

SPIRITUAL GIFTS AND GOD'S GRACE

UNDERSTANDING YOUR GIFT

*"Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant."
"...and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way."*

~ 1 Corinthians 12:1, 12:31

1. The Search for Spiritual Gifts

- a. I believe in spiritual gifts. (I also believe in diapers, kickball at recess, & early bedtime)
- b. Spiritual gifts are not God-given talents, natural aptitudes, practiced skills, spirituality
- c. People want supernatural powers as seen in the Holy Ghost's Acts of the Apostles
- d. Spirit gifts appeal to people who seek power, an experience, or a purpose.
- e. If I told you your spiritual gift would you act, live, choose differently?
- f. They do not roll on the floor for Eph 1:3, 1:7, 3:8; Rom 5:15, Phil 4:17, or Col 2:10
- g. Those that had spiritual gifts in 1 Cor 12 had problems – 1 Cor 12:1

2. The Greater Gift

- a. There is a more excellent way – 1 Cor 12:31
- b. We ought to approve excellent things; grace excels the gifts you see - Phil 1:9-10
- c. "Grace be with you" not "may the force be with you", nor "may tongues be with you"
- d. The unspeakable gift from God is grace! 2 Cor 9:15; Eph 3:2; Rom 5:15,20
- e. This grace is not what you say before meals – it is the power of God – Rom 1:16
- f. Grace represents what Christ did, the gospel, that which is sufficient working in you
- g. God's power and intervention in your life is by His grace – 2 Cor 9:8
- h. Grace in you produces faith (Gal 2:20-21), hope (Rom 5:2-3), charity 1 Cor 13:13
- i. Spiritual gifts were given b/c grace had not yet been established
- j. The knowledge of God's grace is greater than anything they had at Pentecost.

3. Spiritual Gifts and Spiritual Growth

- a. Spiritual gifts were spiritual spoon feeding – "in part" – 1 Cor 13:9-11
- b. In understanding be men – 1 Cor 14:19-20; excel in edification – 1 Cor 14:12
- c. We should grow past spiritual gifts unto the spiritual man – 1Co 13:11;14:10; Ep 4:14
- d. Most of the spiritual gifts had the function of understanding – Col 1:9, Eph 1:16-19
- e. *"we have received... that we might know"* - 1 Cor 2:11-12, but we now know!
- f. The other gifts concerned the edification of the church: helps, government, prophecy
 - i. Prophecy edifies, exhorts, comforts - 1 Cor 14:3, 14:5; 1 Th 4:18

4. The Good Thing In You

- a. Having a spiritual gift does not make you show grace, peace, faith, hope, charity.
- b. We do not need more *charisma (gifts)* we need more charity
- c. Your faith has an effect when you acknowledge the good thing - Phm 6
- d. Your gift is to edify, exhort, engender faith, hope, put on charity – Col 3:14
- e. Your role is not limited to one "power" any more, but a son fully equipped by grace
- f. "Grace does not work" should be an offense to Christ working in you!
- g. When you minister you are using God's gift to you: grace

The Complete List of Spiritual Gifts in Paul's Epistles

1 Corinthians 12:8-11 – Gifts by the Spirit

1. Word of wisdom
2. Word of knowledge
3. Faith
4. Healing
5. Working of miracles
6. Prophecy
7. Discerning of spirits
8. Divers kinds of tongues
9. Interpretation of tongues

1 Corinthians 12:28-30 – God set positions in the church *(not listed as gifts)*

1. Apostles
2. Prophets
3. Teachers
4. Workers of miracles
5. Healing
6. Helps
7. Governments
8. Diversities of tongues

Romans 12:3-8 – Gifts and offices differ; admonition to humbly do what you can

1. Prophecy
2. Ministry
3. Teaching
4. Exhorting
5. Giving
6. Ruling
7. Mercy

Ephesians 4:11 – God gave these for edification of the saints

1. Apostles
2. Prophets
3. Evangelists
4. Pastors
5. Teachers