

Gifted for a Reason Pt 1

1 Corinthians 12:1-7

- One of the more controversial subjects within Christian circles is the teaching of the gifts, what exactly are they, why were they necessary, when or if they've stopped, whatever you've heard I am sure you have either experienced or read something that has challenged your thinking. This morning we are going to see what scripture says about the gifts and without prejudice allow the Word of God to speak to us, where its silent we'll be silent, and what it says we'll believe amen!

V1-7

- The Corinthian church was filled with division so much so that were told that the Apostle Paul wrote at least three letters to them two of which are recorded for all to read and study. **V1** we see that Paul is speaking to believers, as he calls his readers brethren, and in this context he doesn't want them to be ignorant about spiritual gifts, implying that up to this point they are.
- As believers there's nothing wrong about being wrong, when it becomes really problematic is once we've been enlightened and yet still refuse to change, that's when we get ourselves and others into trouble. It's been **25yrs** since Jesus was crucified, and Paul has planted many churches in and around the Roman and Gentile provinces, and because the areas in which these churches have been planted and the background from which many of the people have grown up in, there has been many things that the church has been ignorant about that Paul has corrected.
- One is **God's plan for Israel > Rom 11:25**, another is the **Second coming of Jesus Christ > 1Thess 4:13**, and here he says "**Don't be ignorant of spiritual gifts**" > **1Cor 12:1**. Spiritual gifts are defined as "**Gracious Endowments**" leading to miraculous results, these all came by the Holy Spirit after we have given our lives to Jesus. That means before Christ we didn't possess them, but after Christ we were supernaturally given them in order to fulfill God's purpose in our lives.
- **V2-3** we see this by how Paul describes the spiritual state of the Corinthians before believing in Christ as their Savior, how in their past they were led astray by pagan idolatry, and that these false beliefs didn't adequately prepare them for an accurate understanding of spiritual gifts. I believe we can all relate to what Paul is saying how our past beliefs and experiences built up within us a poor understanding of biblical truth, Who the Holy Spirit is, and How He works in us.
- **V3** this is why every cult, false belief, incorrect teaching starts by attacking Who Jesus is, they'll either try and minimize His God Head, His Holiness, or His Righteousness, in order to make Him just a man like us and therefore fallible, so we can pull Him down and lift ourselves up. But when we profess that Jesus is Lord, that He is God, it's by the Holy Spirit, and when people attack Jesus even using the bible to try and justify their false beliefs about Him it's not of God but self.

- **V4-6** we see in these three verses how a better understanding of the gifts are meant **to bring unity, show diversity, and produce maturity**. Notice the **gifts** are **diverse**, the ministries are **different**, and the **activities vast**, but it is all the same Spirit, the same Lord, and the same God. This proves that even in diversity God desires unity, for no matter how many gifts there are, and how many ministries being done by gifted people, there is still only one gift Giver > The Lord.
- **V7** is a very interesting verse, as it tells us that God has given us the Spirit in order to build up the body, and so in giving us spiritual Endowments, they allow us to serve, minister, and bless those around us so that they may grow and mature. This means I must **discover**, and then **develop** so I may deploy my spiritual gifts in order for the church to properly function correctly and if I don't then I leave a gaping hole that God intended for me to fill that goes unattended.
- **Eph 4:11-16** it says God gave us people to help grow and mature the church, and for them to be able to do this they have to be able to perform certain duties within the body that require particular gifting. Earlier I said spiritual gifts were defined as "**Gracious Endowments**"
- Webster's describes an endowment as funds or property donated to an institution, individual, or group, in order to produce income. So God has donated to us His institution, spiritual gifts, in order for us to produce health and growth within the body, that will further the Kingdom, which to God is the equivalent of producing income. Wow!