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1 Corinthians

WALKING **RIGHT SIDE UP** IN AN **UPSIDE DOWN** WORLD

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SPIRITUAL GIFTS – PART 1

1 CORINTHIANS 12:1-11

The first gift of the Spirit is, of course, ***the gift of salvation*** itself. The second is the ***unity of the Spirit*** which the Spirit brings to all believers.

- What about other spiritual gifts in the church today?
There are two camps: cessationists vs. continuationists.
- The prophet Joel prophesied about spiritual gifts.
Joel 2:28-29
- The apostle Peter quoted from that prophecy from Joel in his great sermon at Pentecost. **Acts 2:4-16**

SO WHAT ABOUT THE GIFTS TODAY?

- **Well v. 1 is pretty clear:** The gifts must be alive in some way or Paul would not have bothered writing about them to the church as a whole.
- The word “*gifts*” in Greek is ***charismata***; it comes from the same root word as the word “*grace*,” ***charis***.
- Grace gifts are not bizarre activity that leads unbelievers to believe we are mentally unstable.
- They are special endowments of power given to enable us to do extraordinary works for God.

SOME GENERAL TRUTHS ABOUT THE GIFTS

- First, all God's family confesses the same Lord. **v. 1-3**
- Any so-called “**manifestation of the Spirit**” that robs a person of self-control is not of God; for “*the fruit of the Spirit is . . . self-control,*” not chaotic. **Gal. 5:22-23**
- All who truly have the Holy Spirit will be able to say that Jesus is Lord of their lives.
- Our hope as God's gifted family: We depend on the same God. **UNITY IN DIVERSITY. v. 4-6**

THE GIFTS: UNITY IN DIVERSITY

- We individually may have differing gifts, ministries, and ways of working, but *“it is God which works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.” Phil. 2:13*
- These gifts are just that—gifts. They are ***not earned***, nor can they be taught or given by anyone but God.
- The gifts are ***TOOLS*** to build with, not ***WEAPONS*** to fight with or for. No gift that is from God should or would tear apart the church Christ died to save.
- Everyone has at least one gift. **v. 7**

A LIST OF GRACE GIFTS v. 8-11

- 1. *Teachers***, also pastor-teachers, instructed converts in the doctrinal truths of the Christian life.
- The ***evangelist*** majored in sharing the Good News of salvation with the lost.
- In the early church, ***miracles*** were primarily a visible part of the credentials of God's servants. **Heb. 2:1-4**
- Helps*** and ***governments, ministry*** and ***ruling*** all have to do with the serving of others and the guiding of the church.

5. There were several “*speaking gifts,*” *tongues and the interpretation of tongues*, about which Paul will further elaborate in **Chapter 14**.
6. The *word of wisdom* and the *word of knowledge*: The ability to understand and apply God’s truth to a definite situation.
7. *Giving and showing mercy* relate to sharing material aid with those in need, as well as supporting God’s servants in ministry.
8. *Discernment*: The Holy Spirit especially uses the written Word to give us discernment. **1 John 2:18-24; 4:1-6**

GOD'S WILL FOR THE GIFTS

- The Holy Spirit bestows these gifts “*as He wills,*” not as we will. **v. 11**
- No Christian should complain about his or her gifts, nor should any believer boast about his or her gifts.
- Two of the gifts mentioned in this passage focus on verbal manifestations of the Spirit. ***Tongues***, we will cover this in depth in **Chapter 14**; so hang in there. 😊
- As we seek to utilize the gifts, let us make the love of God and the love of fellow Christians our highest motive.