

The Spirit Filled Life 1 Corinthians 12:4-10 / 14:1-32

A)Intro: Tonight we are continuing our study on the gifts of the Holy Spirit focusing on those listed here in 1Cor. 12

B)We have looked at the first 5 of the Gifts listed in v. 8-10

1)Wisdom / Knowledge / Faith / healings & miracles

Tonight we are going to pick up our study starting w/ PROPHECY

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.

Last week we began by the gifts of the Holy Spirit is the Manifestation or the shining forth of the Holy Spirit through the church.

A)The Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

B)Ch.14 The purpose of the gifts is to build up the body of Christ V.7 for the profit of all

C)We also noted that There are Diversity of gifts - meaning they are not all the same

D)And there are differences of ministries, meaning the gifts will look different in one ministry from another

1)Teaching gift - Chuck Smith vs Greg Laurie

Last week we also noted that in Chapter 14 - we are exhorted to desire earnestly the best gifts -

A)What is the best gift- The gift that meets the need of the moment

B)Last week we considered the first 5 gifts listed here in 1 Corinthians 12

1)Word of Wisdom - A supernatural gift of wisdom to deal with a problem or situation

C)Word of Knowledge - Knowledge about a situation imparted to you about a person or situation.

1)Knowledge you wouldn't have on your own. - Acts 5 Lying

D)The Gift of Faith - A supernatural anointing of faith to step out and trust God in a situation -

1)Peter healing the lame man

E)Often accompanying the Gift of faith are the gifts of healing and miracles.

1)Confidence to pray for a healing - knowing healed -

2)or confidence to step out believing God is going to supernaturally deliver

Now one of the things I want to mention about the list of gifts here in 1 Corinthians that is my opinion. Though shared by others

A)That is this: I think there are only two of these gifts that are permanent gifts - Tongues/ Prophecy

B)I believe the gift of prophecy - especially the way we will define it tonight is permanent - because - only one from this list - Romans 12

1)The gifts mentioned in Romans 12 are definitely more permanent in nature

C)And I believe the gift of tongues is also permanent - because as we will see in Chapter 14 tonight -

1)The person who has it can control when they use it.

D)But I believe all the other gifts are given by the Holy Spirit in a moment of need to meet the need.

For example -

A)There have been times when I have had the gifts of faith and healing -

B)Where I prayed for someone KNOWING they were going to be healed and they were.

1)But more often than not I am praying - hoping ...healed/

C)I can't go to Tri-city hospital tonight and walk up and down the hallways - room to room - healing people.

1)Not a permanent gift

D)Word of Knowledge or wisdom - there have been times when I have been in a conversation -

1)A clear word about something

E)Most of the time: I am praying - Lord give me wisdom

So tonight we are going to look at the gifts of prophecy, Discernment, tongues and the interpretation of tongues

A)I want to quickly define the gifts and then we will jump to ch.14 where Paul lays out how they are to operate in the church

B)He spends the most amount of time on these four gifts, I think because they can be the most confusing

Start with Prophecy:

A)The Word Prophecy -derives from a Greek root which means "to cause to shine,"

B)And is linked with the prefix "pro" which means "before."

1)So a person w/ the gift of prophecy is one who stands before God's people and causes the word of God to shine./

C)Prophecy: + Declaring Truth: Speaking forth the mind and heart of God!

Now In the OT there was both a predictive nature

A)a FORE TELLING to this gift as well as a declaring of the truth. - A FORTH TELLING

B)God spoke through the prophets to call the people of Israel to repentance

1)or to give them clear direction.

C)But He also used the prophets to declare and predict future events

D)Many prophecies in the OT concerning the various times the nation of Israel or another nation would encounter Judgment

E)Predictive Prophecies concerning the first and 2nd coming of Messiah

Also Predictive prophecies concerning future end times events by Daniel -

A)Ezekiel and some of the minor prophets

B)But when we get to the NT this gift seems to have more of a Declaring of truth aspect to it

1)and less of a predictive aspect to it

C)We see that Jesus clearly prophesies concerning the destruction of temple, his death and Resurrection

1)end times events

In our study of the book of Acts

A)We saw where a prophet named Agabus prophesied that Paul would be bound in Jerusalem

B)Paul prophesied about the rapture, the coming Anti-Christ and end times events

C)Peter prophesied about the end of the world

D)John wrote the book or Revelation - where he prophesied of End times events

Those are really the only example of Predictive prophecies in the NT

A)But there are more examples where this gift is being used to declare God mind and heart to the church.

B)That is how I believe this gift is used the most today. More Forth telling

C)The word burns w/ in the heart of those who have this gift & they must get it out !

I think on many Sundays for example-

A)God will give me something that I am confident is a Word for our church

B)Or a Word from the Lord - for certain individuals in the body

C) God is using me in that moment to speak directly to someone and remind them of a truth
1) that they need to grab a hold of

But that can also happen in normal conversation too.

A) You are talking to someone and suddenly a verse comes to mind -

B) A verse you haven't read in years - I need to share this with you

1) Or a directive that you know is from the Lord

So that is the gift of prophecy

A) **Discerning of Spirits** - "that is, the God-given ability to distinguish between the truth of the Word and deceptive doctrines

B) Also the God-given ability to distinguish whether something or someone is from the Lord or not.

1) Peter in Acts 8 with Simon the Sorcerer

C) Then Paul mentions the **gift of tongues** - a spiritual language that you don't know -

1) that is from God - Might be tongues of men or of angels

Tongues= a spiritual prayer language that you don't know that enables your spirit to commune with God in a special way.

A) Tongues is more of private personal language used in personal prayer and worship

B) Tongues is the only gift that is mentioned that edifies the person who has it

C) It is only beneficial to the church body **as a whole when it is accompanied with the gift of interpretation**

D) The interpretation of tongues - the God given ability to interpret a tongue that has been spoken

Now let's turn to Chapter 14 and see what Paul says about these 4 gifts

A) And how they are to function in the body

Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. 2 For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to

God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.

Notice what Paul says there about Tongues.

A) He who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men - but to God not horizontal in nature - but vertical

B) That means that the interpretation is going to be vertical as well -

1) it is going to be **directed to God** - about God

C) This fits with what we see in the book of Acts 2 - Pentecost

"Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?
8 And how *is it that* we hear, each in our own language in which we were born?..... we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God." Acts 2:8,11

D) This is very important - the interpretation of tongues is **NOT going to be** a **"Thus says the Lord - Oh my people....."**

E) That might be a word of Knowledge or a prophecy -

1) but it is not the interpretation of the gift of tongues

F) Tongues is vertical - to God - not men

Paul Continues **Pursue love**, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. 2 For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.

3 But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.

4 He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.

In the context of the body which is the better gift - tongues or prophecy

A) Prophecy because he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.

B) Point of the gifts is to build up the body - for the profit of all

C) Tongues edifies the only the person who is speaking - his spirit is being built up

D) So because of the personal nature of the gift of tongues - Paul declares

5 I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.

E) Here Paul mentions the idea of how Tongues can be beneficial to the body if it is accompanied by the interpretation of tongues

Paul goes on to say that if there is no interpretation it is just gibberish - just noise.

13 Therefore let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret. 14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. 15 What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding. 16 Otherwise, if you bless with the spirit, how will he who occupies the place of the uninformed say "Amen" at your giving of thanks, since he does not understand what you say? 17 For you indeed give thanks well, but the other is not edified. 18 I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all; 19 yet in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

THE PURPOSE OF THE GIFT OF TONGUES / NOTE 3 THINGS

1) It is given by God to AID the believer in his expression of praise and thanksgiving.

Paul said 1 Cor 14:15 *I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.*

2) It is given by God to AID us in prayer.

1 Cor 14:15 *What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also:*

Rom 8: ²⁶Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Sometimes I just don't know how to pray - feel moved to pray in the spirit - tongues

So it is used for Praise to the Lord – Used in Prayer for intercession when I don't know how to Pray / Also used as a Weapon

A) According to Eph. 6 our two primary offensive weapons are the word of God (the sword of the Spirit

B) Prayer – Specifically Praying in the Spirit

1) (Last thing mentioned) *praying always in the Spirit*

C) So the gift of tongues has personal benefit and with interpretation it can benefit the body

20 Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature. 21 In the law it is written: "With men of other tongues and other lips I will speak to this people; And yet, for all that, they will not hear Me," says the Lord.

22 Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophesying is not for unbelievers but for those who believe.

How can Tongues be a sign to an unbeliever?

A) The day of Pentecost it was a Sign - they heard them declaring praise to God

B) Courson in Lake Arrowhead - Parthian

Guidelines - Order

23 Therefore if the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those who are uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say **that you are out of your mind?**

24 But if all prophesy, and an **unbeliever or an uninformed person** comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all. 25 And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you.

26 How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. **Let all things be done for edification.** Don't lose sight of the goal

Guidelines for practice

27 If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most **three, each in turn, and let one interpret. no more than three-**

28 But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God. How do we know if there is an interpreter?

Pause and Ask - is the Lord giving an interpretation -

A)again directed at God - about God - prayer or praise

B)Guidelines for prophecy 29 Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge.

C)This is where the gift of discerning of Spirits comes into play.

Prophecy must be judged 3 WAYS

1)Does it line up with the revealed Word of God?/

God will NOT say something CONTRARY to the Written Word of God.

IF it is contrary to the Written Word of God, THEN it is NOT prophecy.

2) Does it line up with the FACTS concerning the NATURE of the GIFT i.e. – EDIFICATION / EXHORTATION & COMFORT

A)Not going to be coming down heavy on the body

3) If it is predictive in nature, then you look to see if it comes to pass.

30 But if anything is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent. **Order -**

31 For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged.

32 And the **spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.** 33 For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

Here is what this means - When the Holy Spirit comes upon you to exercise a gift it is not like he takes control of your body or faculties

A)No control - “I don’t know what happened the HS just came over me - not a biblical idea. -

B)God is into order - not confusion

C)So when the Holy Spirit is moving and working in the body -

1)it is a beautiful picture of the body of Christ in submission

D)Not scary - it is not weird - it is not spooky

³⁹ Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues.

⁴⁰ Let all things be done decently and in order.

Back to Ch.12 Segway into our study next week.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. ²⁸ And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? ³⁰ Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.