

OPENING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT

A SPIRITUAL GIFT EVERYONE CAN USE

*"For I long to see you,
that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift..."*

~ Romans 1:11

1. Concerning Spiritual Gifts

- a. I am not teaching when they stop/cease today (1 Cor 13:8), but what is still given
- b. I am not teaching on the apostolic powers and signs (2 Cor 12:12), but gifts all can use
- c. I am teaching how spiritual gifts were intended to be used, knowing you received one
- d. Powers at Pentecost did not need a lesson like this - Luke 12:11-12, 21:15, Acts 2:3-4
- e. This subject is found in the apostle Paul's epistles alone - 1 Cor 12:1, 12:31, 14:1

2. Giving Spiritual Gifts

- a. All spiritual gifts are given by the Spirit as He wills - 1 Cor 12:4, 7-11
- b. People want to work miracles, heal, tongues. How to receive and use these gifts?
- c. What was seen as 'best' were gifts that were visible, physical (*is that the spiritual gift?*)
- d. The carnal (physical minded) Corinthians praised/boasted/coveted some gifts - 12:28-30
- e. Paul responds—gifts differ, members differ, but one God, one Body; gifts for all the Body

3. The More Excellent Way

- a. *"covet ... the best gifts, and yet..."* - nothing wrong with wanting spiritual gifts.
- b. *"a more excellent way"* - A: charity (ch13), but it is charity *with* or without the gifts.
- c. Why is it excellent? It abides/continues, it benefits all, it gives spiritual gifts to others
- d. One could have a spiritual gift, and not charity, but there is no charity w/o spiritual gifts
- e. Paul longed to impart spiritual gifts - Rom 1:11 (in what way? The more excellent way.)

4. The Goal of Spiritual Gifts

- a. The goal of spiritual gifts was not acclaim, recognition, to put them on display.
- b. What do all these gifts serve to do? 1Cor 12:8-10 ... the work of the Spirit in all 12:7,11
- c. The work of the Spirit is for us to know, understand, learn spiritual things 1 Cor 2:11-13
- d. The work of the Spirit is to teach, instruct, grow up into Christ and him crucified - 2:2-5
- e. All the spiritual gifts intended to edify the church - 14:5-6, 12, 18-20
- f. Gifts in Eph 4:11 for the edifying of the Body till all the Body could edify itself - 4:16
- g. Spiritual gifts help to come to a knowledge of Christ - Eph 1:17, 4:13, Phi 3:8
- h. 'the end' of Paul's spiritual gift was their establishment, mutual faith - Rom 1:12, 16:25

5. Opening Your Spiritual Gift

- a. A spiritual gift still given, we all can know & use → Eph 2:8, 3:2, 4:7, Rom 5:15,17, 6:23
- b. You receive a spiritual gift when you get understanding – Eph 1:17-18,3:4,7-10,5:17-18
- c. The word of God is a spiritual gift, but not accessed until we understand - Col 1:9-12
- d. When you speak truth in love, give understanding, you impart a spiritual gift - Col 2:2-3
- e. Charity gives what God has given us (faith, hope, grace, truth, Christ - Rom 5:1-5)
- f. When you understand God and His wisdom, thank Him for His gift! 2 Cor 9:14-15