

4 July 2021

1 Corinthians 12:1-11 ~ "Now concerning spiritual gifts"

It had been long prophesied in the Old Testament scriptures that there would come "a time" in which the Spirit of God would be poured out upon all flesh.

The Prophet Joel prophesied of this. The Lord Jesus, in His private ministry with His apostles told them of the days when the Holy Spirit would come. John 14:26, 15:26-27, 16:12-14

After His resurrection, just before He ascended to heaven, the Lord appeared to the "eleven" and told them of those days when the Spirit of God would be poured out upon all flesh.

Mark 16:14-20

And then, there was the fulfillment of what was spoken by the Prophet Joel at Pentecost: Acts 2:1-24

But the most prominent "sign" that the Spirit of God had come, was the gospel was preached, and sinners confessed Jesus Christ to be Lord!

John 15:27: "When the Comforter is come...He shall testify of me"

In the time when Paul wrote this letter to the Corinthians, the church was in the midst of "those days" when the Spirit of God was being poured out upon all flesh.

The Word of God was being spoken by the Apostles, recorded, and written, and being confirmed with signs following.

Miraculous signs were happening in the midst of the churches, BUT all with ONE DESIGN, to point sinners to Christ the Lord!

In this time of the initial outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the wicked one became very active in his attacks against the church of Christ to draw believers away from Christ, which WAS and IS the Holy Spirit's PRIMARY ministry to point them TO CHRIST and to testify of Him!

What was Satan's method? To get their focus OFF Christ and to focus on and idolize "spiritual gifts".

We want the gifts of the Spirit! 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

We come to 1 Corinthians 12:1 with the Apostle Paul answering questions from the Corinthian Church about spiritual gifts.

We know from the beginning of Paul's first letter, that the Corinthian Church was a gifted church! We know this from 1 Corinthians 1:4-7.

Paul answered their questions about spiritual gifts by teaching them WHO were the most SPIRITUAL among them. And it wasn't necessarily those who were "spiritually gifted", or those who were glorying in "their gifts", but those that TRULY CONFESSED that Jesus Christ was Lord!

You will hear people today who will BOAST that they have the Holy Ghost and that they can speak with tongues, or that they possess some "miraculous spiritual gift", but they can tell you NOTHING about Christ or the gospel of Christ.

On top of that, their lives are not heavenly, but earthly/worldly; they are full of sin, uncleanness, and

spiritual confusion, but no holiness or obedience to Christ in their lives. SO, NO EVIDENCE AT ALL that Jesus Christ is TRULY their LORD and SAVIOR, BUT full of the Holy Ghost!

So, here in the opening of 1 Corinthians 12, Paul was bringing the "gifted" Corinthians down off their high horse and teaching them WHO the truly spiritual were in the Church at Corinth.

(Verse1): "Now concerning spiritual gifts, I would not have you ignorant"

To be ignorant is to "not know" something. Paul was telling the Corinthian believers that they SHOULD KNOW "spiritual gifts" in their proper place, AND what was the primary purpose of those gifts GIVEN by the Holy Spirit; to point saints and sinners of Christ, and to authenticate the message of the gospel of Christ; that Jesus Christ is Lord!

(Verse2): You used to be idol worshipers; "ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led".

So, Paul tells the Corinthian Christians, (in his answer to their questions about spiritual gifts); when you were lost, you were LED ASTRAY after dumb idols.

Everyone one of you, WHO ARE Christian's today, have a past, when you were unbelievers and lost, dead in your trespasses and sins. When you were a worshiper of other gods and other things in the world, and a time when Jesus Christ was NOT your Lord and Saviour.

I've spoken to lost humans about the gospel of Christ who told me, I've always believed on Christ. That's the same as saying, Christ has always been my Lord. Understand that THAT is NOT TRUE of ANYONE!

1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Ephesians 2:1-3, 11-13, 1 Thessalonians 1:5-9, Titus 3:3, 1 Peter 4:3

No one has ALWAYS believed on Christ, but there "MUST OF NECESSITY" been a time (when you turned from your sins to Christ), when you believed the gospel, when you were "born again" by the Spirit of God! When you were saved from your sins and from your past! When you turned from your sinful past to serve the living and true God!

If you're in Christ, understand that you have a past, when you were willingly "led astray" when you followed the god of this world and the idols of this world. Now to those who are truly spiritual. READ 1 Corinthians 12:3.

There were those in the Corinthian Church who desired spiritual gifts, who also because they were gifted, thought themselves to be the MOST SPIRITUAL (in the church).

Don't be led into the trap of thinking you're spiritual, just because you're gifted. Don't worship spiritual gifts! Worship Christ!

Paul was teaching them that the greatest "Spiritual Gift" was the Holy Spirit Himself, which is given to EVERY believer at the "new birth". And THEN, the most prominent feature of a

sinner being born-again by the Spirit of God, WAS NOT some spiritual gift, but CONFESSING Jesus Christ to be Lord!

If you ARE FILLED with the Holy Ghost; THEN, you will NOT glory in spiritual gifts or abilities, YOU WILL GLORY in Jesus Christ as YOUR LORD!

How will that be seen in you? You will bow in humble and glad submission and obedience to His Word and commands.

Paul makes a distinction: "No man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed"

Among "unregenerate Jews" in Paul's day, Jesus was an imposter and NOT the Messiah promised in the OT Scriptures. Further, if there were any (in the church) that did not recognize Jesus to be Lord, they DID NOT POSSESS the Spirit of God.

I direct you back to the gospel of John and the ministry of the Spirit of God!

He shall testify of Christ!

So, from this understand that ANYONE THAT CALLED Jesus accursed, was a pretender and NOT a partaker of the Spirit of God. I don't care what "gifts" you profess to possess, if you dishonor Jesus Christ the Lord, you're LOST, dead and in your trespasses and sins, and you don't have the Holy Spirit.

No one could act or speak under the INFLUENCE of the Spirit of God and (simultaneously) blaspheme or dishonor the Lord Jesus Christ!

To complete this thought, there were those (in the church @ Corinth) who BOASTED about their spiritual gifts in the church, or that they were full of the Holy Spirit, but who were lost! (Just like today):

Matthew 7:21-23, Luke 6:46, Matthew 25:31-46

1 Corinthians 12:3B: "And that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost"

But as we just considered, ANYONE can SAY or UTTER with their mouths that Jesus Christ is Lord. But to truly speak these words with a submissive and changed heart, and in recognition and faith in the truth of these words is ONLY given by the Holy Spirit!

And if that is true of you, the most prominent thing in your life won't be some spiritual gift, but that Jesus Christ IS LORD!

I am not diminishing or taking away from the truth that there were miraculous gifts given to the saints in those days. But there were also counterfeit gifts and the drawing away of the hearts of the saints after gifts rather than after Christ!

Philippians 2:1-11

EVERY tongue will confess Jesus Christ to be Lord! If you're still unsaved, you've not turned from your sins to Christ, Jesus Christ is NOT your Lord. If you die in that condition, you will be made to confess Jesus Christ to be Lord in hell!

