

INTRODUCTION TO SPIRITUAL GIFTS

During the month of March, we will study the following four lessons on Spiritual Gifts.

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| • 3/1/06 | 1 Cor.12:1-3 | Introduction to Spiritual Gifts |
| • 3/8/06 | 1 Cor.12:7-11, 28-31 | Variety of Spiritual Gifts |
| • 3/22/06 | 1 Cor.12:12-27 | Variety of Gifted Ministries |
| • 3/29/06 | 1 Cor.13:1-13 | Variety of Gifted Performances |

The phrase “**Now concerning**” is used by Paul to answer a series of doctrinal questions asked by the Corinthian Church (7:1, 25; 8:1; 12:1; 15:1; 16:1, 12).

This phrase is used to introduce the subject of Spiritual Gifts – “**Now** (explanatory conjunction / de) **concerning** (peri + gen. of reference) **spiritual** (gifts) (ton pneumatikos / gpln)” (12:1). 1 Cor.12-14 will answer several questions regarding the subject of spiritual gifts.

This lesson will study FIVE points of Introduction to the subject of Spiritual Gifts.

1. **While it is true that Paul wrote 1 Cor.12-14 to answer specific questions regarding Spiritual Gifts, he also wrote to correct some congregational problems arising from this subject.**

Paul addressed the following 8 problem areas arising from the subject of Spiritual Gifts.

He wrote to correct ignorance (12:1) (agnoeo) [lack of correct information] and division (12:25) (schisma) and to encourage love (13:1-8) (agape) and to encourage edification, exhortation, consolation (14:3-5, 12) (oikodome, paraklesis, paramuthia) [speaking kindly] and to correct childish thinking (14:20) (paidion) [deficient in spiritual understanding] and confusion (14:33) (akatastasia) [instability leading to disorder].

“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable **for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness**; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.” (2Tim.3:16-17)

2. **Paul began by giving the criteria by which the Christian might determine whether he was guided by the indwelling Holy Spirit (2:2-3; 1 John 4:1-3, 15).**

First, Paul reminded them that as unbelievers they had been led by idolatrous old man cosmos diabolicus thinking – “You know that when you were pagans (ethnos) [Gentiles], you were led astray (ago / impf.p.ind) to (aphonos eidolon) [the dumb idols], however you were led (apago / p.p.ptc nplm).” (2:2)

Second, Paul reminded them that as believers the Holy Spirit leads them compatible with the word of God. (NMDV) “Therefore (dio) [because of this] I make known (gnorizo / p.a.ind) [to dispel Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus (OMCD) ignorance] to you, that no one (oudeis) speaking by the Spirit of God says, **Jesus is accursed**; and no one (oudeis) can say, **Jesus is Lord**, except by the Holy Spirit.” (2:3)

“And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the **Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but **you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you.**” (John 14:16-17; 16:13-15)

3. **The distribution of a spiritual gift to every church age believer is based on the fulfillment of the ascension of Jesus.**

“Therefore it says, ‘when He ascended on high, He led captive a host of captives, and **He gave (didomi / a.a.ind) gifts** (doma) [gift for special occasion] **to men.**” (Eph.4: 8; Ps.68: 18)

Two important church age ministries of the Holy Spirit are based on the ascension of Jesus. These two ministries make distinction between the Holy Spirit as a spiritual gift (singular) and spiritual gifts (plural) from the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit indwells every church age believer at the moment of grace salvation – “But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.” (John 7:39; 1 Cor.6:19-20; Gal.3:2-3, 14).

Spiritual gifts are distributed by the Holy Spirit to every church age believer at the moment of grace salvation.

- To each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” (12:7)
- But the one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.” (1 Cor.12:11)

4. Six different Greek words were used to describe the uniqueness of Spiritual Gifts within the local church (1 Cor.12-14).

Pneumatikos (1Cor.12: 1)

It emphasizes the distribution and exercise of spiritual gifts by means of indwelling Holy Spirit (Gal.3: 2-3; 1 Cor.6: 19-20).

Charisma (1 Cor.12: 4)

It emphasizes the influence of grace salvation through the gospel of Jesus Christ upon the distribution of spiritual gifts (Eph.2: 8-9; Rom.1: 16; 1 Cor.15: 3-4).

Diakonia (1 Cor.12: 5)

It emphasizes the ministry service of spiritual gifts within the local body of Christ, the church (1 Cor.12: 12-27).

Energema (1 Cor.12: 6)

It emphasizes the performance of spiritual gifts as the program of supernatural ministries of the local church (1 Cor.12-14).

Tithemi (1 Cor.12: 28)

It emphasizes the appointment of each spiritual gift as part of the master plan of God for each local church.

Oikodome (1 Cor.14: 12)

It emphasizes the importance of edification of the local body of Christ through the proper function of spiritual gifts.

5. There are four major passages of Scriptures that list spiritual gifts.

We will list them under each of the four passages. **Mark through the ones that are repeated and count the unmarked and write the number on this line**_____.

1Cor.12: 8-10	1 Cor.12: 28	Rom.12: 6	Eph.4: 11
Word of wisdom	Apostles	Prophecy	Apostles
Word of knowledge	Prophets	Service	Prophets
Different faith	Teachers	Teach	Evangelists
Gifts of healings	Miracles	Exhort	Pastor-teacher
Gifts of miracles	Gifts of healings	Give	
Prophecy	Helps	Lead	
Distinguishing of spirits	Administration	Mercy	
Kinds of tongues	Kinds of tongues		
Interpretation of tongues	Interpret of tongues		

Pastor-teacher is a construction called Granville Sharp grammar rule. This is the same person. This believer is to shepherd the flock and teach the word of God (**John 21:15**) [feed my lambs]; (**John 21:16**) [shepherd my sheep]; (**John 21:17**) [feed my sheep] (Acts 20:28; 1 Pet.5: 2).