasons. First, they showed God’s Kingdom had arrived. Second, they confronted the powers of darkness that enslaved people. Miracles worked alongside teaching of the Bible in the expansion of the early church. As the gospel continued to spread, supernatural signs became less frequent. Today, they are rare. However, every now and then we hear amazing testimonies from missionaries serving in remote places. For example, God heals people through miracles in places where modern medicines are hard to find. This reality refutes the teaching that supernatural gifts are proof of salvation. For example, some churches say that all true believers should speak in tongues. But the Bible clearly teaches that not every believer receives the same gifts. Another common question is about the value of some other strengths that are not categorized as spiritual gifts. We can think of singing, cooking, teaching children or fixing things. Someone once said, “Every cat that catches mice is a good cat.” Similarly, anything that can bless the church is valuable. Perhaps you are good at arts, numbers or technology. Maybe you have training others do not have. Maybe you notice needs in the church that others overlook. Do not stay on the sidelines. God brought you here for a reason. Roll up your sleeves and jump in.

結論 CONCLUSION

God gives Christians spiritual gifts not to store them away but to use them in the church. These gifts are not collectibles to keep or personal hobbies to enjoy alone. They are meant to be shared so that God’s people can serve one another. A teacher once asked a group of children what they wanted to be when they grew up. Most kids gave the usual answers: doctor, artist and movie star. But Bob said something different: “I want to be a philanthropist.” The other kids wondered what kind of job that was. Bob explained, “I heard they are super rich people.” He was only partly right. A philanthropist is someone who loves people and seeks to benefit them. The heart matters more than the amount. Wealth is measured by how much you have; worth is measured by how much you give. What is true for money is also true for spiritual gifts. One believer alone may be capable, but only a group of believers working together becomes an effective church. A church grows when every believer gives what God has placed in their hands. Let us not hold back what God intends us to share.

引言 INTRODUCTION

在過去兩個月我們學習了基要教義，現在要回到哥林多前書的查考。記得這個系列的主題是：守紀律的教會之紀律。到目前為止，保羅已經處理了幾個重要課題——紛爭、淫亂、婚姻、拜祭過偶像的食物，以及姐妹在聚會中蒙頭。今天的經文談到屬靈的恩賜。恩賜這個字的希臘文是 **charisma**。在日常英文裡，這個字是指領袖身上的魅力，例如自信、口才或果斷。但在聖經裡，**charisma** 不是指天生的才能，也不是學來的技巧，而是神賜給信徒在教會中服事的能力。這個字的前半部分 **charis** 的意思是「恩典」。因此中文聖經把它翻成「恩賜」，非常貼切。屬靈的恩賜就是神所賜的禮物，用來建立祂的子民。我們都喜歡收禮物。有些禮物具有紀念價值，例如孩子小時候畫給父母的圖畫，每次看到都會讓人微笑。也有些禮物是實用的，例如孩子需要交通工具時，父母為他們買車。但如果禮物被擱在一旁不用，就失去它的目的。一輛停在車道上不開的車，幫不了任何人。同樣地，神賜給基督徒的恩賜，不是讓我們收藏，而是讓我們使用。恩賜是為了參與事奉、為了幫助別人、為了建立教會。因此我們需要問自己：我知道神給我的恩賜嗎？我正在使用它們嗎？服事是成長的一部分。我盼望你能找到神為你預備的位置，並且喜樂地投入服事。

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 唯一的主宰 One Lord (v. 1-3)

首先，保羅提醒讀者：我們只有一位唯一的主宰。祂就是耶穌基督。保羅用拜偶像作對比。哥林多的外邦信徒過去敬拜假神，如今他們跟隨真正的主。其中的差別非常明顯：偶像不能說話，但神藉著祂的話語向人傳達信息。偶像使人誤入歧途，但神引導祂的子民走義路。接著，保羅提出一個辨別真正信心的方式：信徒的言語反映他們的內心。他在第3節說：**所以我告訴你們，被神的靈感動的，沒有說「耶穌是可咒詛」的；若不是被聖靈感動的，也沒有能說「耶穌是主」的。**從負面的角度來看，真信徒不會咒詛耶穌。這與第三條誡命有關：**「不可妄稱耶和華你神的名...。」**（出埃及記 20:7）妄稱神的名，就是把祂的名當成毫無價值。大多數基督徒不會公開褻瀆神，但我們是否會不經意地說出像「天啊！」、「Jeez」、「Shoot」、「Holy cow」這些話？若非信徒知道你是基督徒，聽到你這樣說，他們會怎麼看你？我們的言語顯示我們的內心。靠著聖靈

的能力，求神潔淨我們的口。你不要覺得必須模仿別人講話的方式。你應該成為別人學習的好榜樣。在你自我介紹之前，別人從你的言語就能察覺你是個基督徒。願我們口中所出的話都能榮耀神、造就人。從正面的角度來看，聖靈感動信徒宣稱「耶穌是主」。我們必須心口合一。在保羅的時代，猶太人若說「耶穌是主」，就是把耶穌等同於舊約的耶和華，意思是承認耶穌是神、是彌賽亞。許多猶太同胞認為這是背叛傳統信仰。此外，在羅馬世界，凱撒大帝被當作神來敬拜。因此，若有人宣告耶穌是唯一的主，可能會有生命危險。然而，真信徒必須決定誰是他們的主。保羅在羅馬書 10:9 清楚說明：**你若口裡認耶穌為主，心裡信神叫他從死裡復活，就必得救**。從態度到行為，我們都要顯明耶穌是我們的主。若我們尊祂為主，就會愛祂的命令、遵行祂的指示，在一切事上榮耀祂。承認耶穌為主，是人接受耶穌的最大障礙，也是信徒屬靈成長最大的障礙。許多人喜歡聽到「信耶穌可以上天堂」。但更重要的問題是：信了耶穌之後你如何渡過今生？星期天的基督徒只是七分之一的信徒。當然，沒有「兼職基督徒」這種人，就像沒有「部分的兒女」或「部分的婚姻」。得救就是與耶穌建立永恆關係，從你接受祂的那一刻就開始。你要不然是屬於神，要不然根本仍未得救。許多人猶疑，是因為一個很大的誤解。他們以為跟隨耶穌便會失去一切的樂趣，彷彿主會強迫他們去海外宣教，或逼他們和不喜歡的人結婚。這些都不是聖經的教導。神其實給我們很大的自由去做選擇。承認耶穌為主，就是相信祂比我們更了解我們的需要，也更關心我們的益處。你仍然可以追求理想的工作、尋找適合的信徒作伴侶、選擇你喜歡的生活方式。但是一切都要按照神的話語而行、為了祂榮耀的緣故。因為我們不再是自己財物的主人，而是神所託付的管家。

2. 唯一的目標 One Goal (v. 4-7)

耶穌是我們唯一的主，保羅把這個真理帶入下一個主題：屬靈的恩賜。神賜給信徒不同的恩賜，但祂心中只有唯一的目標。保羅在第 7 節說：**聖靈顯在各人身上，是叫人得益處**。「顯在」是指聖靈分配恩賜。而希臘文中「得益處」是一個動詞，意思是使人聯合。換句話說，神賜給我們不同的恩賜，是要我們互相合作、達成同一個目標。想像一下做菜：你切肉、切菜、準備各種材料；然後你加入不同的調味料和醬汁；當所有材料在鍋裡一起烹煮，就成為一道美味的菜餚。每一種食材使其他部份發揮更好的作用。教會也應該如此。一個人單獨服事是孤軍作戰；幾個人可以組成小組；但只有當所有人連結在一起時，才是一間教會。我們在退修會前談到「連結」是非常合適的。等我們回到教會後，會從本章後半段學習如何彼此配搭。目前，讓我們更深入思考「共同的益處」是什麼樣子。我們可以參考以弗所書第 4 章。那一段經文也談到屬靈恩賜。11-12 節說：**11 他所賜的，有使徒，有先知，有傳福音的，有牧師和教師，12**

為要成全聖徒，各盡其職，建立基督的身體。這些恩賜是教會中的職位。它們的第一個目的，是裝備信徒投入服事。領袖用神的話激勵、訓練並預備信徒參與事工。第 13 節提到恩賜的第二個目的：直等到我們眾人在真道上同歸於一，認識神的兒子，得以長大成人，滿有基督長成的身量。透過安排信徒服事，領袖能幫助信徒成長。保羅用孩子的成長比喻靈命的成長。初信者像小孩子，容易相信任何聽到的話。但成熟的信徒能分辨是非，做出有智慧的選擇。接下來，第 16 節告訴我們恩賜的第三個目的：全身都靠他聯絡得合式，百節各按各職，照著各體的功用彼此相助，便叫身體漸漸增長，在愛中建立自己。當信徒積極參與事奉，他們便會趨向成熟。當所有肢體互相配合，整個教會就被建立起來。保羅用身體作比喻：正常的身體需要肌肉、骨頭、神經、關節彼此配合；健康的教會也是如此。我們用這些原則來評估我們的教會。我們教會的「共同益處」是什麼？你是否正在與弟兄姐妹一起朝這個方向努力？你把自己看成「來教會的人」或「教會的成員」，差別非常大。許多教會是「20/80 教會」：20% 的人做 80% 的事情。你屬於哪一個類別？參與服事不一定需要有頭銜，任何事情都算數。看到地上的垃圾，你會撿起來嗎？偶爾我會看到糖紙、用過的紙巾、聚會程序表散落在座位周圍。看到體育館用過的杯子，你會把它拿到廚房嗎？有一次，一位年長姐妹告訴我她打死了兩隻蒼蠅，我稱讚她做得很好。還有一件每個人都能做的事——禱告！你可以為教會領袖、事工、以及有需要的人禱告。讓我們每個人都積極參與服事。當每一個成員教發揮功效，教會整體就會成長。

3. 唯一的源頭 One Source (v. 8-11)

真正的信徒承認耶穌是他們唯一的主宰。神賜給他們屬靈的恩賜，唯一的目標是要建立教會。第三，這些恩賜都來自唯一的源頭——就是聖靈。正如保羅在第 11 節說的：這一切都是這位聖靈所運行、隨己意分給各人的。聖靈決定把哪些恩賜分配給哪些信徒。你可以欣賞別人的恩賜，也可以向神求恩賜；但最終，聖靈按照祂的心意來分配。有了這個前提，我們來簡單解釋保羅列出的幾種恩賜。這份清單並不完整——其他恩賜也列在以弗所書第 4 章、羅馬書第 12 章和彼得前書第 4 章。1. 智慧的言語與知識的言語。這兩項彼此相關。智慧是聖靈直接給人的屬靈洞察力。知識是聖靈使人能明白聖經中難以理解的真理或經文。2. 信心。所有信徒都有信心，但這個恩賜是指堅定的確信——相信神必定在未來成就某件事。3. 醫病與行異能。這兩項都涉及超自然能力。在使徒行傳中，彼得責備一對夫婦在奉獻上欺騙教會，他們立刻倒地身亡。這些恩賜顯出神突破自然界的能力。4. 作先知可以指預言未來，但更廣義是指代表神說話，因此可以理解為講道與教導聖經。5. 辨別諸靈是分辨一個信息是來自神或來自撒但的能力。6. 說方言與翻方言是互相配合的。方言指一個人從未學過的

語言。在使徒行傳第 2 章，來自各地的猶太人聽見信徒用他們的鄉談說話。因此，方言可能是外國語言，甚至可能根本不是地上的語言。我們在這個清單上看到幾個超自然的恩賜。有人問今天還有那些恩賜嗎？神當然能按照祂的旨意做事。在新約，尤其是使徒行傳中，超自然的現象比較多，原因有兩個。第一，顯明神的國度已經降臨。第二，神的能力勝過轄制人的黑暗權勢。在初期教會，神蹟經常伴隨著聖經教導，推動福音的擴展。隨著福音逐漸被傳開，神蹟也慢慢減少。今天，神蹟非常罕見。然而，我們偶爾會聽到偏遠地區的宣教士分享一些奇妙的見證。例如在缺乏醫療資源的地方，神藉著神蹟醫治人。這些事實推翻了某些宗派的教導。例如它們主張所有真信徒都必須說方言。但是聖經清楚教導我們：不是每個信徒都領受相同的恩賜。另外一個問題是關於一些聖經沒有定義為屬靈恩賜的才幹。我們可以想到唱歌、煮飯、教導孩子或是修理東西等等。有人說：「會抓老鼠的貓就是好貓。」同樣地，凡是能夠祝福教會的能力都是寶貴的。也許你擅長藝術、數字或科技。也許你接受過某些專業訓練。也許你看到教會裡有些需要，而別人沒有注意到。不要再站在旁邊觀望。神把你帶到這間教會是有祂的心意的。捲起袖子，投入服事吧。

結論 CONCLUSION

神賜給基督徒屬靈的恩賜，不是讓我們收藏起來，而是要在教會中使用。這些恩賜不是用來保存的收藏品，也不是只供個人享受的嗜好。它們是要彼此分享，使神的子民能互相服事。有一位老師問一群孩子長大後想做什麼行業。大多數孩子的回答都很常見：醫生、藝術家、電影明星。但小明的回答不同：「我想成為一位慈善家。」其他孩子好奇那到底是什麼職業。小明解釋說：「我聽說他們是非常有錢的人。」他只說對了一半。慈善家是對別人有愛心，希望造福他人的人。心態比金額更重要。財富看你擁有多少；但價值是視乎你願意給多少。屬靈恩賜也是一樣。一位信徒單獨服事或許能做某些事，但只有一群信徒一起服事，教會才能發揮該有的功用。當每位信徒都願意把神賜給他們的恩賜用出來，教會就會成長。盼望我們不要保留神要我們分享的恩賜。