

The Beauty of Christian CommUNITY

Studies in the First and Second Epistles to the Corinthians

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

“One Spirit, Many Gifts”

Introduction: I pray you would continue to study and seek God for clarification and understanding of this topic. But we must approach God’s word with humility understanding that we all have biases and presuppositions when we approach the text.

The God who Speaks (1 Corinthians 12:1-3)

- a. Paul is providing full disclosure regarding the work of the Spirit in the life of the church. We have a responsibility and obligation to learn and apply God’s word to our life. The Holy Spirit indwells us and teaches us and helps us understand the word of God (1 John 2:27). Paul provides an example for all Christian leaders to provide the basic foundations of Bible education for the people you disciple.
- b. Paul has addressed idolatry and hints of pagan practices creeping into the Corinthian worship. They now serve the God who speaks (Hebrews 1:1-2).
- c. The Holy Spirit will not lead you to say or make you speak lies about Jesus. Just because a person speaks by the Holy Spirit does not give their words the authority of Scripture (John 21:25).

II. God is Working in the Life of the Church (1 Corinthians 12:4-6)

- a. Spiritual gifts are God’s works in the and through the church. Remember that God is the source of every spiritual gift, ministry, and activity in the church. The key is unity not uniformity. The beauty of the church is in the unified diversity.

III. The Manifestation of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:7)

- a. Spiritual gifts are the manifestation of the Spirit. The manifestation of the Spirit is for the common good. Spiritual gifting does not equal spiritual maturity. Criteria to consider: what does the person believe about Jesus (1 John 4:1)? Are they producing fruit that verify their words (Matthew 7:15-20)? We should live with divine expectation that God would allow us to witness Him doing great things for people.

IV. A Taste of the Kingdom (1 Corinthians 12:8-11)

- a. Message of wisdom (Matthew 11:19; Acts 7:10; Luke 2:40; Acts 6:3; Acts 6:10; Ephesians 1:17; Colossians 1:9; 2 Peter 3:25). Paul started the letter by exalting

the wisdom of God/message of wisdom/message about Christ (1 Corinthians 1:24-30). The message of wisdom is communicated by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:6-13). Message of knowledge (Luke 1:77; 2 Corinthians 2:14; Colossians 2:3). This gift helps believers grow in the knowledge of Lord Jesus (2 Peter 3:18). Paul makes effort to distinguish wisdom and knowledge of God from worldly counterfeits. Messages of wisdom and knowledge should be used to combat false doctrine and help people grow in Christ.

- b. Faith is strong confidence in God or strong reliance upon God (Mark 11:22; Hebrews 11:1; Hebrews 11:6; Mark 4:40). Faith is the key to getting things done (Matthew 17:20; Matthew 21:21; Acts 6:5-8). Gifts of healings is describing divine healing performed by God. Healings like other gifts are the manifestation of the Spirit, they are the work of God, not the work of man to be controlled at will. Physical healing is a foretaste of the age to come when all believers will receive a glorified immortal body. James makes a connection between the prayer of faith and gifts of healings in the life of the church (James 5:14-16).
- c. The working of miracles (power) are manifestations of power. (Acts 8:13; Acts 19:11; Galatians 3:5). Some would argue that these “sign gifts” were foundational for the establishment of the church and faded away after the first century. However, every time we witness a person receive Christ, we are witnessing God transform a sinner into a saint. That is a miracle. That is a demonstration of power. When people are delivered from demonic strongholds, demonic oppression, or demonic possession that is a miracle. In relation. Distinguishing between spirits is needed. God established a spiritual army that He is using as He rescues people from the kingdom of darkness (Ephesians 6:10-20). If you are a believer, you are a soldier in a spiritual war for the souls of the lost. Prophecy, tongues, and interpretation of tongues will be addressed in Chapter 14.
- d. Holy Spirit works all these gifts and gives them to individual people as He wills. God can do multiple works in multiple people at the same time. God has no limitations. Spiritual gifts display power and glory of God.

Prayerfully seek God in community to discover how He may be working through you to benefit the church. If you are not saved God wants to give you the gift of salvation. When you receive Christ God will give you the gift of Holy Spirit. God Himself will come and dwell in you. Will you receive God’s gift today?

*Dr. Erin Daniel Bell
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