

Solid Rock Christian Church Manassas, Virginia

Bible Study - May 9, 2024

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Title: Pneumatology - The Doctrine of The Holy Spirit - Part V

Diversities (Varieties) of Spiritual Gifts (1 Corinthians 12:8-11)

"For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing, by the same Spirit. To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing (distributing) to every man severally (individually) as he will."

I. Introduction

A. The 12th chapter of 1 Corinthians is not an exhaustive list of spiritual gifts (for more examples, see Romans 12, Ephesians 4, and 1 Peter 4:10-11).

B. A thorough examination of the Scriptures will yield the truth that spiritual gifts fill two major purposes:

1. The permanent gifts edify the church, and
2. The temporary gifts are signs to confirm the Word of God.

C. God will continue to give the permanent gifts to believers for the duration of the Church Age, and those gifts are to be ministered by His people at all times in the life of the Church.

D. Those gifts include first the speaking or verbal gifts -

prophecy, knowledge, wisdom, teaching, and exhortation, and second, the serving or non-verbal gifts - leadership, helps, giving, mercy, faith, and discernment.

E. Please continue to listen very carefully. The temporary sign gifts were limited to the apostolic age and therefore ceased after that time. Those gifts included miracles, healing, languages, and the interpretation of languages.

Comment: I can imagine that some, after having read the above paragraph (letter "E") may be disturbed. However, please continue to read on and through a very prayerful and careful exegetical, and dispensational explanation of the Scriptures, I would like to prayerfully lay out this solid biblical position before you.

F. The purpose of temporary sign gifts was to authenticate the apostolic message as the Word of God, until the time when the Scriptures, God's written Word, was completed and became self-authenticating.

Comment: A lack of understanding of this vital truth has in the past and even today, caused confusion within the body of Christ. Please stay with me for more insight into this vitally important statement of truth.

G. In the present passage Paul mentions some of those gifts that illustrate the diversities (varieties) he spoke of in verse 4. This list includes both permanent and temporary gifts, and is only representative of the varieties, as seen from the fact that additional gifts are mentioned elsewhere in the New Testament, including in verse 28 of this 12th Chapter of 1 Corinthians, and also those passages pointed out in paragraph "A" of this introduction.

H. The Apostle Paul does not explain in this passage (1 Cor. 12:8-11), the function of the particular gifts. His point is to illustrate

the diversities (i.e., variety) in the kinds of gifts and to emphasize the common source of the gifts, each of which is given for "the manifestation of the Spirit - to every man to profit withal (i.e., for the common good)." (v7)

II. Introduction [Part II]

A. The trouble with the Corinthian Church was that they were using their spiritual gifts as fuel either for their pride, by despising those who they considered inferior to themselves, or for their envy, by maligning those who excelled them.

B. This undoubtedly was the cause of the division among them. Paul wrote 1 Corinthians 12, 13, and 14 to correct this situation. He told them that there were a variety of spiritual gifts, who their author was, for what end they were given, and how they were to be used.

C. First Corinthians 12:7 contains the answer to several important questions:

1. What is the nature of these gifts and where do they come from?

Answer: They are the works of God's Spirit in us: "the manifestation of the Spirit."

2. How do we come to have them?

Answer: They are a gift: "given to every man." ((believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.))

3. Why were they given to us and what are we to do with them?

Answer: They must be employed for the good of our

brethren and of the Church: "given to every man to profit withal."

D. In verse 7, what is "the manifestation of the Spirit."? The Greek word for "manifestation" is *phaneroosis*, a verbal noun, indicating that these gifts become the instruments of conveying the knowledge of salvation to the people of God.

III. The Gifts of The Spirit: Whom Do They Benefit?

A. The manifestation of the Spirit is given for the profit of the whole body of Christ, and for the individual members in that body.

B. I am convinced that the manifestation of the Spirit is also for the profit of the Giver Himself (Almighty God). Whatever God gives is for the purpose of revealing Himself to us. It is for His glory, which means His proper recognition by us.

C. The manifestation of the Spirit was given to every man that He, God, might profit withal.

Point: God profits when His Church is edified. That's what corporate worship should aim at. The edification of all is for the glory of God!

IV. A Spiritual Gift is a Light-Giving Candle

A. A spiritual gift may be regarded as a candle from the Lord. The Greek word for "manifestation" *phaneroosis*, from *phanos*, means "lantern" - that which gives light.

B. The Spirit bestows gifts upon us in order that we may show forth His light. The Scripture says - **"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."** (Matt. 5:16)

C. The candle, the manifestation - (Greek - *hee phaneroosis*) of the Spirit, must give light or else it is of no benefit to anyone.

1. **The First Gift: the Word of Wisdom (v8)**
 - a. The first thing given by the Spirit in verse 8, we are told is "the word of wisdom" (*logos sophias*). This kind of wisdom is not a human acquisition but is of God.
 - b. You cannot become wise in this manner through your own efforts. This is not the selfish wisdom that one possesses and keeps to himself. To be wise with God's wisdom is what is meant here.
 - c. It is this wisdom that the natural man considers foolishness as Paul brought out in 1 Corinthians Chapters 1 and 2.
 - d. Logos sophias "Word of Wisdom" could be interpreted as "utterance that demonstrates that one possesses God-given wisdom.

Comments:

- 1) It is interesting to note that Paul says *logos sophias* and not *lalia sophias*. Throughout his Corinthian Epistles Paul uses these two words principally in their verbal forms, *legoo* and *laleoo*.
- 2) **Legoo** means "to speak intelligently, with an understanding of what you are saying." Christ in His pre-incarnate, eternal state is called the *Ho Logos*, meaning that He was the immaterial spiritual intelligence, the logic that existed before anything was created.
- 3) In His incarnate state, Jesus Christ is called the *logos*, the Word of God, the utterance of the mind of God. He is the **One** who revealed the mind and character of God.

- 4) **Lalia**, "speech," and **laleoo**, "to speak," which are used extensively when Paul wants to refer to speaking in unknown tongues, mean "to utter without an intelligent knowledge of what you are saying."

Point: It is interesting to note, therefore, that the first gift of the Spirit mentioned by Paul in 1 Corinthians 12:8 is **logos sophias**, "the intelligent utterance of God's wisdom."

- 5) This is a wisdom that we do not innately possess in our natural state, but which we acquire as a gift of the Holy Spirit after we become spiritual beings as a result of being born again.

Comments:

- 1) The Corinthians placed more emphasis on ***lalein*** (infinitive of **laleoo**) ***glossais***, "speaking in tongues, "utterances unintelligible to those who spoke and those who heard.""
- 2) These were non-recognizable utterances in contrast to the varied recognizable languages or dialects spoken at Pentecost or spoken by the linguist, the Apostle Paul.

Points:

- 1) Note this: Only in the list of spiritual gifts in the First Corinthian Epistle is the gift of wisdom mentioned. It does not appear in the listing of spiritual gifts in Romans 12:3-8 or in Ephesians 4:11.
- 2) This is probably because it was pre-eminently lacking among the Corinthians.
- 3) The Corinthians possessed some extraordinary gifts, not mentioned elsewhere in Scripture. Among them were knowledge,

faith, healing, miracles, discernment, tongues, and interpretation.

- 4) The more extraordinary our gifts the greater our need for wisdom.

2. The Gift of The Word of Knowledge

"... to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit."
(v8)

- a. Again, the word **logos** is used, which means "intelligent utterance." Knowledge is the actual gift, but not knowledge that is kept to one's self but knowledge that is shared by the use of words.
- b. What is this gift of knowledge? The Greek word is **gnoosis**. The dictionary calls it "the fact or state of knowing; perception of fact or truth; clear and certain mental apprehension, practical understanding."
- c. Also: the sum of what is known; the body of truths or facts accumulated by mankind in the course of time.
- d. God gives certain of His saints a special ability to study His Word and discover the full meaning of the text and context, of individual words and phrases, and of related passages and truths, and thereby help provide understanding to others.
- e. The gift of **knowledge** is the capability of grasping the

meaning of God's revelation, which is a mystery to the natural mind.

- f. The gift of knowledge is foundational for all Christian teaching and preaching, as well as for the proper exercise of counseling, leadership, wisdom and all other ministries and gifts.
- g. The teacher or preacher is especially dependent on **knowledge**, because he is commissioned to teach and interpret God's truth to others.
- h. A Christian with the gift of knowledge may be highly trained in biblical languages, history, archaeology, and theology. God can use that training in the working of his gift.
- i. The human writers of Scripture had the gift of knowledge in a unique way. God gave them truths directly, which they recorded as part of His written Word.
- j. Since the closing of the canon of Scripture, that gift has not involved the receiving of new truth but only understanding of truth previously revealed.

Comments:

- 1) Anyone today who claims to have a divine revelation is a deceiver and contradicts God's own Word, which expressly warns that if anyone adds to it or takes away from it he will suffer God's judgment (Rev. 22:18).

- 2) Any word of divine knowledge or wisdom must be based on the Word of God, "once for all delivered (to the saints)." [Jude 3]

3. The Gift of Faith

- a. This sovereign, Spirit-given **faith** is distinct from saving faith or the daily faith by which every believer lives.
- b. This gift has to do with an intensive ability to trust God in difficult and demanding ways. It is the ability to trust God in the face of overwhelming obstacles and human impossibilities.
- c. The gift of faith is primarily expressed toward God through prayer, appealing to and trusting God to do that which is beyond His normal provision.
- d. Jesus said, "... **for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.**" (Matthew 17:20)

It is once again interactive time. Please respond to the questions as appropriate and also annotate the page number from the handout where you gleaned your answer. All Scripture passages have been quoted from the King James Version (KJV) of the Holy Bible.

1. What are the two major purposes that spiritual gifts fill?
 - A.
 - B.
2. What are the speaking or verbal gifts?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
 - E.
3. What are the serving or non-verbal gifts?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
 - E.
 - F.
4. The temporary sign gifts were limited to what period of time?
Your response:
5. Complete the following statement. "The manifestation of the Spirit is given for the _____ of the whole _____ of

_____, and for the _____ members in that body."

[Page from which you gleaned your response.] _____

6. What is the Greek word for manifestation?

7. "Let your _____ so _____ before men, that they may see your _____ works, and _____ your _____ which is in heaven." [Matthew 5:16]

8. "For the _____ of the cross is to them that perish _____; but unto us which are _____ it is the _____ of God. For it is written, I will _____ the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to _____ the understanding of the _____." [1 Corinthians 1:18-19]

9. The gift of **knowledge** is the capacity to grasp what?

10. "For I _____ unto every man that _____ the words of the _____ of this book, If any man shall _____ unto these _____, God shall _____ unto him the _____ that are written in this book." [Revelation 22:18]

11. A person with an intensive ability to trust God in difficult and demanding ways has what spiritual gift?

- A. discernment
- B. knowledge
- C. faith
- D. wisdom
- E. none of the above

12. "And Jesus said unto them, Because of your _____: for verily I say unto you, If ye have _____ as a grain of _____ seed, ye shall say unto this _____, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall _____; and _____ shall be _____ unto you." **[Matthew 17:20]**

I trust that you have been enlightened and blessed by participating in this study. In our next lesson, we will discuss the gifts of healing, miracles, prophesy, discernment, and the gifts of tongues and of interpretation of tongues.

"Earnestly contending for the faith which was once (i.e., once for all) delivered to the saints." (Jude 3)

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