

# EPHESIANS 4:13-16

LESSON 26

## *Gifts Until...*

### 1. Ephesians 4:11-12 – The Point Made About Gifts

- a. Concerning spiritual gifts don't be ignorant (1 Cor 12:1). Why? What's the point?
- b. The gifts had a purpose to fulfill for the profit of all (not personal) – 1Cor 12:7, 28-31
- c. We ought not to be jealous/proud of this or that position, gift, role, opportunity, etc.
- d. The gifts in Eph 4:11 were not self-centered, but gifts of service toward others
- e. "the saints" "the ministry" "the body" – speaks to service toward others.
- f. The gifts were given to form the new creature so all could benefit and grow into Christ
- g. "perfecting" Eph 4:13, "work" Eph 4:14-15, and "edifying" in Eph 4:16
- h. We have communion – every part contributes – out of love and charity.

### 2. Ephesians 4:13 – The Cessation of the Gifts

- a. We are talking about Spirit gifts not the activity itself – there is a difference.
- b. Not talking about anecdotes, experiences, history, but about scriptural teaching.
- c. Most people want to focus on healings or tongues – both concern the flesh.
- d. *Has God given something we are missing out on, not utilizing, ignoring, incomplete?*
- e. Healing, apostles, prophets, etc – are all good things, and the issue is *when* they stop.
- f. All agree that the scripture is clear that they will stop – 1 Cor 13:8-13, but when?
  - i. In part vs. perfect (whole/complete/finished/full) – Acts 3:21, 2 Cor 5:17
  - ii. Child vs. speak, understand, think as a man – 1 Cor 3:1-2, 14:19-20
  - iii. See dark vs. See clearly (glass is found 2 Cor 3:18, Jam 1:23)
- g. The assumption is made that "when" is the end of the dispensation/return of the Lord
  - i. If the gifts here are the same as Acts 2-3 then Acts 2:17 and Acts 3:19 apply
  - ii. These gifts are different than the snake handling and poison – Mk 16:17-18
- h. "gave gifts" ... "until..." ... "henceforth" – Eph 4:11-16
  - i. Does Eph 4:14-16 happen in heaven? When Christ returns? Or... now.
- i. The kingdom to Israel required such healings – Luke 10:9 - but the kingdom didn't come
  - i. If God intervenes with kingdom miracles, he's judging not offering grace
- j. Israel was promised signs (not you) – 1 Cor 1:22 – you have – 2 Cor 5:7, Eph 1:3, Phi 3:20
- k. Paul's apostleship was established – 1 Cor 14:22, 2 Cor 12:12, Gal 3:2-5, Acts 15:12
- l. We are no longer children – 1 Cor 13:11, Gal 4:5, 2 Cor 12:9, Eph 4:13-16
  - i. If these gifts were in Acts 2 then the church is childish there and is not pattern
  - ii. The Corinthian church (filled with gifts) lacked the mature fruit of the Spirit
- m. No more scripture – a complete canon requires perfection – 1Co 14:37, 2Ti 3:16

### 3. Ephesians 4:14-16 – That We May Grow Up

- a. There is something more excellent than the gifts – 1 Cor 12:31; 1 Cor 13:13
- b. Perfecting = finishing, completing, maturing, equipping – 1Th 3:10; 1Co 1:10; 2Ti 3:17
- c. You are not limited to one "power" any more, you are fully equipped Eph 6:12-18
- d. We do not need more gifts today, we need to grow up – Col 3:14, Col 1:25-28, 2:10
- e. You follow after that which has already been attained for you - Phil 3:10-12