

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
Spiritual Gifts
1 Cor 12

Last time...correction and instruction in righteousness regarding the Lord's Supper,
the ultimate example of the Law of Love

This time...something of which we should not be ignorant – spiritual gifts
We are in 1 Cor 12

v1-2 Now concerning spiritual:

To be in one accord and like-minded with the Head of the Church,
For the health and unity of the Body of Christ.

To be a good witness of The Head,

The Church must not be ignorant of spiritual gifts

- not know
- not understand
- neglect
- abuse

These things are foreign to the heathen, who were

- Gentiles...no longer are, for in the Church there is neither Jew nor Gentile

- previously led away from the Living God, being deceived by idols
Ch 10:20b

2 Tim 2:26 they may recover themselves out of the snare of the
devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

v3 by the Spirit of God...by the Holy Ghost:

To build understanding and order and unity in the building of God,
one must start with the Foundation

Ch 3:10-11

God cannot lie (Titus 1:2), God cannot fail, and God changes not, so...

1. No person speaking by/"en"/in the Spirit of God calls Jesus Christ
accursed/anathema

Ministry of the Holy Spirit:

John 14:16-17 I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another
Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; the
Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive,
because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but

ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

John 15:26 the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of Me

John 16:13-14 when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you.

But that would be the ministry of the unholy spirit, Satan the slanderer/deceiver/accuser and those he deceives

Ch 16:22

2. No person can say “Jesus is Lord” but by/”*en*”/in the Holy Spirit
Matt 16:15-17

The unholy spirit deceives men into saying “Jesus is not Lord! We will not have that man to rule over us!”

With the Foundation in place, let’s look at spiritual gifts...
spiritual gifts from God for spiritual people

v4-6 diversities...same:

There are diversities/distinctions/differences of gifts (*charisma*),
but the same (Holy) Spirit...different gifts but same purpose

There are differences/distinctions/diversities of administrations/service/ministries,
but the same Lord (Jesus Christ)...same gifts but different means toward
the same purpose

There are diversities/distinctions/differences of operations/workings/effects,
but the same God (James 1:17)...same gift but different results toward the
same purpose

The same God, Who works all (gifts) in all (His children and circumstances)

The Triune God cannot be “put in a box”, forced into a pattern, or confined to a
formula, and neither can His gifts

- Different gifts
- Different ministries
- Different results

e.g. Jesus exercised the gift of healing...differently every time,
but toward the same purpose

Same Giver so all gifts are of equal value;
no gift is more valuable than another gift
Different does not mean “better” or “worse”

Ignorance of spiritual gifts comes into play with...people
The flesh loves to compare and compete, to divide on distinctions
The finite mind of finite man loves patterns and formulas

Understanding comes from the Holy Spirit and brings unity in the Body of Christ

Different gifts, different ministries, different results...toward the same purpose,
which is...

v7 manifestation...to profit withal:

The manifest/seen/experienced ministry of the Holy Spirit is to

- gather a Bride for the Bridegroom, the Lord Jesus Christ
- build up the Body of Christ
- equip and empower the Body of Christ to continue the work on earth of the Lord Jesus Christ

God the Holy Spirit manifestly working

- all gifts
- all ministries
- all effect
- in all the Father's children
- in all circumstances

is toward the same purpose:

- to profit/benefit all His children...for the good of the entire Church
- the unity of the Body of Christ
- spiritual strength and health in the Body of Christ

Different gifts and administrations and operation, but one purpose:
to benefit others, not Self...the Royal Law

v8-10 to one...to another:

To one child of God is given this gift, to another child of God is given that gift

1. word of wisdom – the wisdom of God given at just the right time

Ex 18:13-27

Acts 23:6-9

2. word of knowledge – knowledge of something only God could know

Acts 5:1-11

John Higgins at a CCCM Board Meeting

3. faith

Jonathan and his armor bearer before the Philistine garrison

1 Sam 14:6-7 Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised: it may be that the LORD will work for us: for *there is* no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few. And his armourbearer said unto him, Do all that *is* in thine heart: turn thee; behold, I *am* with thee according to thy heart.

Elijah at Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18)...1:850
abused by the Word of Faith Movement

4. gifts of healing

plural vs singular...circumstance-by-circumstance vs “one size fits all”

Acts 3:1-9

Acts 14:8-10

Acts 28:1-9

abused by Benny Hinn and his ilk

5. working of miracles

Acts 19:11-12

6. prophesy

1 Cor 14:3

7. discerning of spirits

Acts 16:16-18

1 John 4:1-3

8. divers kinds of tongues/languages – speaking in a human language not known by the speaker

Acts 2:1-12

1 Cor 14

Jude 20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost

Not having the gift of tongues does NOT mean you cannot “pray in the Spirit”, a higher level of communication with God - spirit to Spirit

Rom 8:26 groans

9. interpretation of tongues/languages
by Pastor Chuck's wife and a Jewish woman

Note: other gifts in Rom 12:3-8

v11 all...one and the same...severally as He will:

The giver of all these gifts is the Spirit of God

The power of every gift is of the Spirit of God

The distribution of these gifts (who is given what) is according to the will of the Spirit of God

Heb 2:3-4 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard *him*; God also bearing *them* witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

So where then is boasting?

1 Cor 1:31

And to repeat, the purpose of every gift given to every person is to

- benefit others, not Self
- build up the Body, not the "Body part"

v12-14 the body is one...many members...so also is Christ:

The purpose of spiritual gifts is the health, strength, and unity of the Body of Christ

As is our physical body...

- many (hundreds) parts
- one singular body
- one entity comprised of many parts working in unison

so is the Body of Christ

- many people
- all baptized into one singular living Body
(an organism, NOT an organization or enterprise)

Rom 6:3-11, 18

- baptized into His death
- raised in the newness of life – His resurrection
- freed from sin and the power of death
- alive to God thru Jesus Christ our Lord
- servants of righteousness

- all drinking Living Water

John 4:13-14 *Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.*

John 7:37-39 *If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet *given*; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)*

v15-17 body is not one member but many:

Both our physical body and the Body of Christ are made up of many parts,
together making one Body

If the foot says I do not belong to this body because I am not the hand, is it so?

If the ear says I do not belong to this body because I am not the eye, is it so?

Of course not!

The hand is a hand, designed and created by the Creator to be a useful part with a
meaningful function of a singular body

The hand is to serve the body, not itself

The hand is not to value itself in comparison to other parts of the body

The hand is not to compete with other body parts

The hand is to be faithful to do what it is given to do

The hand is not given the choice to be a foot

Ditto the ear with the eye

If the whole body were an eye, how would the body hear and smell?

The body is fearfully and wonderfully made

It has 5 distinct senses, all of them important and useful

Every body part loses its distinct function in the absence of other body
parts...every part needs every other part for it to function

All body parts are dependent on other parts

The diversity of body parts is glorious, manifesting the genius of the Creator

v18 God set the members...pleased Him:

The Creator God has made and placed the various parts of the body according to
His good pleasure

That's only reasonable!

Rev 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and
power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure
they are and were created.

The differences declare His genius and glory
There is no room in the body for any part to be

- boasting
- comparing
- competing

“So also is Christ” (v12b), the Body of Christ, regarding spiritual gifts

v19-21 many...but one:

Many different members/parts but only one singular body
No part is independent of the other parts, every part needs every other part
Every part in a healthy, orderly body serves the other parts and not itself

“So also is Christ”, the Body of Christ, regarding spiritual gifts

v22-24 which seem to be...we think to be...but God has tempered:

It seems to us that some of our body parts are stronger than others, and some are
weaker than others

Yet all are necessary...so “strength” is not a valid measure of value

“So also is Christ”, the Body of Christ, regarding spiritual gifts

We think some body parts are more important than other parts...

heart, lungs, eyes, hands

vs

spleen, thyroid, mitochondria functions in the cells

Yet all are necessary...so “importance” is not a valid measure of value

“So also is Christ”, the Body of Christ, regarding spiritual gifts

We modestly “hide” some body parts and proudly display other body parts

Yet all are necessary...so “beauty” and “attention” are not valid measures
of value

“So also is Christ”, the Body of Christ, regarding spiritual gifts

But God has combined all our body parts into one singular body
Every part is designed to do a function important to the health of the entire
body

Every part is of immense value to the Creator

Faithfulness to God's will is the measure of value

“So also is Christ”, the Body of Christ, regarding spiritual gifts

And God has done what has pleased Him so

Man can live his entire life blind

But man will not live very long without kidneys...

which are weak and hidden and protected....

and when healthy, unnoticed and “less honorable”

(not to be taken for granted, however)

So the humble kidneys are of greater import than the proud eyes

Some parts are more presentable – eyes, teeth, biceps, nose, cleft chin...

Other parts are more modest, in that we cover them or they are internal to
our bodies

But which parts are more valuable to a healthy life?

Those on center stage...or those behind the scenes?

The real work of the Body of Christ is accomplished by the quiet, faithful,
selfless, unassuming parts

And God has done what has pleased Him so...

v25-26 there should be no schism in the body:

So

1. there would be no disunity, division, rivalry, competition, infighting
in the body
2. all parts would care for and serve all other parts and not themselves

“So also is Christ”, the Body of Christ

1. there would be no disunity, division, rivalry, competition, infighting
in the Body
2. all parts would care for and serve all other parts and not itself

The Law of Love, the Royal Law

John 13:34-35

Rom 12:15

When Charity suffers, we all suffer

When Janet and Kirk suffer, we all suffer

When Bob and Marie suffer, we all suffer

etc

When, by the grace of God, one rejoices, we all rejoice

The purpose of the Holy Spirit giving spiritual gifts according to His good will is
the unity and strength of the Body of Christ

And we all fit in, right where God has placed us and gifted us

v27-30 the Body of Christ:

The Body of Christ is a living spiritual Body

We believers are individual parts of His Body

We all have been, and will be, given spiritual gifts for the purpose of building up
the Body vs Self

1. Apostles – 12

2. Prophets – few

3. Teachers – James 3:1

Eph 4:11-13 he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and
some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers,
For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the
ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, Till
we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the
knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man,
unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of
Christ

2 Cor 1:24 Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but
are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand

4. Working of miracle – the vessel thru whom the Miracle worker works

5. Gifts of healings – physical, emotional, spiritual, relational

6. Helps – relief

7. Governments – directing

8. Diversities of tongues – human languages

Is every part an apostle?

Is every part a prophet?

Is every part a teacher?

Does every part work miracles?

Does every part have the gift of healing?

Does every part speak in tongues?

Does every part interpret tongues?

On every account, No!
v17 in the Body of Christ

God is the Creator, doing according to His sovereign will and pleasure
God is the God of order
God is the God of “no favorites”, not a respecter of persons
God is the Giver of every good and perfect gift
God is the Author of Salvation
God is One...unity

The unity of the Body of Christ

- One with Jesus
- One with the Father
- One with each other

The flesh in Christians likes to compare and compete
The flesh in Christians like to make doctrines and labels to divide
And spiritual gifts, the gifts of the Spirit, are not spared the flesh of Christians

“The gifts of the Spirit ceased with the Apostles, are no longer in operation today.”
An absurd assertion, an ignorant (v1) statement

Tongues:

“You are not saved unless you speak in tongues.”

A false gospel

“If you speak in tongues, you are demon-possessed.”

A self-righteous, ignorant, false accusation

Today:

- many believe the gifts are not for today, but died with the apostles...
a man-made doctrine
- others shy away from the gifts out of fear of the unknown...
we are in an area of faith...the gifts belong to the Holy Spirit,
which makes them supernatural
- still others want nothing to do with the spiritual gifts because they see
them in a circus atmosphere on Christian TV...

But...

1. Did not Jesus pray **Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word** (John 17:20)?
Is that no longer happening?
2. Have we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ (Eph 4:13)?
3. Has the Holy Spirit finished (Phil 1:6) His ministry?

So the spiritual gifts are every bit as much for us today as it was for them back then!

v31 covet earnestly the best gifts...more excellent way:

The Word of God tells us to not covet the things of the world

(1st time, it was written was in stone!)

But the Word of God does tell us to covet the things of God!

Covet the best spiritual gift!

Which one is that?

Which one do others need right now?

This week – the gift of healing, miracles, faith, word of wisdom...

Next week – we will find out!

The best gift is the one most suited for the work of God at hand – covet it!

What is the more excellent way?

Come back next week!

Application

Do you want God the Father?

Do you want God the Son?

Do you want God the Holy Spirit?

So if you want all of God, do you want all God's gifts, whatever He so chooses to give you?

Fear not to covet spiritual gifts

Fear not to exercise your spiritual gift

It is given to you for the benefit of others

Its exercising is part of the Royal Law

2 Tim 1:6 Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.

Invitation: Laying on of hands for the Holy Spirit upon and a best gift for this week