

THE GIVER AND HIS GIFTS

The Giver and His Gifts

Part 10

May 1, 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. ² By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,³ 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.

⁴ 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. ⁵They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We 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!

Last Sunday, we started working our way through 1 Corinthians 14 where the Apostle Paul begins to speak to the flow, the protocol, and the expectations that he had of us when it comes to the Move of the Holy Spirit in a Church service. I am doing my best as your Pastor to teach and develop our church culture in such a way in so that when the Lord begins to move in greater manifestations and in greater ways that all of us are ready, developed and disciplined in what the Scripture teaches regarding the Gifts and the Move of the Holy Ghost. I am getting our House in Order for a Great Outpouring!

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

- a. 1 Corinthians 14:10-12, ¹⁰There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning, ¹¹but 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. ¹²So 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.

- f. 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.
- g. "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."
- h. 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.
- i. 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.

- j. 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.

2. There is a difference between giving a Word in Tongues and Praying in the Holy Ghost!

- a. 1 Corinthians 14:13-15, ¹³Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret. ¹⁴For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. ¹⁵What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.”
- b. When you hear me say, “Pray in your prayer language” or “Pray in the Holy Ghost”, the instruction is to pray in tongues or as I refer to it as our “prayer language”.
- c. Praying in the Spirit is something that I would encourage you to do every day.
- d. A Word in Tongues or a Message in Tongues in a Church service requires an interpreter for the benefit of the Body being built up.

- e. But when you pray in the Holy Spirit, you are building yourself up in your Faith and in your Spirit man.
- f. But not only is Praying in Tongues a vital part of the Spirit Filled Life...

3. Spiritual Gifts and Spiritual Development are Two Sides of the Same Coin!

- a. 1 Corinthians 14:16-25, ¹⁶“Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say “Amen” to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying?¹⁷ For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up. ¹⁸I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. ¹⁹Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue. ²⁰Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature. ²¹In the Law it is written, “By people of strange tongues and by the lips of foreigners will I speak to this people, and even then they will not listen to me, says the Lord.” ²²Thus tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for

believers. ²³ If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds? ²⁴ But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, ²⁵ the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.”

- b. The Gifts of the Spirit are a part of demonstrating the Power of the Spirit of God to others who are not believers for the sake of their conversion and not their applause of you as a Super Spiritual Person.
- c. Paul is encouraging us to pursue the Gifts and the manifestation thereof however, Paul also goes on to say concerning our Spiritual Development, “²⁰ Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature.”
- d. Look at these two points as two sides of a scale: Spiritual Gifts versus Spiritual Development. The two need to be in tandem when it comes to the two having value in your life because there are far too many of us who are consumed with Gifts and have zero Spiritual Development whatsoever.

- e. Hence the reason why Paul instructs us to not be children, to not be immature, in our thinking but rather be mature in our thinking and our conduct. This is the very reason why I taught on the Fruit of the Spirit several weeks ago in the midst of our “Giver and His Gifts” series.
- f. But not only is gifts and development both necessary to grow in tandem...

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