

“Spiritual Gifts – Introduction”

(Part 1 of a 16 Part Series)

Seven Important Issues Paul did not want his readers to be ignorant of:

agnoeo { ag-no-eh'-o }

AV - be ignorant 7, ignorant 4, know not 4, understand not 3, ignorantly 2, unknown 2; 22

GK - 51 { ajnoevw }

- 1) to be ignorant, not to know
- 2) not to understand, unknown
- 3) to err or sin through mistake, to be wrong 1

1. **Rom 1:13** – Ignorant of God's personal plan for your life.
2. **Rom 11:25** – The mystery of God's grace and acceptability in Christ Jesus alone.
3. **1Cor 10:1-13** – Ignorant of the wiles of the flesh and God's provisions in all temptations.
4. **1Cor 12:1** – Ignorant of Spiritual gifts.
5. **2Cor 1:8** – Ignorant of how difficult ministry can be at times.
6. **2Cor 2:11** – Ignorant of the devices of Satan.
7. **1Thess 4:13** – Ignorant of Christ's redemptive plan and the coming Rapture.

Holy Spirit:

- **GIFT** of the Holy Spirit promised to all those truly “born again.”
Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ **for** the remission of sins; and you shall receive the **gift** of the Holy Spirit.
- **GIFTS** of the Holy Spirit given to those that “**desire**” them.
1 Corinthians 12:31 **But earnestly desire the best gifts.** And yet I show you a more excellent way.
1 Corinthians 14:1 **Pursue love**, and **desire spiritual gifts**, but especially that you may prophesy.
- **Both are given as the result of a person asking the Holy Spirit to come.**
- Why don't they happen at the same time?
 - The “GIFTS” were always given subsequent to believing in the Bible
- **“Pursue LOVE” – Not “pursue spiritual gifts”**
 - **Gifts will follow those that believe**

Mark 16:17-18 “And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;
18 “they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

What are Spiritual Gifts?

1 Corinthians 12:1 Now concerning spiritual **gifts**, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:

1 Corinthians 14:1 Pursue love, and desire spiritual **gifts**, but especially that you may prophesy.

- The word “**gifts**”, in italics in most bibles, means that this word was added to the original manuscripts to give clarity and context to the sentence.
- “**Spirituals**” – more literate translation.

1 Corinthians 12:1-6 Now concerning spiritual **gifts**, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:

2 You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led.

3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.

4 There are diversities of **gifts**, but the same Spirit.

- **Not italicized – actual word being used here.**

{ khar'-is-mah }

AV - gift 15, free gift 2; 17

GK - 5922 { cavrisma }

- 1) a favor with which one receives without any merit of his own
- 2) the gift of divine grace
- 3) the gift of faith, knowledge, holiness, virtue
- 4) the economy of divine grace, by which the pardon of sin and eternal salvation is appointed to sinners in consideration of the merits of Christ laid hold of by faith

5) **grace or gifts denoting extraordinary powers, distinguishing certain Christians and enabling them to serve the church of Christ, the reception of which is due to the power of divine grace operating on their souls by the Holy Spirit** 2

1. Bestowed in grace
2. Entirely undeserved
3. Power and operation due to God alone.

Unscriptural prejudice: (Easton's Bible Dictionary)

- **GIFTS, SPIRITUAL** — (Gr. charismata), gifts supernaturally bestowed on the early Christians, each having his own proper gift or gifts for the edification of the body of Christ. These were the result of the extraordinary operation of the Spirit, as on the day of Pentecost. They were the gifts of speaking with tongues, casting out devils, healing, etc. (Mark 16:17, 18), usually communicated by the medium of the laying on of the hands of the apostles (Acts 8:17; 19:6; 1 Tim. 4:14). **These charismata were enjoyed only for a time. They could not continue always in the Church. They were suited to its infancy and to the necessities of those times.**³

Abuse <::::::::::> “Un-use”

- New Testament definitely reveals that the exercise of Spiritual gifts can be imperfect.

Is it an inexact science?

- Are the gifts really to be used with complete trial and error?
- **Definitely not**, Scripture give us a rather complete, but not exhaustive, rulebook.

The Church of Corinth:

1 Cor. 12-14

- Paul never questions the **“genuiness”** of their Spiritual gifts
- Paul only questions the issues of **Abuse – Un-use**
 - **Paul deals with these problems in three chapters:**
 1. Chapter 12: the nature and purpose of gifts
 2. Chapter 13: the superiority of love (12:31-13:13),
 3. Chapter 14: the regulating of the exercise of gifts by love
- **Not one single line in which Paul suggests that they had counterfeit gifts inspired by deceiving spirits.**
- **Why were the gifts abused at Corinth?**
 - Not the Holy Spirit's fault!
 - Abuse and “un-use” always lie in the problem of the vessels.

Golden rules:

1. God has ordained the whole church to be an important of the “body of Christ”.

³Easton, M. (1996, c1897). *Easton's Bible dictionary*. Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.
Paul Berry

2. The purpose of fellowship is to edify, encourage, and comfort the whole body, not just the toes, the hair, the eye-lashes, etc.

1 Corinthians 14:5 I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, **that the church may receive edification.**

3. If it doesn't edify it doesn't belong – simple as that

1 Corinthians 14:26 How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. **Let all things be done for edification.**

4. Abuses must not lead to “un-use”

1 Corinthians 14:39 Therefore, brethren, **desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues.**

5. If it isn't decent and orderly it doesn't belong

1 Corinthians 14:40 **Let all things be done decently and in order.**

- **Who decides what specifics obey the rules in 2 & 4?**
 - Elders in attendance
 - Bible study leader

The Greatest Golden Principle:

- **When there's no love –**
 - You become just a nuisance – a sounding brass, a clanging cymbal (1 Cor. 13:1)
 - “I am nothing” (13:2)
 - “It profits me nothing” (13:3)

Chuck Smith:

***“Love that reaches up is adoration,
Love that reaches out is affection,
Love that stoops down is grace.”***