

“...And He Gave Gifts To  
Men.”

Properly Functioning in the Body

# Introduction: Dry Bones Coming Back to Life!

- ▶ Ez. 37:1-14- An interesting set of pictures/promises
  - ▶ A valley of dry bones (completely lifeless)
  - ▶ A transformation through the activation of a spiritual gift (Armies are for kingdoms!)
  - ▶ A promise of hope made to a people in a moment but also for those in the future
- ▶ This is something that the people of God were still waiting on by the time that the day of Pentecost arrived

# Introduction: Dry Bones Coming Back to Life!

- ▶ 1 Cor. 12:12-27- the first time that Paul uses the “Body” theme (major Ez. 37 overtones)
  - ▶ Individuals are the “bones” that were dead, dry, and hopeless.
  - ▶ Individuals have been activated to come together by revelation from the Spirit.
  - ▶ Local churches (i.e. individual bones connected with sinew and flesh) now are that “exceedingly great army” that filled the valley and are tasked with Kingdom protection/expansion (“life to the lifeless”)
- ▶ Vs. 27- “Now you (all) are the body of Christ and individually members of it.”
  - ▶ Everyone has a specific role to play in the Body that they are assigned to
  - ▶ Everyone then has a destiny that they have been called to (not just general corporate destiny of a local church Body/Temple, but a specific one to each member/stone!)

# Proper Body Function

- ▶ Point of fact: NT theology and practice does not allow for a spiritually dead life (Spirit infilling/baptism is not optional!)
  - ▶ John 16:7- Jesus' ascension required the Helper to come to all who would follow Him
  - ▶ Acts 2:38-39- It is forgiveness AND the gift of the Spirit that is for EVERYONE who is called to Him!
  - ▶ Rom. 8:9-11- Paul is clear that being active in the Spirit is the only way for one to "belong" to Christ
- ▶ Note: Acts 19:1-7- the only place that we see "saved" people that are not filled with the Spirit; Paul rectifies this immediately upon meeting them.

# Proper Body Function

- ▶ In Acts, when the Spirit baptism occurs, there are four initial distinct outward markers that manifest and all are present on the Day of Pentecost:
  - ▶ Speaking in tongues- vs. 4
  - ▶ Exuberant/uncommon praise- vs. 11
  - ▶ Uncommon boldness- vs. 14
  - ▶ Prophecy- vs. 14-41
- ▶ Note: can happen through the Lord imparting on His own or by His activity through others (“laying on of hands”)

# Proper Body Function

- ▶ Beyond those initial markers, there are other manifestations as well in the descriptive passages of Acts:
  - ▶ Healings- 3:1-10
  - ▶ Exorcisms- 16:16-18
  - ▶ Visions- 10:9-48
  - ▶ Angelic interactions- 12:6-11
  - ▶ Curses (from the Spirit)- 13:4-12
  - ▶ Nature miracles- 16:25-34
  - ▶ Resurrections- 9:36-41

# “And He Gave Gifts to Men”

- ▶ As the church grew and developed, we see “categories” of gift that emerge; further, it is expected that EVERYONE that is a member display at least one gift! (“...and He gave gifts to men”)
- ▶ The five “gift” passages are:
  - ▶ Rom. 12:6-8
  - ▶ 1 Cor. 12:4-11 and 27-31
  - ▶ 1 Cor 14:26-27
  - ▶ Eph. 4:7-16
  - ▶ 1 Pet. 4:10-11

# “And He Gave Gifts to Men”

1. Prophecy/Prophets- prophetes- a prophet; an interpreter of the divine will gifted at expositing divine truth; one who forth- and fore-tells about specific situations
2. Word of Wisdom/knowledge- logos sophia/gnosis- “one who applies understanding or skill in a situation sometimes through revelation, other times through experience”
3. Distinguishing of spirits- diakrisis pneuma- the act of judgement or passing sentence on “look alike” spirits when everything looks the same.
4. Service/Servants- diakonia- waiting at a table; service; ministry empowered service guided by faith
5. Teaching/Teachers- didaskalos- an instructor; a master of their craft/information; a teacher
6. Generous Contribution- metadidomi haplotes- to give or share to impart with single-minded simplicity and open-heartedly; giving without guile
7. Leading/Leaders- proistemi- to rule over: to give direction to; to practice diligently; to establish a pre-set example of character that provides the needed model to guide others
8. Mercy- eleeo- to have pity on; to show mercy in a way that expresses God’s “covenant-loyalty-mercy”



# “And He Gave Gifts to Men”

9. Apostles- apostolos- a messenger; one sent on a mission; a delegate who represents Jesus Himself
10. Workers of Miracles/Healings- dunamis/iama- “powerful acts of healing or remedy”
11. Helps- antilempsis- a laying hold of; help; one who aids by bringing grace and power to meet a specific need
12. Administration- kubernesis- steering; governing; one who pilots a ship; a steersman
13. Tongues/Interpretation- glossa/diermeneuo- “a language not one’s own that is translated accurately and thoroughly in order bring understanding.
14. Evangelists- euaggelistes- an evangelist or bringer of good news as a vocation; a herald
15. Pastors- poimen- a shepherd; a feeder, protector, and ruler of the flock; someone that God specifically raises up to care for the total well-being of His people
16. Hospitality- philoxenos- loving strangers by treating them as honored guests
17. Speaking- laleo- “to talk concerning specific persons or things like Jesus and the apostles.”

## Conclusion: Tertullian's Advice

- ▶ “Therefore, blessed *ones*, whom the grace of God awaits, when you ascend from that most sacred font of your new birth, and spread your hands for the first time in the house of your mother, together with your brethren, ask from the Father, ask from the Lord, that His own specialties of grace and distributions of gifts 1 Corinthians 12:4-12 may be supplied you. Ask, says He, and you shall receive. Well, you *have* asked, and have received; you *have* knocked, and it has been opened to you.”