

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Class #51 – Tuesday PM October 2, 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).

Isaiah 55:11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

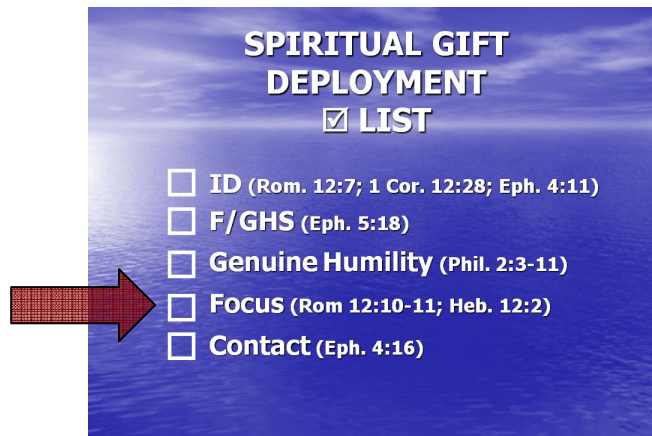
POD Review: As the Christian matures, the love of Christ will be manifested in his life (cf. 1 Cor. 12:31; 13:13; Jn 15:1-5; Gal 5:22).

POD Review: The love of Christ is the staying power in the Unique Spiritual Life (1 Cor. 13:7 cf. 2 Cor. 5:14a).

POD New: When the love of Christ is being manifested in the life of the believer, he is walking on the high ground of the spiritual life (1 Cor. 12:31b cf. 1 Cor. 13)

POD Review: The love of Christ impels the believer to continue to function with his gift - fulfilling the responsibilities of the believer priesthood - where God has placed him, despite personal desires otherwise, until led (1 Cor. 13:7, 13; 2 Cor. 5:14).

POD New: The manifestation of the fullness of Christ is tantamount to Occupation with Christ (Gal 2:20 cf. Eph 3:19; 4:13).



Romans 12:3 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you **not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think, but [CONTRAST] to think so as to have sound judgment [to be reasonable; sensible], as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.**

- All members of the body of Christ are allotted a measure of faith; so don't think more highly of YOURSELF than you ought to think.
- It's not about you and what you want or what you think for that matter!

It's about Christ - - What He wants - - What He thinks.

When you are occupied with Christ, you will understand that “God has allotted to each a measure of faith,” and that faith is to be exercised as God desires!

Principles –

- ✚ The more one attempts to hold on to in the plan of God - - the more one loses!
- ✚ The more one attempts to hold on to in the plan of God - - the lesser amount of work is done that actually glorifies God!
- ✚ Conversely, the more one lets go of - - the more is accomplished to glorify God, and the more one gains!

Romans 12:3 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think, but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has **allotted** to each a measure of **faith**.

- “**Allotted**” – **μερίζω** – **MERIZO** – “To assign, to apportion, to allot”

Our allotment of faith was received at salvation.

God sovereignly assigned to each of us, a measure of faith when we were saved.

- “**Faith**” - **πίστις** – **PISTIS** – “Faithfulness; faith, trust or confidence”
“Spiritual life, genuine piety”
“Bible doctrine”
- Faith, in this passage, does not mean Bible doctrine.

Did God assign to you a measure of faith in the sense of ability to trust Him in the superlative - as in the Gift of Faith? That is a possibility here.

Ephesians 4:4-7 *There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called. . .*

“**Called**” – **καλέω** - You received an invitation - you were called - in the past.

God called you with the Gospel and you responded to that call by faith.

You were saved when you were called - by God.

. . . you were called in one **hope** of your calling. . .

Ephesians 4:13-16 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵ but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

- **One Body** – Body of Christ – Universal Church - composed of all believers
- **One Spirit** - God the Holy Spirit who indwells the Body of Christ - Universal Church, which is composed of all believers
- **One Hope** – Living Hope – the living hope that you would glorify God with your life by attaining “to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.”

This can only be attained by the vast array of help provided by God the Holy Spirit [Spirit], *plus* the infallible Word of God [TRUTH].

⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism . . .

- One Lord - Jesus Christ, the Head of the Body of which you are part
- One Faith - Faith alone in Christ alone.
- One Baptism - Baptism of God the Holy Spirit – the means by which you were placed in Christ.

One Baptism does not refer to water baptism.

⁶ one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

God the Father indwells every born again believer – that includes YOU!

⁷ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

POD: The grace that was given is the supernatural ability to function in the Body where God has placed you to function.

IT'S YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT!

Ephesians 4:8-11 Therefore it says, "WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES, AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN."

Jesus Christ led captive!

Jesus Christ gave gifts to men!

¹¹ And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers,

Gifts that He allotted or apportioned to each of us!

Romans 12:3-9 For through the grace given to me [Paul's communication gift – being an Apostle] I say. . .

Λέγω γὰρ διὰ τῆς χάριτος τῆς δοθείσης μοι

For I am saying through the grace given to me [Paul's spiritual gift] to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment [*to be reasonable*], as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. ⁴ For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function,

Function in the spiritual life is determined by one's spiritual gift.

Having more than one spiritual gift is not conducive to dependence.

⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us. . .

. . . *each of us is to exercise them accordingly*: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; ⁷ if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. ⁹ *Let love be without hypocrisy.*

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