

Right Thinking in Using Spiritual Gifts - II

Introduction and Review

- The church at Corinth was fully functional with all necessary spiritual gifts (1Co. 1:7)
- Each local congregation is a functional church (1Co. 12:27a)
- God selected & placed members in the body (12:18,24,28a)
- Some spiritual gifts have greater or higher effects in edifying the church (1Co. 12:31a; 14:12)
- No spiritual gift is to dominate the church (12:29-30)
- 5 lists: 1Co. 12:8-11; 12:28; Rom. 12:6-8; Eph. 4:11; 1Pe. 4:11
- All lists are different & no list is exhaustive.
- The lists contain both spectacular (healings, miracles, tongues) & more ordinary (service, teaching, giving) gifts.

I. Thinking About The Manifestation of The Spirit (v. 7)

A. The manifestation is revealing

Each individual believer is equipped to be effective in the body, no exceptions – “To each”. “manifestation” means to make known or reveal. The HS is making known or revealing something about Himself thru the spiritual gifts given to each individual in the body – the way He loves, provides, comforts, organizes, teaches, etc.

B. The manifestation is for the common good

This manifestation of the HS through spiritual gifts given to each believer is for the benefit of the entire body – to edify.

II. Thinking About The Manifestation As Sp. Gifts (v. 8-11)

These are special abilities given by the HS to whomever He wills (12: 11b).

A. The utterance of wisdom

This is a special message inspired by the HS & the content of the message is filled with God’s wisdom – insight to apply truth & knowledge in life (HOW TO LIVE).

B. The utterance of knowledge

This is a special message inspired by the HS & the content of the message is filled with God’s knowledge – insight to understand truth for life (WHAT TO DO).

C. Faith

This is a supernatural conviction from the HS that God will reveal His great power in a specific situation & way.

D. Gifts of healing

This is the unplanned supernatural ability given to a believer who is used by God to aid in the supernatural healing of another person (Ac. 14:8-10; 28:7-9; 2Tim. 4:20). “gifts” – a variety of healings & believers for variety of sicknesses.

E. Working of miracles

This is the unplanned supernatural ability given to a believer for unplanned demonstrations of God’s great power in various ways & for various reasons – provisions, protection, health, peace & unity...

F. Prophecy

This is an unplanned message inspired by the HS to edify & encourage the congregation. Believers with this gift are not infallible & the prophecy may contain error (14:3,29-33).

G. Distinguishing between spirits

This is the supernatural ability to determine what is & what is not of the Holy Spirit (1Jn. 4:1; 1Co. 14:49).

H. Various kinds of tongues

This is the unlearned, unplanned & unrehearsed supernatural ability from the HS to speak an unknown language.

I. The interpretation of tongues

This is the unlearned supernatural ability from the HS to interpret an unknown language spoken in the gathered congregation (1Co. 14:27).

Most of these gifts are **spectacular** & not as commonly needed or used as others. After listing these gifts, Paul immediately calls for unity among believers **without giving detailed descriptions of the gifts!** See the great love that Jesus has for His church: each congregation is a fully functional church, every believer is fully equipped to serve, every ministry is fully capable of succeeding, every need can be met, every trial & test can be overcome, every believer is essential to the function of the church, and every believer can make & must make his/her contribution.

CONCLUSION

God loves His church & every member; He loves this church (TCC) & every member. We love God because He first loved us. He is worthy of our love, service, sacrifice, praise, worship and adoration. If you are a Christian, I have been talking to you and about you this morning. Do you believe that this is true? Do you believe that the Lord has given these gracious gifts to His church; to TCC? Do you believe that you possess one or more of the spiritual gifts from the HS for you to be effective in ministry at TCC? Will you yield yourself & your will to do God's will for your life? We are revealing something about Jesus in the way we live & serve. When people look at you, what are you revealing about Jesus?

If you are not a Christian, the only gift that you should be concerned about today is Jesus Christ Himself. He is the greatest gift ever given to save you from the eternal punishment of your sin. **You must believe that Jesus is your savior; He suffered & died for you. The gospel...**

SUBJECT: Right Thinking In Using Spiritual Gifts - II

TEXT: 1Co. 12:7-11

LOCATION: Trinity Community Church

DATE: March 20, 2011

OCASSION: Sunday Morning Worship Svc

SERMON INDEX NUMBER: 942

FILE LOCATION: BX4

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