

SPIRITUAL GIFTS
PART 2-DIVERSITIES/DIFFERENCES OF GIFTS
1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-11

Introduction

In this message we will continue our study of spiritual gifts. We have seen that it takes a spiritual person to properly exercise spiritual gifts.

With that thought in mind we will begin to look more specifically at what Scripture has to say about the gifts. Keep in mind that the entire context of chapters 12,13,and 14 are involved in our study and we cannot fully appreciate all the teaching until we have concluded our study.

Let's learn with the attitude that we want the best gifts for ourselves and for our Church and we want to see them operating Scripturally!

- I. THERE ARE DIVERSITIES OF GIFTS. (12:4-7)**
- A. Let's Consider Diversities Of Gifts And The Holy Spirit. (12:4)** *(Diversities = A distinction or variety; differences)*
1. God's plan is diversity in the midst of unity.
 2. Gifts are given as helps for the church.
 3. Gifts are diversified for the betterment of the church.
 4. Gifts provide for differences of services.
 5. Each member has a part to play according to his gift.
- B. Let's Consider Diversities Of Administrations And The Lord. (12:5)** *(Diversities & Differences are translated from the same Greek word!)*
1. There are different ministries or opportunities for service. (i.e. Used in different capacities)
 2. All ministries should be unto Christ and in harmony with His leadership.

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- C. Let's Consider Diversities Of Operations And The Father. (12:6)** *[Operations = An effect (operation or working)]*
The family concept is involved.
1. Diverse operations allow for all to have basically the same responsibilities but to use different methods.
 2. The same Father works in that He energizes. He is our source of power.
 3. He energizes each member for His particular operation.
- D. Diversified Gifts Are For The Profit Of All. (12:7)**
1. Gifts are the manifestation of spiritual power.
 2. Profit speaks of bringing together for the benefit of all.
 3. A gift is never for selfish purposes. It is for the body.
- E. Consider The Team Concept With Gifts.**
Every position is important, though one may have a more prominent place.
- II. THERE ARE DIFFERENT SPIRITUAL GIFTS. (12:8-10)**
- A. Consider The Order Of Their Being Given.**
i.e. To one, to another, to another.
1. They are given for advantage.
 2. They are given on the basis of whom and what God is.
 3. They are given at the point of salvation, but some can come after that point also. Otherwise, why would Paul say to covet earnestly the best gifts. (Vs 31)

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4. They are given through the instrumentality of the Holy Spirit.
- B. The Word Of Wisdom Is A Gift. 12:8a**
1. It involves the application of Bible principles to all situations.
 2. It allows one to be able to reply wisely.
 3. It is specifically counseling.
- C. The Word Of Knowledge Is A Gift. 12:8b**
1. It involves exhibiting the truths revealed in God's Word.
 2. It allows for assimilating doctrinal teaching in the proper perspective.
i.e. Filing them in categories. Dispensations.
- D. Faith Is The Gift Of Enabling For Special Service. 12:9a**
1. Martyrs would have special faith.
 2. Faith enables one to see the invisible.
 3. Faith involves implicit trust in the Lord.
- E. Gifts Of Healing Speak Of The Ability To Make Sick People Well. 12:9b**
1. Consider the exercise of healing as demonstrated by Paul.
 - a. He performed special miracles of healing almost at will. (Acts 19:11-12)

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- b. Paul was unable to heal Epaphroditus. God bestowed mercy. (Philippians 2:27)
 - c. Trophimus was left behind because of sickness. (2 Timothy 4:20)
2. The gift of healing does not operate in men today.
 - a. God sometimes heals in answer to prayer.
 - b. Believers should not be afraid to pray for healing. Cp James 5:14-16
- F. The Gift Of Miracles Speaks Of Power To Do The Supernatural. (12:10a)**
Miraculous Power!
- G. The Gift Of Prophecy. (12:10b)**
1. This does not always involve predictions of the future.
 2. It involved inspired teaching and preaching before the close of the Canon of Scripture.
 3. It involved preaching on the second coming before the close of the Canon of Scripture.
 4. It was the "foretelling" before the Canon was completed, but now only involves "forth telling" the Word of God and making the will of God known.
- H. The Gift Of Discerning Of Spirits. (12:10c)**
1. This was particularly important to judge men before the criterion of Scripture was available.

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2. A Spirit filled person today can discern to some extent another person's spirit.
3. It involves the ability to discern between right and wrong.

I. The Gift Of Divers Kinds Of Tongues. (12:10d)

1. Tongues speaks of languages.
The language will be known to someone though not necessarily the speaker.
2. This will be dealt with individually and more thoroughly in chapters 13 and 14.

J. The Gift Of Interpretation Of Tongues Or Translation. (12:10e)

III. THE SOURCE OF ALL SPIRITUAL GIFTS IS THE HOLY SPIRIT. (12:11)

A. "All These Worketh" Or "Are Empowered" On The Basis Of The Holy Spirit's Division.

B. Gifts Are Given To Every Man.

i.e. Each one. Every Believer receives some gift.

1. There Are Three Lists Of Gifts In Scripture.

Romans 12:6-8; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Corinthians 12

2. Gifts Are Not Necessarily Limited To These Lists But The Principle Applies.

C. The Holy Spirit Divides Severally.

(i.e. individually)

D. The Holy Spirit Divides As He Wills.

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1. Gifts are given at the discretion of the Holy Spirit.
2. God's sovereignty determines gifts.
3. Man must have faith to leave this in God's hands.

Conclusion

Spiritual gifts are very important to us individually and as a Church. God has seen fit to give us a gift or gifts. He has given us gifts so that we may be able to do the work that He has for us in his will.

To be in the will of God and be doing God's work is a great privilege for all Believers. God has seen fit to save all who believe and give each and every one of them a work that counts for all eternity.

God's will is for you to be saved and to exercise your spiritual gift. Are you following God's will? Have you been saved? Are you serving?