

“What He Gives and How He Gives It” (Part 2 of 16)

1 Cor. 12:1-11

R. A. Torrey (Pastor of Moody Memorial Church, Supervisor of Moody Bible Institute, wrote 40 books on salvation, soul winning and theology, Founder of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles, BIOLA) : “The topics I most often spoke on were the Word of God, the second coming of Christ, praying, and the work of the Holy Spirit. I guess my stress on the importance and necessity of the baptism of the Holy Spirit became a hallmark of my preaching.”

Oswald Chambers: “When we are baptized with the Holy Ghost, we are no longer isolated believers but part of the mystical Body of Christ. Beware of attempting to live a holy life alone – it is impossible.”

Charles Finney: “I have often been surprised and pained that to this day so little stress is laid upon this qualification (the Baptism of the Holy Spirit) for preaching Christ to a sinful world. Without the direct teaching of the Holy Spirit, a man will never make much progress in preaching the gospel. No one has, at any time, any right to expect success, unless he first secures this endowment of power from on high.”

F.B. Meyer: “I think many suffer from different forms of Spiritual weakness, all of which are directly attributable to the lack of the Holy Spirit. American Christians aren't destitute of Him. If they were, they would not be Christians at all. But the Holy Spirit is like a shallow brook within them. Why should this satisfy us? Pentecostal fullness, the enduement of power, the baptism of fire – all are within our reach. Let a holy ambition inspire us to get all that our God wills to bestow.”

1 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.

- Paul contrasted their experience as unconverted idolaters with their present experience as Christians.
 - They had worshiped dead idols, but now they belonged to the living God.
 - Their idols never spoke to them, but God spoke to them by His Spirit, and He even spoke *through* them in the gift of prophecy.
 - When they were lost, they were under the control of the demons (1 Cor. 10:20) and were led astray (“carried away,” 1 Cor. 12:2). But now the Spirit of God lived in them and directed them. ¹

Psalm 115:1-9 Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, But to Your name give glory,
Because of Your mercy, Because of Your truth.

¹Wiersbe, W. W. (1996, c1989). *The Bible exposition commentary*. "An exposition of the New Testament comprising the entire 'BE' series"--Jkt. (1 Co 12:1). Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books.

2 Why should the Gentiles say, "So where is their God?"

3 But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.

4 Their idols are silver and gold, The work of men's hands.

5 They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see;

6 They have ears, but they do not hear; Noses they have, but they do not smell;

7 They have hands, but they do not handle; Feet they have, but they do not walk; Nor do they mutter through their throat.

8 **Those who make them are like them; So is everyone who trusts in them.**

9 O Israel, trust in the LORD; He is their help and their shield.

Habakkuk 2:18-20 "What profit is the image, that its maker should carve it, The molded image, a teacher of lies, That the maker of its mold should trust in it, To make mute idols?

19 Woe to him who says to wood, 'Awake!' To silent stone, 'Arise! It shall teach!' Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, Yet in it there is no breath at all.

20 But the LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him."

- **Accursed?**

1 Corinthians 16:22 If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed (*anathema*). O Lord, come!

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

5 There are differences of **ministries**, but the same Lord.

6 And there are diversities of **activities**, but it is the same God who works all in all.

- **"gifts"** – *charismata* – **"grace gifts"**: not based on ability or status.
- **"ministries"** – *diakonian* – the same word where we get "deacon's"
 - service
 - different arenas of gift use
- **"activities"/"workings"** – *energmaton*: (from ἐνεργεω [energeō], to operate, perform, energize).²
- **Ray Stedman:**
 - "diakonian" (ministries) – "the sphere in which a gift is performed."
 - "energmaton" (activities) – "the degree of power by which a gift is manifested or ministered on a specific occasion."

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one **for the profit of all:**

1 Peter 4:10 As each one has received a gift, **minister it to one another**, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

1 Corinthians 14:4-5 He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies **edifies the church**.⁵ I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that

²Robertson, A. (1997). *Word Pictures in the New Testament*. Vol.V c1932, Vol.VI c1933 by Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. (1 Co 12:6). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems.

you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, **that the church may receive edification.**

- **Important point:** all the gifts of the Holy Spirit are given in the context of the Body of Christ – that is, they are given to be used for the benefit of the local church.
 - **Therefore,** Christians who do not make church involvement (more than just attendance) a priority, are not using their gifts according to the purpose for which they were given.
 - **Example. Teaching** – if I don't come to church who will teach?
Prophecy – if I don't fellowship with other Christians to whom will I prophecy?
 - **Application:** The point is that when folks chose not to come to church they are neglecting their responsibility to the Lord and the local body of believers who are not receiving the benefit of their gifting.

8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,
9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,
10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another *different* kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

- Various lists according to various beliefs
- The more conservative the beliefs – usually the larger the list of gifts
- Scripture identifies about **28 gifts** that denote supernatural expression.

Romans 12:6-8 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: **if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching;8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.**

1 Corinthians 12:28 And God has appointed these in the church: **first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.**

Ephesians 4:11-13 And He Himself gave some to be **apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,**12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

- **Note: this is important** – don't fall into the trap of ranking the gifts by what you think is important.
- **The best gift is that gift which meets the immediate need!**
 - Ex. If you show up at an automobile accident and find a mother holding her injured child – the best gift is not prophecy! It's healing, faith and miracles!

Gifts can (and should) be developed

- Some gifts, like **teaching** for example, can and should be developed through repeated use and study of God's word.

2 Timothy 1:6 Therefore I remind you to **stir up the gift** of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

- Other gifts, like **healing**, can't really be developed – however, they are operated by faith **which can be developed** by prayer, hearing and study of God's Word and by use.

11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to **each one individually as He wills.**

- **Three important points here:**

- 1. "to each one"**

- each Holy Spirit baptized believer can be guaranteed of at least one gifting.

- 2. "individually"**

- Churches can be known for certain distinctives that are outstanding in their community
- God doesn't "gift" churches, buildings or ministries – He "gifts" people!
- If you are gifted, then your church becomes gifted, your ministry becomes gifted, etc.
- We need more gifted individuals – using their giftedness in our church – applying their giftedness to specific ministries.

- 3. "as He wills"**

- First: we know He does will for us to be gifted
- Second: we know "Father knows best!"
- Third: We will receive the perfect gift at the exact time for the exact purpose.
- Fourth: He'll never take it away from you