

THE VARIETY OF GIFTS

During the month of March, we are doing our annual study of Spiritual Gifts from 1Cor.12:1-13:13. This year we are teaching four basic lessons for new member to Doctrinal Studies Bible Church.

Last week, we ended by asking you to study the following four passages listing all the spiritual gifts (1 Cor.12:8-10; 12:28-30; Rom.12:6-8; Eph.4:11). You were asked to eliminate repeats and count the number of spiritual gifts _____. Remember the Granville sharp grammar rule of pastor-teacher.

We will see that a basic understanding of the Greek language and grammar is important to our study of Spiritual Gifts. Last week it was the Granville Sharp grammar rule and the Parakletos ministry of Holy Spirit based on the ascension of Jesus Christ (Eph.4:8; John 14-16).

This week our lesson comes from 1 Cor.12:4-11. **We will study it by the following four homiletical points.**

- Divinely designed gifts (12:4-6) Godhead
- Display of gifts (12:7) Each Church Age Believer
- Delimited gifts (12:8-10) Temporary gifts
- Distribution of gifts (12:11) Holy Spirit

1. 1 Cor.12:4-6 show that all three members of the Godhead are involved in spiritual gifts. This shows how important they are to the biblical history known as the Church Age (Eph.2: 19-22).

Note the order they are given – **Holy Spirit, Lord, and God**. Yet when we talk about their order of importance in the Godhead, we refer to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (prayer).

- There are (eimi / p.a.ind / ASQ) variety (dialysis) of gifts (charisma) [results of grace] but the same (def.article + autos) **Spirit** (12:4).
- There are variety of ministries (diakonia) [quality of service] but the same **Lord** (12:5).
- There are variety of effects (energema) [results produced / performance] but the same **God** who works all things in all.

This explains that all 19 spiritual gifts are supernatural charismatic abilities and not natural talents.

2. 1 Cor.12:7 shows that every church age believer is given a spiritual gift to be manifested to the church body.

“But to **each one (hekastos)** is given (didomi / pres.**passive**.ind) the manifestation (ho phanerosis) [appearance, visibility] of the Spirit for (pros+acc of divine purpose) the common good (to sumpheron / p.a.ptc) [to bear together for good; to confer benefit or profit].”

Hekastos explains that there are no ungifted believers in the church.

The spiritual gift is the manifested ministry of the indwelling Holy Spirit in CA believer (**each one is given the manifestation**). Receiving a spiritual gift is 1 of 8 works of the Holy Spirit at salvation (adoption, baptism, indwelling, regeneration, sealing / earnest, spiritual life, and sanctification).

Different spiritual gifts results in different manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the local church.

Spiritual gifts are not for personal benefit but rather for “the common good” of the local church. “Let all things be done for edification (building up of the body of Christ).” (1 Cor.14:26b).

3. 1 Cor.12: 8-10 shows a list of spiritual gifts that would cease or be delimited during the church age. It is one Greek sentence.

Paul uses the same Greek word and grammar for given that he used in 12:7 (didomi / pres / **passive** ind) (Eph.4: 8).

The following are three examples of the importance of the Greek grammar in 12:8-10.

- Hos men (12:8) [for to one] and de allos (12:8-10) [to another] is used to establish a series of 4 sets of spiritual gifts.
- Heteros (12:9, 10) [different kind] is use for distinguishing 2 sets of gifts within the series.
- Changing of prepositions in 12:8 (dia +abl of agent; kata+acc of norm and standard), 9 (en+inst of means; 2 x) with the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Write the four sets of spiritual gifts, still active today on the blank lines above and below.

Why do you think that Paul separated these 9 spiritual gifts from the 19? He will show us in 1 Cor.13: 1-2, 8-10.

I also believe the spiritual gift of apostle was the 10th temporary spiritual gift (1 Cor.12:28; 4:9; Rev.1:9; Eph.2:20-22). This is more difficult because the 12 disciples of Jesus were also called apostles (Acts 1:2). Jesus Christ chose the 12. Those with the spiritual gift of apostle received it by Holy Spirit.

4. Spiritual gifts are distributed by the Holy Spirit to each believer at the moment of salvation.

“But one and the same Spirit works (energeo / p.a.ind) all these things, distributing (diaireo / p.a.ptc) to each one (hekastos) individually (idios) just as (kathos/ intense comparison) He wills (boulomai/ p.m.ind).” (12:11)

The Holy Spirit is the sole distributor of all spiritual gifts (Heb.2:4). You cannot exchange gifts nor can you merit them nor receive one by the will of man or a group within a church. Spiritual gifts are not left to the believer’s choice.

God designed spiritual gifts to be the dynamic program of the local church – “just as He wills.”

Spiritual gifts are distributed by the Holy Spirit by the master plan of God:

- (1 Cor.12:11) [Spirit wills],
- (1 Cor.12:18) [God placed and desired],
- (1 Cor.12:24) [God composed],
- (1 Cor.12:28) [God appointed];
- (Rom.12:3) [God allotted].