

# THE GIVER AND HIS GIFTS

## The Giver and His Gifts

### Part 9

April 24, 2022

1 John 4:1-6 “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.<sup>2</sup> By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,<sup>3</sup> and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.

<sup>4</sup> Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who

is in you is greater than he who is in the world. <sup>5</sup>They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup>We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.” May the Lord add His Blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His Word; Amen!

Today we will be continuing our series “The Giver and His Gifts” Over the past few months, I have sought to grow us in our understanding of the Biblical text concerning the Holy Spirit and the functions and purposes thereof.

I will endeavor to teach on Orderly Gifts, Gift Protocol, and well-ordered Worship. And in 1 Corinthians chapter 14, the Apostle Paul lays out his expectations, his protocol of expectation if you will, for the manifestation of Gifts and Worship within the confines of the Local Church.

Today I will teach with a very clear and concise outline of my expectations of order in this House based upon the Word of God as well as my expectation of how everyone in this church body is to conduct themselves when it comes to Gifts and Worship!

Remember that it was the Apostle Paul who said in **1 Corinthians 14:33**, “<sup>33</sup>For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.” Therefore, it would seem to reason that if we are doing anything that is breeding and/or creating confusion then we are not manifesting the Spirit of God but rather the spirit that is in this world or simply our flesh.

Remember, things that are powerful are always in order and if we are out of order then we are not powerful but rather pitiful. 1 Corinthians 14 is broken into two separate parts: Verses 1-25 is focused on Prophecy and Tongues; Verses 26-40 is focused on Orderly Worship.

## **1. Our Motives to Desire Spiritual Gifts should be for the Sake of Building up the Church and not Ourselves!**

- a. 1 Corinthians 14:1-5, “Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. <sup>2</sup>For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit. <sup>3</sup>On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their up building and encouragement and consolation. <sup>4</sup>The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. <sup>5</sup>Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater

than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.”

- b. If our motives are anything other than to build up the Church then we are in error (REPEAT). The Holy Spirit was given to us in so that we might build His Church and not our egos, or our own platforms, or our own kingdoms.
- c. If we ever seek to use His Spirit to build our Kingdom then our actions are satanic in nature and we are guilty of committing the same sin as Lucifer; which subsequently lead to his fall. If we are not the Giver of the Gifts then we are in error to use the Gifts for our personal benefit.
- d. But not only should our motives be pure and our desires for the Manifestation of the Spirit to be pure in its motives...

## 2. Speaking in Tongues is Powerful when Wielded Properly!

- a. 1 Corinthians 14:6-9, “<sup>6</sup>Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching? <sup>7</sup>If even lifeless instruments, such as the flute or the harp, do not give distinct notes, how will anyone know what is played? <sup>8</sup>And if the bugle gives an indistinct sound, who will get ready for battle? <sup>9</sup>So with



yourselves, if with your tongue you utter speech that is not intelligible, how will anyone know what is said? For you will be speaking into the air.”

- b. From this text, we can surmise that speaking in tongues in a Church service is to be interpreted for others to benefit; not rather for the sake of your benefit of trying to prove your level of spirituality. Gifts are not a barometer of your holiness; your lifestyle is.
- c. With this in mind, say this with me, “My gifts are for others; they are for We and not just for Me”
- d. If you feel that you have a message or a Word in Tongues, DO NOT, I Repeat, DO NOT stand up during the worship time and begin screaming in tongues. DO NOT DO THAT!
- e. No one can hear you, it is distracting and it is out of order. Let us recall verse 9 together, <sup>9</sup>So with yourselves, if with your tongue you utter speech that is not intelligible, how will anyone know what is said? For you will be speaking into the air.”
- f. And it is all the more unintelligible if you do it during worship when the music’s volume is far greater than your ability to project your voice.

- g. Remember that a Word in Tongues is to be interpreted for the benefit of the Body; not to be manifested in so that you can try to impress others.
- h. Now don't get offended; this is what the Bible says. Many of us equate "Pentecostal expression" to a free for all of spiritual gifts and it turns the Church service into a circus where everyone tries to get the microphone at least once. Again, that is not Biblical nor is it even a practical expectation and it will not be the manner in which we conduct ourselves in this Church. I will speak more to the protocol of gifts next Sunday.
- i. Again gifts are powerful when wielded properly; they are out of order when used improperly.

### 3. The Gifts are given to Impact others and not Impart Confusion

- a. 1 Corinthians 14:10-12, <sup>10</sup>There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning, <sup>11</sup>but if I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me. <sup>12</sup>So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.

- b. Notice the phrase of “building up the Church” is all throughout this passage of text because, again, the finality of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit is to build up the Church corporately and within the body; to build US up as a community of those who follow Christ!
- c. With this in mind, we learn a valuable truth based upon the account of the Tower of Babel in Genesis chapter 11; you can’t build something that will last when no one is able to communicate and gain insight to grow from one another. **A language barrier will always lead to dissolution and separation because of one factor; the inability to communicate breeds confusion.**
- d. And it is Paul’s emphatic explanation of the Gift of Tongues specifically that is intriguing because notice how Paul is seeking to get us to understand that, though the Gift is viable and necessary, it can breed confusion and frustration if it is not employed properly.
- e. If a gift is generating confusion in the Body then that gift is out of order. **PERIOD.** If God is not the Author of Confusion then stop blaming God the Holy Spirit and the Gifts on the confusion that you created; it’s not on Christ, it is on you. Now you can try to get upset with me but this is Bible. Am I in the Word? Yes, thus you can’t argue with me because this is truth found within the Word.

- f. “Oh but Pastor, the Holy Ghost just comes over me and I can’t help but just be taken over by the Holy Spirit.” Nice try but that excuse is not Biblical either. The Apostle Paul states emphatically in 1 Corinthians 14:32, “...the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets.”
- g. Simply put, by this he means that the Holy Spirit does not “take over” a person’s spirit to the point where that person loses restraint and self-control. Demons do that; the Holy Spirit does not so my question to you is what are you manifesting? A demonic spirit or the Holy Spirit? Church, the Holy Spirit doesn’t take over.
- h. The opposite is true; one of the nine fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23 is self-control thus anyone who is legitimately manifesting a spiritual gift can always decide when and how to start or stop manifesting said gift because the Same Spirit that is manifesting the Gift is the same Spirit that manifests the Fruit; therefore the Fruit and the Gifts will not conflict nor undermine each other.



i. The Holy Spirit doesn't manifest a lack of self-control when it comes to the Gifts of the Spirit but rather increases the capacity to be far more self-controlled to ensure that the Gift is received and has an impact upon the hearers.

- Our motives to desire Spiritual Gifts should be for the sake of building up the Church and not Ourselves!
- Speaking in Tongues is Powerful when Wielded Properly!
- The Gifts are given to Impact others and not Impart Confusion