

## **THE MASTER PLAN OF GOD**

All spiritual gifts are predetermined according to the Master Plan of God. Paul used two different Greek words to establish this doctrinal principle: *tithemi* and *sugkerannumi*.

*Tithemi* is translated placed in 1 Cor.12:18 and appointed in 12:28. *Tithemi* teaches that God places each church age believer in the church with a spiritual gift.

*Sugkerannumi* is translated composed or blended together in 12:24. *Sugkerannumi* teaches that God composes the local church body with different spiritual gifts.

**This lesson will study SIX aspects of how spiritual gifts operating according to the Master Plan of God.**

### **1. There is a difference between spiritual gifts and the gift of the Spirit in the Master Plan of God.**

Every church age believer receives eight works of the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation. One of these eight is the indwelling and another is receiving a spiritual gift (Gal.3: 2-3; 1 Cor.6: 19-20; 12:11-14).

Note the special phrases “each one” (*hekastos*) in 1 Cor.12: 7,11,18 and “to one and to another” (*ho men/ allos de*) in 12:8-10. These phrases emphasize each believer receiving a spiritual gifted ministry in the church.

This teaches that spiritual gifts are supernatural abilities and not natural propensities (12:4-6).

### **2. There is a difference between becoming a member of the universal church and becoming a member of the local church.**

Every believer becomes a member of the universal church at the moment of salvation by means of the baptism of Holy Spirit (1 Cor.12: 13; 2 Cor.5: 17).

Every believer is given a spiritual gifted ministry in the universal church at the moment of salvation (1 Cor.12: 11).

### **3. The local church is composed of spiritual gifted ministries according to the master plan of God (1 Cor.12:12-27; Rom.12:4-5).**

Spiritual gifts are the dynamic program of ministries of the local church (12:4-7).

Paul compared the importance of every spiritual gifts to the church with the importance of the different parts of the human body (12:12-27; external parts/ 14-21; internal parts / 22 / vital parts 23-24).

“But that the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.” (12:25-26)

**4. The master plan of God calls for every believer to be a functional part of a local church.**

“Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.” (Acts 20:28)

Therefore it is the responsibility of every believer to align with a bible teaching local church. If you cannot find a bible teaching Christian church within driving distance, you should consider moving to an area that has pastor-teacher that understands spiritual growth through teaching milk and meat doctrines (1 Pet.2: 2; Heb.5: 13-14; Eph.4: 11-13).

Each believer’s spiritual gifted ministry becomes functional member in a local church by attending and becoming active within it (Heb.10: 25).

The Greek word for function in Rom.12: 4 is (praxis). Praxis refers to an action that is looked upon as incomplete but in progress. One idea is that spiritual gifts are replaced or exchanged among local churches by the coming and going of believers. *“For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function.” (Rom.12:4)*

**5. Spiritual gifts functioning within a local church are the organized witness of Jesus Christ to the community according to the master plan of God.**

“God also bearing witness with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His will.” (Heb.2:4)

“So we who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one another.” (1Cor.12:5)

Paul taught that spiritual gifts were an important part of spiritual unity and growth within the local church (Eph.4: 1-16/ two parts - 4:1-10/ note verse 3 and 8 and 4:11-16/ note verse 13 and 16).

**6. The function of spiritual gifts must be compatible with the word of God according to the master plan of God (1 Cor.14:33,40; Rom.12:3).**

For example there are temporary and permanent spiritual gifts (1 Cor.13: 8-10; 14:21-22).

It is important for believers to be knowledgeable about spiritual gifted ministries of the local church (Rom.12; 1 Cor.12-14; Eph.4: 11).

It is important to not add nor take away from the word of God regarding spiritual gifts. The following three questions are examples of point six.

- Can a believer have more than one spiritual gift?
- Could there be a difference between the gift of pastor-teacher and teacher?
- Can we say with Scriptural certainty that the gifts of miracle, healing, and faith have been done away?