

Life in the Spirit Part 6 1 Corinthians 12:1, 4-11

Tonight we are continuing our series Life in the Spirit

A) We are going to begin discussing the subject of the gifts of the Spirit.

B) When talking about the gifts of the Holy Spirit there are two sets of gifts mentioned in the NT.

C) There is what is commonly known as the sign gifts mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12

1) These gifts tend to be more “supernatural” in nature

D) And in many church circles these are the only gifts that ever get mentioned unfortunately

I say unfortunately because there is another set of gifts found in Romans ch 12 - The Practical gifts.

A) These gifts are the ones that are being manifested every day in the life of the church.

B) We are going to spend tonight and next week looking at the SIGN gifts mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12

C) Then we will finish our series by spending our last 2 studies looking at the practical gifts mentioned in Romans 12

For tonight's study and next weeks study we will not be having group time -

A) But instead we will have an extended time of worship once again as we want to give opportunity for the Holy Spirit to move in the sign gifts.

B) Possibly opportunity to demonstrate what we will be teaching tonight and next week.

C) But in our final two studies when we look at the Practical gifts mentioned in Romans 12 -
1) we will return to our groups to discuss

D) This time we be instrumental in helping you find your place in the body

Tonight 1 Corinthians 12 V.1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:

A) Paul begins by saying I don't want you to be ignorant !

B) The Word ignorant in the Greek has a 3 fold meaning:

- 1) Don't ignore
- 2) Don't be unaware
- 3) Don't miss out on the experience !

C) Noted in our first study There are those today in the church - Cessationist

D) Cessationist are ignorant of the gifts in the sense that they ignore them -

1) Not for today - died out with the apostles
CEASED

E) Once we had the FULL canon of Scripture... no need for the gifts

That idea was birthed during the Reformation and has been very popular ever since among Calvinist

A) Who take a much more intellectual approach to their faith -

B) Their trinity - God the Father / Son / and the Holy Bible

C) BUT Nowhere in Scripture is the idea communicated or supported

1) that the gifts would cease to be needed once the Bible was written.

D) It is an Overreaction to ABUSE of the gifts of the spirit that have occurred in the church.

But when Paul is writing to the Church of Corinth - 25yrs after the Birth of the Church -

A) They are active in using the gifts of the Holy Spirit - but they are getting it all wrong -

B) there was a lot of abuse of the gifts going on.

C) So Paul writes to them in Chapter 14 pretty extensively -

1) giving instruction on how the gifts are to function and why

D) We will spend a good portion of our time next Wednesday discussing 1 Corinthians 14 -

1) **BENCH MARK** for knowing how the gifts are to operate.

E) So Don't IGNORE by saying they are not for today!

1) they have their place – God the Spirit is still at work

Also Don't be unaware: There are those who believe the gifts are for today but they have no idea of HOW they are to function.

A) They ignore what Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 14 -

B) so their Services are a sort of free for all – out of order - everyone tongues

C) That is another way of being ignorant - Ignoring instruction - aware of the direction the bible gives us

D) Ignorant to the FACT - There is an order to the gifts and how they are to function ! –

1) The Holy Spirit is not the Author of confusion !

E) Here at CV we hold to Paul's instruction in 14:40 **Let all things be done decently and in order.**

So don't Ignore by saying the gifts are not for today

A) And don't be Unaware of the teaching and instruction the Bible gives us

B) Then there are those who are ignorant – because they have never experienced the moving of the Spirit in that way.

C) Their Church doesn't practice it – they are afraid of it !

D) Much of the church today lives in this reality - Never been in that setting !

1) There is never a place for the gifts to be used or exercised

E) Point Paul says don't be ignorant ! – Don't ignore / Be unaware / don't lack the experience.

⁴ There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

⁵ There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. ⁶ And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. ⁷ But the

manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: ⁸ for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another *different* kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

Notice there are three important truths mentioned here about the gifts in these verses

- 1.) There is a Diversity of Spiritual Gifts.
- 2.) There is a Nature to the Spiritual Gifts.
- 3.) There is a specific Purpose for the Spiritual Gifts.

#1 The Diversity of Spiritual Gifts

TWO KEY WORDS HERE: DIFFERENCES & DIVERSITIES

A) Differences speaks of – variety – **31 flavors all ice cream** / made of the same stuff – but there is a variety.

B) When it comes to the gifts of the Spirit there is a **variety** – we are not all teachers /

C) in order for body to function there has to be variety.

1) Originates from same source . All from the Lord –

But there is not just a variety there is a

DIVERSITY A) Meaning the way in which these gifts are going to be manifested is not going to be the same.

B) It will Differ w/ the time / place / person. – **NO FORMULA**

C) Pastor Chuck Smith's teaching gift is different from Greg Laurie - who is more of an evangelist

#2 The Nature of the gifts: Manifestation = the shining forth. It means to show Plainly!

A) **SO Spiritual gifts are in reality a shining forth of the Holy Spirit.**

B) They are an expression NOT of man's ability but an expression of the person and power of the Holy Spirit.

APPLICATION Because spiritual gifts are NOT tied to man's ability it means that ANY man or woman can effectively serve God.

C) Spiritual gifts mean that God can use ME even if I feel inadequate because the job that needs to be done is NOT dependent upon my human ability.

#3 The Purpose of the gifts: v.7 *But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:*

A) Spiritual gifts are NOT given to me for my own personal profit. – Not to build me up- to build up others.

B) Now there is a blessing in being used by God –

1) But the goal is not that I going away feeling blessed – built up - **It is knowing I was used to build up another**

Love is the motivator! – Love is the key factor–

A) That is why smack dab in the middle of this discussion on the gifts of the Holy Spirit –

B) the Holy Spirit inspires Paul to put the Love Chapter

1) 1 Corinthians 13 – **Without love motivating us - our gifts are like a noisy gong - GONG SHOW**

C) The motivation for desiring gifts is to bless and build up the body

Look at V.31 Earnestly Desire the best gifts – What is best? –

A) **The one that meets the need !**

B) That is what Love does – it wants to meet the need 1) if you are hungry and I buy you my new shirt – not meeting the need

C) Love makes my motive to want to meet the need!

D) Not just do my thing -

That is what Church is about – Not what is in it for me – what can I get out of this but what can I give! What can I bring to the body

A) We are to Desire the best gift

B) What is the best gift? the one that is going to meet the need of the moment

C) and the HS – v.11 **gives to each one individually as He wills –**

D) Each one – He picks – use Rob tonight to teach – Jesse word of wisdom –

1) Mike – gift of helps – this person Encourage

E) So it is important to recognize that there is a The Diversity to the gifts/

1) A Nature connected to the gifts and a specific Purpose for the gifts in the church

Talk about 5 of the gifts tonight – V. 8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,

A) Start with a Word of Knowledge:

B) The **WORD OF KNOWLEDGE** is the **DIVINE IMPARTING OF KNOWLEDGE** concerning a person or a situation

1) that you could NOT know unless the Lord gave you that information.

C) Example we have seen in the book of Acts - Chapter 5 Ananias and Saphira come - to give the proceeds to the church

1) From a piece of property they sold.

D) Now they claim to be giving the whole amount of the sale to the church-

1) but the Holy Spirit gives Peter a word of Knowledge- they are lying

Peter calls them out on it.

A) Now they were not required to give all the proceeds,

B) God didn't care if they gave anything - but he didn't want them to lie/

C) So Peter is given a word of Knowledge - they are not telling the truth

IN THE CHURCH Setting – PASTOR TEACHER

A) Direct insight into a person's life – Teaching:
You were describing my life to a tee!

B) Did my wife call you? Like you were reading
my mail or my journal

1) In that example- The Holy Spirit is giving me a
word of Knowledge and I don't even know it

In Counseling & Discipleship

A) In counseling – College gal – Came to the Lord

B) Prior to getting saved she was always throwing
herself at men - **but most of time the men she was
after resisted her advances**

C) She was sharing her testimony with me - and as
I was talking to her the Holy Spirit gave me a
word of Knowledge

D) That many of the men at her school and work -
that she had been interested in -

1) who had not shown interest in her - were suddenly
going to be interested.

E) The Lord was giving me this word of knowledge
to warn her and prepare her.

1) Sure enough that is exactly what happened

Now the word of Knowledge is often used in
conjunction with the next gift the Word of
Wisdom – talk about that

A) Wisdom deals with the application of
Knowledge.

*“A Word of wisdom is a word fitly spoken that gives
direction to a problem or a situation.”*

Word of Wisdom in the Old Testament: 1 Kings 3

A) Solomon king – Two women came claiming to
be the mother of the same baby –

B) The women lived together – both had babies –
one rolled over on hers in the night – switched –

1) What would Solomon do? Give me the Baby – a
sword – cut in Half -

C) Now this was a word of wisdom – I don't care
how smart a person is,

1) You just don't come up with things like this

THE WORD OF WISDOM IN THE NT

A) In Acts 15 we see that a problem had arisen
among the believers in the early church.

B) Some of the Jewish Christians were responding
to the Gentiles who were getting saved by saying
they needed to be circumcised

1) And follow the law of Moses in order to really
be saved

C) So a dispute arose in the church - The legalist
on the one side and those who were more into
grace on the other side

This dispute could have caused a major split in the
early Church. There is a danger that at this point
the Church could have split in two.

A) There was a BIG MEETING CALLED - and
Peter stood up and testified of how God had
worked to save the Gentiles.

B) In the midst of the discussion the Lord gave
Peter word of Wisdom that helped diffuse the
situation

*Acts 15:7-12 7 “Men and brethren, you know that a
good while ago God chose among us, that by my
mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the
gospel and believe.”8 “So God, who knows the
heart, acknowledged them by giving them the Holy
Spirit, just as He did to us,”9 “and made no
distinction between us and them, purifying their
hearts by faith.”*

*10 “Now therefore, why do you test God by putting
a yoke on the neck of the disciples which
neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?
But we believe that through the grace of our
Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the
same manner as they.”*

C) Word Of wisdom → Diffused a tense situation
That statement was a word of Wisdom given to Peter
Don't put yoke of bondage on them...able to bear.

*11 Then all the multitude kept silent and listened
to Barnabas and Paul declaring how many
miracles and wonders God had worked
through them among the Gentiles.*

So we have the gifts of Word of Wisdom and the
Word of Knowledge - Consider 3 more tonight -
9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts

of healings by the same Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles,

LETS CONSIDER THE GIFT OF FAITH

A)The *gift of faith* is often referred to as *special faith*

B)This title is given to this gift because this faith differs from “Saving Faith” - when you embrace Jesus

1)and “normal Christian faith”, - The faith we exercise to daily trust God

C)The gift of faith differs from “Saving Faith” - and “normal Christian faith”, in *degree and application*.

The gift of faith is a supernatural endowment of faith given by the H.S. to be manifested in times of crisis or opportunity

A)It is in such a time that God will give a **DIVINE CERTAINTY** to the Heart of a person that – He is at work / going to work.

B)EXAMPLE OF SPECIAL FAITH ACTS 3:1-16

1)Peter walked by this man 100 times – this day was different - Silver and gold....

C)Note – Wasn’t Peter’s normal practice

D)Later in the story Peter is explaining what happened - V.16 *Through faith in Jesus name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.*

E)Peter says that the faith to do this came from the Lord – gift of faith.

PASTOR CHUCK CLASSIC STORY – WHEEL CHAIR – COLD

A)Son Chuck Jr. – why not – say in name of Jesus rise & walk - **God didn’t give me the faith.**

B)Now although this gift is often used in conjunction w/ the gift of miracles & healings it is not exclusive to that

C)This gift can be manifested in times when – God gives you a great certainty that He is going to work in a particular situation.

D)The faith to trust God in a financial crisis - a peace that he is going to come through miraculously - and he does

1)Normally you would be stressing but that gift of faith has your heart at peace

I have had times in preaching –

A)That before I even came to Church I knew that People were going to get saved –

B)Preach w/ boldness

C)Times when – I have been talking to someone – witnessing – Gift of faith to say – *You want to get saved don’t you – lets pray.*

D)But that is definitely not always the case – More often than not that step of faith is more like Jonathan & His armor bearer –

1) *Lets see what God might want to do ! We Know what God can do – we just want to see if He is moving & working in a particular area*

So the gift of faith is a **DIVINE CERTAINTY** given supernaturally by the H.S. that enables you to step out into an area of ministry or some opportunity w/ **GREAT CONFIDENCE** & see results !!!!!–

NOW LETS LOOK AT THE GIFTS OF HEALINGS & MIRACLES

A) 1st note that both of these **gifts are plural** – because there is **not one type** of healing or one type of miracles

B) Now I don’t think we really need to define a healing or gifts of healings we understand that
1) Someone who is sick is made well / something broken is restored
..... Blind is given sight

C) Our God is a God of healing & Restoration ! / God of the Miraculous

Working of miracles literally means: operations of supernatural powers

Webster’s New Dictionary of the American Language:

“A miracle is an event or action that apparently contradicts known scientific laws and hence is though

to be due to supernatural causes, especially to an act of God.”

A) It is an event for which there is NO natural explanation!!

VERNE'S STORY:

A) One of his missionary Journey's he had a long layover in Fiji.

B) He was told if he was ever in Fiji to look up a Pastor Narian Nair.

C) The Problem was he only had a P.O. Box for the guy and notes that indicated that pastor Nair

1) Lived in a smaller town of Lautoka

So with 24 hours to spare: Pastor Verne - ventured out on a long bus ride to Lautoka suitcases in tow

A) He gets to this town that is bustling with people on a Saturday morning -

B) Pastor Vern is beginning to think he made a big mistake - No address - Post office is closed

C) That is when the Lord speaks to his heart and says - turn around and to that way.

D) He walks for several blocks - then the Lord says again to his heart turn left

E) A few more blocks - turn right - He felt like he was going in circles -

1) But he was sure the Lord was speaking to him

That is when he saw a Coffee shop

A) Walked over to the coffee shop right as the owner was opening it up for the day.

B) The owner asked can I help you friend - Vern said yes - I would love a coffee

1) But I am looking for a Pastor named Narian Nair

C) That is when the owner of the coffee shop said - that is me I am Pastor Nair

D) Friends that is what you call a miracle

1) God's supernatural guidance

God throughout history has chosen to demonstrate his care thru healing and His power thru the miraculous

A) Jesus touched the Leper – God was saying I care for those who have been inflicted because of sin/

B) I care for those who are outcast

When Children of Israel were boxed in at the Red Sea – God miraculously parted the Sea - /

A) God was saying don't ever consider yourself boxed in – don't ever count me out of your situation.

As you go thru your Bible you will notice that there was no real pattern or formula to His healings & Miracles

A) Miracle of parting red sea & Jordan rivers –

1) Moses Staff – stretch it out

B) Jordan Priest feet wet

1) Elijah struck the water w/ mantle

HEALING OF BLIND MEN

1) ONE Jesus touched

2) Bart. Just spoke

3) Another spit

4) Still another – spit mud – wash

A) **PROBLEM TODAY** - There are those who want create formulas

1) here is the Key – *Just pray in this way – JESUS NAME – CLAIM IT*

B) **POSITIVE CONFESSION – NO NEGATIVE CONFESSION –**

1) Key is in believing it is already yours

3 guys in a car one really into this – driving – guy in the backseat asked the guys in passenger seat – how is your sister ? *Really sick –*

A) Don't say that say – She thinks she is sick – ok

B) How is your grandfather doing? He thinks he is dead.

WHY DOESN'T HE HEAL EVERYONE ? – Don't know?– He is Sovereign.

A) Paul 2 Cor. 12 Prayed 3 times thorn in the flesh – (not a little splinter but a Stake – brutal)

B)Not sure what it was - but Paul prayed on 3 separate occasions Lord heal me

1)Release me from this

C)Jesus said no: But instead discover that my grace is sufficient my power is madeweakness

D)Therefore I glory now in my weakness

Sometimes God doesn't heal because he wants to show his strength in our weakness

A)Sometimes He doesn't heal because - our suffering makes us more relatable

B)Sometimes he doesn't heal and we have no idea why - won't know until heaven

C)Question is will we trust him

But I believe we should never stop praying and asking until God gives us an answer

A)End with this tonight -

B)Sometimes there is a direct connection between a word of Knowledge and the gift of healing

C)Knowledge of a pain - to reveal he wants to heal

D)Ignite faith

Earnestly desire Spiritual gifts

A)The Best gift is the one that meets the need of the moment

B)There is a Diversity of Spiritual Gifts.- Not all the same

C)There is a Nature to the Spiritual Gifts is the manifestation of the Holy Spirit

1)Him working through His Children

D)There is a specific Purpose for the Spiritual Gifts.

1)Bless and build up and encourage the body

E)The Motivator is love - Love Jesus and love his bride - Use me Lord - pour me out