

SPIRITUAL GIFTS
PART 1-INTRODUCTION
1 CORINTHIANS 12:1

Introduction

Tonight we are going to begin a study of spiritual gifts. There is a lot of misunderstanding and false doctrine in this area in the day in which we live.

Most of the problems surrounding spiritual gifts has to do with the same problem that existed in Paul's day—ignorance! (Vs 1)

So, it is very important that we understand what the Bible has to say about this subject. Because the Bible is our Absolute Authority on every subject!

Also, it is important that every believer, should be mindful of their spiritual gift or gifts. We should know what gifts in the Scriptures are operative and how they are to operate to be in harmony with the Bible.

In the course of our study we will deal as thoroughly as possible with the subject and will be giving you Bible to back up what we are saying!

With this message tonight we will acquaint ourselves with some basic things that will help us to understand more fully as we progress in our study.

By Definition Spiritual Gifts Are An Enabling From God's Spirit By Which God's People Perform Ministries For God.

Sometimes the ministry appears to be of an **ordinary nature**.

Sometimes the ministry is obviously of an **extra-ordinary nature**.

But, always it is from a **super-natural enabling** of the Spirit!

SPIRITUAL GIFTS
PART 1-INTRODUCTION
1 CORINTHIANS 12:1

I. OLD TESTAMENT SPIRITUAL GIFTS PRIOR TO CHRIST'S MINISTRY.

In the Old Testament times before Christ's ministry, there were special manifestation of spiritual gifts.

Let's look at 4 specific examples from the Old Testament:

**A. Moses Was Gifted With Signs And Wonders.
(Exodus 4:1-9, 29-31)**

Moses exhibited these special gifts in his dealings with Pharaoh and Israel!

These were done **to validate to Israel** that God had indeed sent Moses! **(Exodus 4:1-9, 29-31)**

These were also done **as a witness to Pharaoh, to Egypt and against the gods of Egypt!** **(Exodus 7:1-5)**

**B. The Children Of Israel Were Gifted.
(Exodus 35:21-35; 36:1-7)**

These gifts were for the building of the tabernacle and its furnishings.

In this respect, we can see that these gifts are a type of the gifts given to New Testament believers.

**C. The Prophet Elijah Exhibited Gifts.
(1 Kings 17:1, 14-16, 20-24; 18:30-39, 42-46;
2 Kings 1:10, 12; 16-17; 2:8-9)**

**D. The Prophet Elisha Exhibited Special Gifts.
(2 Kings 2:13-15, 19-24; 3:14-20; 4:1-7; 5:1-15)**

SPIRITUAL GIFTS
PART 1-INTRODUCTION
1 CORINTHIANS 12:1

OLD TESTAMENT SPIRITUAL GIFTS PRIOR TO CHRIST'S MINISTRY.

II. NEW TESTAMENT SPIRITUAL GIFTS PRIOR TO PENTECOST.

In the New Testament times of Christ ministry there were special manifestations of spiritual gifts.

- A. Special Gifts Were Manifested By The Lord Jesus Christ As The Son Of God Who Became The Son Of Man. (Matthew 4:23-24; John 5:36; 7:36; 9:3; 10:32; 11:4, 37, 40-45; 12:37-43; 14:10-11; 15:24; 20:30-31; 21:24-25)**
- B. Special Gifts Were Manifested By 70 Disciples Sent Out By The Lord To Preach The Gospel Of The Kingdom Of God. (Luke 10:1, 9, 17-20)**

III. NEW TESTAMENT SPIRITUAL SIGN GIFTS BEGAN TO BE MANIFESTED BY THE APOSTLES AND THE 120 DISCIPLES ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST.

- A. Jesus' Declaration To His Disciples After His Resurrection. (Mark 16:17-20)**
According to Jesus, there were some "*signs*" or sign gifts that were given that would accompany the preaching of the Gospel.
- B. The Manifestation Of The Spirit By Means Of The Spiritual Gift Of Tongues On The Day Of Pentecost. (Acts 2:1-16)**

IV. NEW TESTAMENT SPIRITUAL SIGN GIFTS WERE MANIFESTED BY THE APOSTLES IN THE BOOK OF ACTS.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS
PART 1-INTRODUCTION
1 CORINTHIANS 12:1

Each of these sign gifts mentioned by the Lord Jesus Christ in Mark 16:17-20 can be found fulfilled in the Book of Acts.

- A. They Shall Cast Out Devils. (Acts 16:18)**
- B. They Shall Speak With New Tongues. (Acts 2:4)**
- C. They Shall Take Up Serpents, And If They Drink Any Deadly Thing, It Shall Not Hurt Them. (Acts 28:3-5)**
- D. They Shall Lay Hands On The Sick, And They Shall Recover. (Acts 3:6-8)**
(See 2 Corinthians 12:12)

V. OTHER NEW TESTAMENT SPIRITUAL GIFTS WERE AND ARE MANIFESTED BY EVERY NEW TESTAMENT BELIEVER IN NEW TESTAMENT CHURCHES. (1 Corinthians 12:7-11, 27-31; 1 Peter 4:10-11)

VI. IN THE FUTURE THERE WILL BE SPECIAL MANIFESTATIONS OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN THE TRIBULATION. (Revelation 11:3-7)

The two witnesses of Revelation 11 will exhibit special spiritual gifts that mirror those of Moses, Elijah, and Elisha.

VII. AN INTRODUCTION TO THE CONTEXT OF 1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTERS 12; 13; 14.

- A. The Entire Passage Must Be Considered As A Totality.**
- B. A Breakdown Of The Passage.**
 - 1. Gifts are for the whole church. (Chapter 12)**
 - 2. Gifts must be tempered with love. (Chapter 13)**
 - 3. Rules regulating gifts. Particular emphasis is placed on tongues and prophecy because of abuses. (Chapter 14)**

**SPIRITUAL GIFTS
PART 1-INTRODUCTION
1 CORINTHIANS 12:1**

VIII. THE DOCTRINE OF SPIRITUALITY CONSIDERED.

- A. The Salvation And Post Salvation Ministry Of The Holy Spirit Is Distinctive.**
- 1. We Are Born Again By The Holy Spirit Into The Family Of God! (*John 3:1ff; Ephesians 2:1-5*)**
 - 2. Every Believer Is Given At Least One Spiritual Gift! (*1 Corinthians 12:7*)**
- B. Spirituality And Carnality Are Mutually Exclusive. (i.e. You are either spiritual—i.e. walking in or by the Spirit. OR you are carnal—i.e. walking in or by the flesh)**
- C. The Believer Possesses Both The Old Nature AND New Nature—The Nature Of Christ! (*2 Peter 1:3-4*)**
- 1. The Spiritual Believer Manifests The Nature Of Christ! (*Galatians 5:16-17, 22-25*)**

The Spiritual Believer Follows Or Walks After Christ. (*Ephesians 5:1-2*)
 - 2. The Carnal Believer Manifests The Nature Of The Flesh! (*Galatians 5:16-17, 19-21, 26*)**

The Carnal Believer Follows Or Walks After The Old Man, The Natural Man, The Flesh. (*1 Corinthians 3:1-4; Ephesians 4:17-21*)
- D. The Accomplishments Of A Spiritual Believer.**
- 1. He Manifests The Fruit Of The Spirit! (*Galatians 5:22-25*)**

**SPIRITUAL GIFTS
PART 1-INTRODUCTION
1 CORINTHIANS 12:1**

2. He Follows In The Footsteps Of Christ!

- a. He Glorifies God!**
- b. He Witnesses!**
- c. He Loves The Brethren!**
- d. He Understands The Word!**
- e. He Has Divine Guidance!**
- f. He Worships God!**
- g. He Prays!**

- E. Fruitfulness In The Christian Life Is Dependent On The Filling Of The Holy Spirit. (*Galatians 5:16; John 15:4-5*)**
- F. Emotionalism Is Not A Characteristic Of The Filling Of The Holy Spirit. (*Ephesians 5:18-21*)**

IX. SPECIAL THOUGHTS CONCERNING SPIRITUAL GIFTS.

- A. The Scriptures Listing The Gifts: (*Ephesians 4:11; Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:28*)**
- B. The Sign Gifts Given To The Apostles Were The Father's Organized Witness To The Plan Of Salvation Before The Written Word Of God Was Completed. (*Hebrews 2:3,4*)**
- C. The Basic Purpose Of Spiritual Gifts Is Edification Of The Body Of Christ. (*Ephesians 4:8-13*)**
- D. There Are Two Kinds Of Spiritual Gifts.**
- 1. Temporary sign gifts that were effective before the completion of the canon of Scripture.**
 - 2. Permanent gifts that are effective throughout the Church age.**

SPIRITUAL GIFTS
PART 1-INTRODUCTION
1 CORINTHIANS 12:1

E. The Proper Attitude Toward Gifts.

Romans 12:3—“For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think [of himself] more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

F. Proper Operation of the gifts depends on the filling of the Spirit. (Acts 2:4)

X. PAUL’S INTRODUCTION TO THE SUBJECT OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS. (1 Corinthians 12:1-3)

A. Ignorance Hinders The Proper Functioning Of Gifts. (12:1)

1. He addresses the brethren. i.e. Believers
2. Ignorance was the primary problem and it is the key to understanding this section of Scripture.
3. Principles or facts relating to the Corinthians' problems.
 - a. They abounded in spiritual gifts. (1 Cor. 1:7)
 - b. They were the worst church of the first century.
 - c. Their possession of spiritual gifts did not assure their spirituality.
 - d. False teaching based on legalism and emotionalism had infiltrated the church at Corinth.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS
PART 1-INTRODUCTION
1 CORINTHIANS 12:1

B. The Corinthians Are Reminded Of Their Past Condition. (12:2)

1. Paul literally gives them a hard time and is really calling them stupid.
2. Ye were carried away as ye were led.
 - a. They had made their own choice.
 - b. Their choice had carried or led them into something that would harm them.
 - c. They were basically pagan Gentiles and their background influenced them greatly.

C. A Believer's Relationship With The Holy Spirit Begins At The Point Of Salvation. (12:3)

1. No man speaking by the Holy Spirit calls Jesus accursed.
2. One has to be saved to speak by the Holy Spirit.
3. A Believer filled with the Holy Spirit will call Jesus Lord.
4. Every Believer should acknowledge the Lordship of Christ.