

## **Spiritual Gifts      Different Gifts part 1**

By Rev. P. Michael Williamson January 17<sup>th</sup> 2010

**Introduction:** Three weeks focused on Spiritual Gifts ch 12 & 13

Summary ch 12-14 Primary evidence of God's indwelling Spirit is not speaking in tongues but love.

Today looking at 1 Corinth 12:1-11 which stresses the different kinds of gifts. Paul addressed an issue that had divided the church at Corinth into factions. The church services had become chaotic and discouraging for the community. The lack of order meant everyone was "doing their own thing!" Selfish worship is not worship at all. Paul wanted to correct and direct without discouraging the use of spiritual gifts in worship.

### **1. Concerning Spiritual Gifts**

"Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant."

Paul is actually saying you are ignorant but I will teach you how God intended spiritual gifts to be used in public worship. Actually we all need instruction on spiritual matters. We need to be able to distinguish the genuine from the counterfeit

#### **i. God the source**

You used to follow dumb idols. Now you follow a God who speaks through the scriptures and to followers by the Holy Spirit

Paul did not want to correct a practice but rather an internal attitude of spiritual pride. Some thought because they spoke in tongues they were more spiritual, superior and closer to God.

Paul wanted to correct the attitude without denouncing the practice of tongue speaking. Tongues are not wrong in public worship but there is a need for interpretation so all may understand. That is still the appropriate practice for today.

In his list Paul relegates tongues to be last but one on the list. He emphasised those gifts that build up the body of believers.

In v4-6 Paul pointed out that the various gifts all originate from the Spirit, the Son and the Father, the trinity in fact.

#### **ii. The purpose of spiritual gifts**

7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. (NIV)

Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people! The variety is wonderful: (MSG)

The focus or purpose is "For the common good" to benefit those who listen. Paul clearly stated in 1 Cor.14:3 But everyone who prophesies speaks to men (& women) for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort.

#### **iii. God decides**

We don't decide what kinds of gifts we receive although we can ask and even earnestly desire spiritual gifts. 1 Cor.14:1 Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy.

Back in ch. 12:11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

Spiritual gifts are not given for personal aggrandizement, which was the Corinthian's problem. Spiritual gifts are given for the benefit of others, inside and outside the church community. Just imagine how that might positively effect being an outward focused church if we followed the HS's promptings more often.

Rather than try to skim all of the 9 spiritual gifts listed in the passage I want to focus on one, give some explanation and then we will practice the gift.

1 Cor.14:1 Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy.

### **2. Focus on Prophecy**

**Prophecy is simply speaking what you hear.**

God Speaks:

Job 33:13-14 Why do you complain to him that he answers none of man's words For God does speak—now one way, now another— though man may not perceive it.

Radio signals

Jeremiah 33:3 'Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.'

John 10:2-3 The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

John 10:27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

Ten ways God speaks to us today.

As we go through these Ten ways God speaks to us today put your hand up if you hear God in that way. Hand up straight and over your head. I want you to do this to encourage the level of faith in church today.

Raise your hand high if you have heard God speak to you in any of the following ways.

- i. The Bible
- ii. Thoughts and impressions
- iii. Pictures visions
- iv. Dreams
- v. Through things spoken by others.

Example of on radio "all you need to do is just relax"

- vi. Through a song
- vii. Through circumstances
- viii. Something right in front of us.

Jeremiah what do you see?

Jeremiah 1:11 The word of the LORD came to me: "What do you see, Jeremiah?" "I see the branch of an almond tree," I replied.

Jeremiah 1:13 The word of the LORD came to me again: "What do you see?" "I see a boiling pot, tilting away from the north," I answered.

Jeremiah 24:3 Then the LORD asked me, "What do you see, Jeremiah?" "Figs," I answered. "The good ones are very good, but the poor ones are so bad they cannot be eaten."

- ix. Through an audible voice
- x. Through an interpretation of a tongue

How did Jesus minister? Through the HS he received at his baptism.

"I only do what I see the father doing .... I do nothing on my own, but speak just what the Father has taught me. John 5:19 and 8:28

Practice Listening to God and hearing his voice.

Give an example of listening from Youth Mission prayer meeting

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Job 33:13-14

Jeremiah 33:3

John 10:2-3 & 27

10 Ways God speaks to us

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) \_\_\_\_\_

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