

From Sinners to Saints

1 Corinthians 12:1-8

- Chapters twelve through fourteen are centrally important for the body of Christ, as it speaks about the Church's understanding of spiritual growth and spiritual gifts. If you grew up in or around church you know there are a lot of different opinions and thoughts when it comes to this subject, as many don't want anything to do with the mention of spiritual gifts, while others over emphasize of certain gifts misrepresent what scripture has said about it, the key to all of this is what does the Bible say!

V1-8

- **V1-3** Paul shares that the Church should not be ignorant when it comes to spiritual gifts, and he compares the Corinthian Churches past life as unbelievers saying when you didn't know The Lord it was expected that you wouldn't understand spiritual gifting, because then you were carried away by idolatry and superstition.
- But now that you are children of God with The Spirit of God living inside of you there is no reason for you to not know what's available to you. In **Philip 1:9-10, Col 1:9-10** Paul prayed that both of these churches receive discernment, which is the opposite ignorance. In three different places in the New Testament the Apostle Paul said "**Don't be ignorant**" > **1. Rom 11:25**- Of God's plan for Israel, **2. 1Cor 12:1**- Of Spiritual gifts, **3. 1Thess 4:13**- Of the second coming of Jesus and our eternal state.
- In all three Satan attacks our view relentlessly, in the media he wants us to have this view of despising Israel, turning our backs on them despite what scripture says. Spiritual gifts so much confusion and discord which we'll get into today that affects the unity of the body, and our trust that Jesus is coming back, and how do you know where you will spend eternity, these are constant attacks from the enemy of our soul
- **V2** reminds them that their past like many of ours did not adequately prepare them for a proper and accurate understanding of spiritual gifts, so many of their past experiences and teachings had built a poor representation of the Holy Spirit and His gifts, causing them to have a skewed view when the subject was brought up.

- **V3** Paul lays down a principle for all of us to remember when it comes to discerning matters regarding spiritual gifts: Judge things by how they relate to Jesus Christ, if it uplifts The Lord and not themselves? does it glorify Jesus and no one else? Does it promote the true gospel and not a false one? These things will determine whether something is a move of the Spirit or a counterfeit move of the flesh > **Jn 15:26**- when The Holy Spirit comes He will testify of Who? Jesus, not someone or something else.
- **V4-6** there are diversity of gifts, we see them listed in Rom 12, Eph 11, and here, but the same Spirit, so the gifts are diverse, just like our ministries and spiritual activities are different, but it's all the same Spirit, The same Lord, the same God, doing the work. So diversity in gifts yet there is only One Giver of those gifts. Now he is going to list nine spiritual gifts in the following verses, but remember there's more in other places, were only covering what's listed in this chapter.
- Before we get into the list I must say this, there is a difference between having a talent and possessing a spiritual gift, a talent you can have unsaved, a spiritual gift you get once you become a believer. Singing is a talent not a spiritual gift, but whether it's a talent or a spiritual gift, once you are saved then you are expected to use both for the glory of God, as The Lord is going to hold us accountable for each.
- **V7** the purpose of the manifestation of the Spirit is to benefit the whole Church family, not just an individual, but everyone. The gifts are meant to unify not divide, so if you have a particular gift its not meant to promote yourself, like look what I can do and you can't, its suppose to be a blessing to everyone around you.
- **V8 Word of Wisdom**- it's the ability to speak with supernatural insight into either solving difficult problems or exposing the true nature of a thing, whether it's right or wrong in the sight of God and the benefit of people. **Acts 6:1-5** a potentially explosive situation arises when the Greek widows thought the Jewish widows were getting preferential treatment in the distribution of resources so the disciples decide to let the gentiles pick seven people of their choosing but spiritual integrity.
- **Word of Knowledge**- is the ability to apply and communicate spiritual information that has been Divinely revealed. That can be taking seemingly complex doctrinal truths and breaking down so that others may understand them and apply them to their lives. Paul exercised this gift in **1Cor 15:51** when he says "**behold I tell you a mystery**" and he goes on to say that we shall not all sleep but we shall all be changed, speaking that not all will die before the coming of our Lord.

- In these first two gifts we see that they are similar but diverse, as one may have supernatural knowledge yet have no wisdom from God in the application of that knowledge, then what benefit is there? You need both in order for them to be effective, thus the unity of the body, as the church needs people with these gifts.