

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Class #37 – Tuesday PM August 28, 2007

It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

Hebrews 4:12 For the Word of God is alive and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword. . .

An excerpt from *Sense and Nonsense about Prayer*, Lehman Strauss

1 Corinthians 12:4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.

- δαιρέσεις - DIAIRESIS – “Allotments or apportionments”
- χάρισμα – CHARISMA – “Spiritual gift”

Spiritual gifts are bestowed in grace.

Spiritual gifts are received at the same time that we receive the free gift of eternal life.

POD: The Christian is not required to do something after he is saved to receive a spiritual gift. He is required to simply identify the gift he was given.

1 Cor.12:31 But earnestly desire the greater gifts. . .

- ζηλώω – ZELOO – “Earnestly desire”

This is a command that was specifically for the Corinthians and it does not apply to us since the sign gifts have ceased.

- Most believers erroneously think this verse is a requirement for them to fulfill in order to receive a spiritual gift sometime after they are saved.
- That is not what Paul is exhorting the Corinthians to do.

The Corinthians were enamored with the gift of tongues – with sign gifts!

To correct the Corinthians’ misapplication, Paul ranks spiritual gifts!

1 Cor. 12:28-30 And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, *various* kinds of tongues.

²⁹ All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not workers of miracles, are they? ³⁰ All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they?

The negative μή - ME - precedes every one of those questions in the Greek and that means the answer to each one of those questions is No!

1 Cor.12:31 But earnestly desire the greater gifts. . .

Paul is commanding them to earnestly desire the function of the greater gifts - the gifts that add most value to their edification - apostles, prophets, and teachers.

1 Corinthians 12:4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.

Definition of **Spiritual Gift** “. . . the Holy Spirit doing a particular service through the believer and using the believer to do it” (*Systematic Theology*, Vol. VI, 216 - L. S. Chafer).

SPIRITUAL GIFTS - Definitions

- 1. Service:** The supernatural ability & motivation to serve in an official or nonofficial capacity within a local church or ministry.
- 2. Teaching:** The supernatural ability & motivation to break down biblical truth, apply and communicate it in a relevant manner to believers.

Copyright 2007, All rights reserved, Rev. H.W. Hastings III, Archangel Ministries, Inc.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS - Definitions

- 3. Encouraging Exhortation:** The supernatural ability & motivation to encourage fellow believers to take action in realizing God's will.
- 4. Giving:** The supernatural ability & motivation to effortlessly give liberally in grace with faith from one's abundance.

*Remember: Spiritual Gifts Function in the Superlative

Copyright 2007, All rights reserved, Rev. H.W. Hastings III, Archangel Ministries, Inc.

Proverbs 21:13 He who shuts his ear to the cry of the poor will also cry himself and not be answered.

Proverbs 19:17 One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the LORD, and He will repay him for his good deed.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS - Definitions

- 5. Leading-Helmsman:** The SA, M, and insight to arrange, direct, and administrate the resources in the church for the greatest impact.
- 6. Mercy:** The SA&M to attend and care for those believers who are sick, handicapped, or terminally ill.

Copyright 2007, All rights reserved, Rev. H.W. Hastings III, Archangel Ministries, Inc.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS - Definitions

- 7. Helps:** The SA&M assist fellow believers in tasks by sharing the burden/workload.
- 8. Evangelist:** The SA&M to preach the Good News to a lost and dying world.
- 9. Pastor-Teacher:** The SA&M to provide direction and feed the flock with the Word of God.

Copyright 2007, All rights reserved, Rev. H.W. Hastings III, Archangel Ministries, Inc.

The Holy Spirit. A Comprehensive Study of the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit
John F. Walvoord

IX. The Gift of Faith

In the list of gifts and works of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, the gift of faith is mentioned. It is found in the context mentioning “the word of knowledge” and “the word of wisdom” as given by the Spirit, which are works of the Spirit rather than gifts of the Spirit. Faith seems to be in a different category, however, and probably refers to the fact that some Christians have outstanding qualities of faith. As a gift, faith is a blessing bestowed upon some Christians, not all, though all Christians have some faith in God. It is manifested not so much in trust in Christ as Savior as in confidence in God in respect to His power and love working in the details of their lives, supplying their needs and guiding their steps. As such it is an abiding characteristic of the gifts of the Spirit throughout the present age of grace.

Spiritual Gift of Faith - The supernatural means to pray with a superlative faith provided by the Spirit for the benefit of the body of Christ [**1 Cor. 12:9 – πίστις - PISTIS**].

BE YOURSELF IN PRAYER!

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.