

## Gifted for a Reason Pt 2

### 1 Corinthians 12:8-12

- Last week we talked about as believers that there's nothing wrong with being wrong, but when wrong becomes problematic is once we've been enlightened and yet we still refuse to change, that's when we get ourselves into serious trouble. There are three things that the Apostle Paul said the church was completely wrong about, he called them "**ignorant**", Webster's describes ignorant as lacking knowledge, information or awareness about a particular thing. I don't know about you I have been called this before and without fail this word stings, as it emphasizes a lack of understanding of something that I sorely need, and yet I somehow don't realize it until now.
- There **3** things Paul didn't want the church to be "**ignorant**" of > **1<sup>st</sup> God's plan for Israel, Rom 11:25, 2<sup>nd</sup> The Second coming of Jesus Christ > 1Thess 4:13, 3<sup>rd</sup> Spiritual Gifts > 1Cor 12:1**. This week we'll discuss why Spiritual gifts are included in this all important "**must have the right information category**", as Paul will go on to say that without the correct application of spiritual gifts then **unity, diversity, and maturity**, will be sorely lacking not only in an individual's spiritual walk, but also in the church's spiritual life. In the Corinthian church they were misusing their spiritual gifts, treating them like children with toys instead of as adults with valuable tools.

### V8-12

- Paul said in **V7** that the gifts are given for the good of the whole church, and not for an individual's enjoyment, this means corporate employment, so the whole church family benefits. Example a father gets a promotion at work more money, better benefits, better hours, who should benefit from that, him of course, but what about his family, his wife, his kids, they also should see the fruit of that blessing as well shouldn't they? Single, same scenario, more money, better benefits, better hours, should you just bank the extra funds, or should the church see some of it? Better hours mean more time for yourself, but also more time to be used by God.
- **V8** lists the first two gifts > **Word of Wisdom** and **Word of Knowledge**, these gifts fall under the category of speaking gifts, and although they are similar in name and category, they are very different in application. Word of Wisdom is the ability to understand and apply God's truth to a delicate situation in order to expose its true nature of whether it's right or wrong. Example: **1Kings 3:16-28**- King Solomon using a Word of Wisdom to decide which mother a child belonged
- **Word of Knowledge** the power to communicate information that has been Divinely revealed that God's will and His way may be glorified. Example: **Acts 5:1-11**- Peter with Ananias and Sapphires, **2 Kings 5:20-27**- Elisha the prophet has just healed Naaman the Syrian, and when Naaman offered to pay him for his services Elisha refused, and this angered Gehaze Elisha's servant. So he takes matters into his own hands and goes behind Elisha back runs after Naaman lies to him to receive from him and then hides it and stands in front of Elisha like nothing happened and lies to him, as notice the Elisha gives him a chance to come clean and he doesn't.

- **V9 Faith** > this is different from saving faith, its considered a serving gift, and it has to do with supernaturally seeing something that God wants done and believing Him to sustain the confidence that God will do it regardless of the seemingly insurmountable odds. Example: **Acts 27:20-27**- seasoned sailors had given up all hope of being saved from the storm they were in until Paul told them not one person would die if they listen to him and stay in the boat. **V31-44** says that the men plotted to kill Paul even after what he said came true but God intervened.
- **V10 Working of Miracles** > Performing that which is humanly impossible **Acts 19:11-12**. **Healing** > miraculous power to heal diseases, and considered a sign gift. Example: **Acts 3:1-12**- although Peter and John were the instruments it's made very clear that the One who heals is the Lord Himself, as were just His vessels. Notice whenever miracles takes place in scripture 3 words usually accompany it **1. Power, 2. Wonder, 3. Sign**, all three of these point directly to God, **Power** is supernaturally given, **Wonder** awes the senses, **Sign** authenticates the message.
- **Prophecy** > is another of the speaking gifts, and is a person receiving direct revelation from God and transmitting them to others. Example: **Acts 21:10-14**- Agabus prophesied that the Jews would bound and deliver Paul to the Romans to be executed, **Acts 11:28-30** years earlier in Antioch he also predicted a great famine would happen during the days of Claudius Caesar which it did, and it prompted the church to send relief to the church. Prophecy is also the ability to forth tell a message > **Example**: Moses afraid to speak to Israel because of a speech impediment, so God sends him Aaron to forth speak for Moses as Moses forth spoke for God.
- **Discerning spirits** > serving gift, that enables a person to detect if someone who claims to be of God is speaking by the Holy Spirit or by Satan. This is an important gift as Satan loves to infiltrate the body with counterfeit words and work masquerading as blessings from God. Example: **Acts 8:9-24**- Simon the sorcerer seemingly got right with the Lord but it wasn't real, and Peter using the gift of discernment recognized that he hadn't truly surrendered on the inside even though he had made some changes on the outside, and sadly he was unwilling to yield himself fully.
- **Tongues and interpretation of tongues** are both sign gifts, Tongues allows you to speak in a language not previously learned, and it can be a heavenly language or human language > **1Cor 14:27-28**. Notice if there's not an interpretation than there shouldn't be anyone speaking in tongues in the church, but if you're alone its permissible. Interpretation of tongues is the ability to understand a language which you've never known before and give its message. **1 Cor 14:1-5** Paul said unless there is interpretation prophesy is greater sadly like today the Corinthians had gotten that backwards and desired to speak in tongues above all else and it led to confusion.
- **V11-12** Correct understanding of the gifts leads to proper usage which in turn brings about unity by showing our diversity which leads to maturity, as everyone is doing their part. Notice Who is giving us the gift and who needs to be in control while were operating in these gifts **"The Holy**

**Spirit**” only then can we not become prideful. He uses the human body to illustrate his point as the body is **1** with many members and different functions, who work in unity for the good of all