



LIVING WITH CHARISMA

OPENING COMMENT

Any talk about spiritual gifts elicits significant conversation in Christian circles. The majority of time will be spent considering the manifestation of the spectacular gifts. Our time will be spent ridiculing or recounting tales of tongues, healing, prophecy that impacted our current view of spiritual gifts in the 21st century. Yet, if we carefully read our passage we discover that we miss the whole point when we engage with the gifting of the spirit in this manner.

READ THE TEXT: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. ² You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. ³ Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit.

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

¹¹ All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.



UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

1. What is Paul's primary concern for the Corinthian church in regards to spiritual gifts? (vs. 1)
2. Paul is not concerned with how the Corinthians were formerly led towards idolatry, instead he is more concerned with characterizing the type of idol they formerly worshiped. What is his characterization? (vs. 2)
3. In contrast, the Spirit of God is an effective influencing force in the Christians life. What orientation does this influence take? (vs. 3)
4. Paul has one point in verses 4-6. What is the source of all the manifested gifts?
5. Who in the church is empowered with gifts? (vs. 6)
6. What is the purpose of the gifts being given (vs. 7)
7. Where, then, do the gifts find their origin and purpose? (vs. 11)

APPLYING THE TEXT

1. Paul is concerned that the Corinthian church is well informed on issues surrounding spiritual gifting. Where do you feel uninformed? If so, why do you feel uninformed?
2. How does placing the Lordship of Christ at the centre of spiritual gifting impact our view and practice of gifting?
3. We can spend a lot of time wrestling with the manifestation of the different gifts (i.e. what does tongues mean?) and forget to consider the purpose of the gifts given. How does considering spiritual gifting from the perspective of the common good impact the discussion on spiritual gifts?
4. How does understanding that gifting is rooted in the spirits power and will impact our view of those who display spiritual gifting?
5. How has the Spirit of God gifted you? How are you employing those gifts for the common good of your brothers and sisters in Christ?

BIBLICAL THREAD

1. Judges 6:34, 11:29 - The Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon and Jephthah respectively to lead the people
2. Judges 14-16 - The Spirit of the Lord comes upon Sampson.
3. Psalm 51:11 - David recognized the removal of the Spirit of God is detrimental to his leadership.
4. Romans 12:6-8, Ephesians 4:11-12 - other lists of spiritual gifts.
5. 1 Corinthians 12 - 14 - Paul expands on Spiritual gifting and its place in worship.



6. Hebrews 10:23-25 - the purpose to meeting together is to build one another up in love and good works through encouragement.
7. 1 Peter 4:11 - Gifts used to bring glory to God

CONCLUSION

Paul's primary concern is that the Corinthian church understands the spiritual gifts as exactly that, spiritual. They are given by the Spirit, empowered by the Spirit, determined by the Spirit, and oriented toward Christ as Lord. They are intended to be for the common good of the body of Christ and used as such. We so often get caught up in the details around the different expressions of spiritual gifts that we lose sight of these basic facts. Once we understand these basics, we begin to see that spiritual gifting is not limited to a few lists found in the pages of the Bible (although those are extremely helpful), but gifting oriented towards the building of the body of Christ for the glory of God.

SHARE & PRAY

LIFE GROUP VISION:

The goal to meeting together around the word of God is three fold. First, we want to more clearly understand what God is saying to us through his Word and apply it to our own hearts and minds. Secondly, we want to build a loving community with each other to disciple one another toward maturity in Christ. Thirdly, we desire each of us, as ambassadors of Christ, to look outwards to our community and ask how we can bring the truth of the gospel to bear on those whom God has placed in our lives.

