

### **IGNORANCE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

During the month of January, we will take our study Spiritual Gifts from (1 Corinthians 12:1-31).

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Passage</u></b>	<b><u>Key Verse</u></b>	<b><u>Lesson</u></b>
1/8	1 Cor.12:1-3	Ch. 12:	<b>Ignorance of Spiritual Gifts</b>
1/15	1 Cor.12:4-11	Ch. 12:4	One Spirit many Gifts
1/22	1 Cor.12:12-27	Ch. 12:5	One Lord many Ministries
1/29	1 Cor.12:28-31	Ch. 12:6	One God many Performances

The Book of Corinthians opens by telling us that this church didn't lack any Spiritual Gifts (1 Cor.1:7), but it wasn't until (1 Cor.12-14) that Paul picked-up this subject again.

In (1Cor.12-14), Paul issued **seven warnings** to local church regarding **Spiritual Gifts**.

Doctrinal ignorance	(1 Cor.12:1-3)	Failure of God's love	(1 Cor.13:1-8)
Worldly thinking	(1 Cor.12:15-21)	Childish thinking	(1 Cor.13:11-12; 14:20)
Divisions	(1 Cor.12:24-30)	Confusion	(1 Cor.13:33, 39-40)
		False spirituality	(1 Cor.14:37-38)

**Today's lesson will study four problems associated with doctrinal Ignorance of Spiritual Gifts.**

**1<sup>st</sup> problem:** Concept of ignorance comes from the Greek verb **agnoeo** – “Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant (without gnosis / knowledge).” (1 Cor.12:1)

This was an important cultural word. A pseudo-intellectual group in the Greek culture prided themselves with a philosophical and mystical and higher knowledge (gnosis). They were called Gnostics. Today this type of influence is called political correctness.

It crept into the early Gentile church and its doctrines (1 Tim.6:20-21). It became a religious philosophy of redemption. They preached redemption from matter rather than from sin.

It was a Gentile heresy to the church just as Jewish legalism (Acts 15). John, Peter, Paul, and Jude, all wrote against it. “Knowledge (gnosis) makes one arrogant, but love edifies.” (1 Cor.8:1b 1 Tim.1:3-6).

Paul used **agnoeo** in a way that even the Gnostics could appreciate his message as well as a believer with common sense understanding of ignorance.

**2<sup>nd</sup> problem:** Ignorance of the Godhead involvement in variety of Spiritual Gifts (1 Cor.12:4-6) was a cause of some churches to become a **mono-gifted**. A spiritual healthy church is **multi-gifted**.

Spiritual gifts are Divinely Designed for edification of the entire body of Christ – “But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” (1 Cor.12:7; 14:26)

It has also caused some churches to substitute natural ability and talent in place of spiritual gift ministries.

(1 Cor.12:17) “If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?”

In fact, multi-gifts are the ministry program of the local church (pastor-teacher, evangelist, exhortation, mercy, ministry-service, administration, leadership, giving, and helps).

**3<sup>rd</sup> problem:** Ignorance of grace distribution of the spiritual gifts at moment of salvation leads to neglect of divinely designed ministry within the church.

The distribution of spiritual gifts is 1 of the 8 works of the Holy Spirit accomplished at the moment of salvation (1 Cor.12:11-13; Gal.3:2-3). Your Spiritual gift will function under the indwelling Holy Spirit ministry (Gal.5:16-17).

Adoption	(Rom.8:15-17)	Baptism	(1 Cor.12:13; Gal.3:27)
Indwelling	(1 Cor.6:19-20)	Regeneration	(Titus 3:5-7)
Sanctification	(Rom.15:16)	Seals and earnest	(2 Cor.1:22)
<b>Spiritual Gift</b>	<b>(1 Cor.12:11-12)</b>	Spiritual life	(Rom.8:9-11)

**4<sup>th</sup> problem:** Ignorance of edification work of spiritual gifts to the church body has caused believers to focus on personal edification rather than on the edification of the entire church body.

There is one body with many gifted parts or members working for the “common good” of the whole church body (1Cor.12:12-27; 14:26, 40).

Note the “if foot should say” section of 1 Cor.12:15-24). “**And if one** member suffers, all the members suffer with it, **if one** member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.” (1 Cor.12:26)

In regards to the **Gift of Tongues:**

The Gift of tongues was the **only gift** that was self-edifying (1 Cor.14:4a; 14:2, 6, 9-12, 14, 22).

The Gift of tongues was also the **only gift** with a prophecy attached to it (1 Cor.14:21-22; Isa.28:11; 1 Cor.1:22).

The Gift of tongues required the **Gift of interpretation** to edify the church body (14:5b, 17-19, 29). It was not permitted to function in assembly without gift of interpretation (1 Cor.14:26-28).

The Greek word for “ungifted” (NASB) is **idiotes**, “unlearned” (KJB) means “uneducated” in (1 Cor.14:16, 23-24).