

The Holy Spirit and You: The Power Returning back to the People. Introduction to the Gifts Part 3

Key Concepts

1. God wants us to understand the manifestations of the Spirit.
2. The manifestation of the Spirit always glorifies Jesus Christ.
3. There is great diversity in the way God manifests Himself in and through the Body of Christ.
4. Know the location and nature of the “gifts” lists in the New Testament.
5. We are told to seek the manifestation of the Spirit with a motivation to serve others.

- I. Don't be ignorant. 1 Corinthians 12:1-3
 - A. God does not want the church ignorant of spiritual matters. 1 Corinthians 12:1.
 1. Notice "gifts" is italicized, meaning it is a translator's addition. Read this: "*Now concerning spirituals, brethren*".
 2. The Corinthians thought that verbal gifts of tongues and prophecy made them "spiritual". They were especially thrilled with tongues as a sign of spirituality. Paul is writing to correct this imbalance by expanding their view of spirituality.
 3. The rest of the book up to Chapter 16 talks about "spiritual matters".
 - a. 1 Corinthians 12:2,3 Recognizing wrong spirits
 - b. 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 Diversity in God
 - c. 1 Corinthians 12:2-11 Manifestation of the Spirit

- d. 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 The Body of Christ: all parts are important.
- e. 1 Corinthians 12:28-30 The ministry
- f. 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 The rule of love, the mark of true spirituality
- g. 1 Corinthian 14 Guidelines to tongues and prophecy (Holy Ghost etiquette)
- h. 1 Corinthians 15 The resurrection: the crux of spirituality
- i. This whole section is an exhortation to a chaotic church to lay aside division and operate in power and love to get the Gospel preached.

B. We serve a God who speaks.

- 1. 1 Corinthian 12:2 We used to worship idols which were mute (the demonic entities behind them did the speaking).
- 2. We now serve a God who can speak. Psalm 115:4-8
Habakkuk 2:18-20
- 3. We must know how to tell when it is God speaking.
1 John 4:1-3
- 4. The Holy Spirit's gifts all magnify Jesus Christ.
John 15:26 John 16:13,14

II. Unity in diversity 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

A. There are diversities of gifts. Verse 4

- 1. Gifts = *charismata (GR)* = abilities given by grace (*charis*); Holy Spirit endowments
- 2. Diversities = varieties
- 3. The Spirit gives abilities, supplies power.

B. There are diversities of ministries. Verse 5

- 1. Ministries = *diakonos (GR)* = service

2. The service or ministry is given by the Lord, the administrator of the church.

C. There are diversities of operations. Verse 6

1. Operations = activities, methods, effects
2. Other translations:
 - a. The Living Bible *"There are many ways in which God works in our lives, but it is the same God who does the work in and through all of us who are his."*
 - b. Amplified Bible *"And there are distinctive varieties of operation - of working to accomplish things - but it is the same God Who inspires and energizes them all in all."*
 - c. Wm. Barclay *"There are different kinds of effects, but it is the same God who produces them in every case and in every person."*
 - d. J.B. Phillips *"God works through different men in different ways, but it is the same God who achieves his purposes through them all."*
3. The implication is that there are many ways in which the purposes of God are accomplished.
4. It is the Father God who orchestrates and empowers all His purposes and actions. Don't be locked into one pattern or method. Appreciate the diversity and creativity of God.

III. The manifestation of the Spirit 1 Corinthian 12:7-11

- A. Manifestation is given to each.
1. Manifestations = exhibition; making apparent something which cannot otherwise be seen
 2. Example: Leaves blowing is a manifestation of wind. Waterspout is a manifestation of a whale.
 3. The Spirit is ever present, and He sometimes manifests Himself. He is always there, but He occasionally does something which makes His presence visible or obvious.

We ought to expect Him to do this.

4. The manifestation is given for the profit of everyone. Notice, spiritual gifts are given to benefit the ones who see and hear, not to exalt the one who is used to deliver them.
 5. Christianity is supernatural. Without the supernatural, all we have is another religion with dry, ineffective theories.
- B. Notice V.11.
1. The Spirit distributes these manifestations to individuals according to His will.
 2. These are not operated according to our will.
 3. The gifts cannot be operated on demand, nor can I ask God for a specific gift.
- C. The manifestations are supernatural, not natural talents and abilities.
1. Gifts of healing / medicine
 2. Word of knowledge / going to school
- D. Three other lists of "gifts"
1. Romans 12:6-8 A list of *charisma* gifts which are given to each believer as a special gifting. Verse 4 calls them "office" or "function". This implies that these gifts are consistently manifest in the lives of those to whom they are given.
 2. Ephesians 4:11 A list of "*doma*" gifts. These are people called and separated to vocational ministry to the Body of Christ.
 3. 1 Corinthians 12:28 An apparently random mixture of "*doma*" gifts, functional gifts, and manifestation gifts given to emphasize the necessity and dignity of every calling.
- E. We are called upon to desire the gifts, not for ourselves, but for the Body as a whole.
1. 1 Corinthians 14:1 1 Corinthians 12:31

2. The goal is the profit of all, not the exaltation of self. The "more excellent way" is the way of love in the manifestation of all gifts.