

## INTROUCTION TO SPIRITUAL GIFTS

We will take this series of lessons on Spiritual Gifts from (1 Cor.12-14). You are encouraged to read this text several times prior to and during this series of studies.

### INTRODUCTION:

The entire church program was designed for the function of spiritual gifts and spiritual growth maturity which we learn from Paul's writings in (1 Cor.12-14; Rom.12; and Eph.4). Paul made this very clear in his writings to the Corinthian church about Spiritual Gifts. Whatever problems they were having, it wasn't because they lacked spiritual gifts.

(1 Cor.1:7) "So that you are **not lacking in any gift**, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Note also that Paul has spiritual gifts operating within the Church until the Rapture of Church.

(1 Cor.12:11-13) "The **one and the same Spirit** works all these things, distributing to EACH ONE individually just as He wills. For even as the **body is one and yet has any members**, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are **one body, so also is Christ**. For **by one Spirit we were ALL baptized into one body**, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were ALL made to drink of **one Spirit**." [Note the word ONE] (John 7:37-39) [Note that John is speaking of the same "well"]

In Paul's discussion on spiritual gifts in (Eph.4:9-16), he says in verses 12-13 that **spiritual gifts are** "for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ, until we ALL attain unto the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man in Christ, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ."

**This lesson will study four aspects of Paul's Introduction to Spiritual Gifts.**

### 1. There are four sources to the content of the Book of 1st Corinthians.

- **Chloe source** (1 Cor.1:11) **Involves chs. 1-4.**
  - For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by *Chloe's people*, that there are quarrels among you.
- **Leaders of the church source** (1 Cor.5:1; 16:17) [3 are mentioned] **Involves chs.5-6.**
- **Congregational questions source** (1 Cor.7:1) **Involves chs.7-15.**
  - Now concerning the things about which you wrote, it is good for a man not to touch a woman.
- **Paul's ministry matters** (1 Cor.16:1) **Involves ch.16.**
  - Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also.

Notice that **Spiritual Gifts (chs.12-14)** are found in the Congregational Question source.

2. **Paul wrote (1 Cor.12-14) to answer specific questions from the congregation of the Corinthians church regarding Spiritual Gifts as noted in (1 Cor.7:1) “Now for the matters you wrote about.”**

Here we note that Paul’s writings in the larger discussion, as recorded in Chapter 12: 7-15, involved a lot of questions from the congregation of which Spiritual Gifts is only one topic.

3. **Paul opened his discussion of Spiritual Gifts by using a specific phrase to address specific problems within the congregation regarding spiritual gifts.**

(1 Cor.12:1) “**Now (de) [Introducing a new subject] concerning** (peri+genitive of reference of subject) **spiritual** (ton **pneumatikos/ aplm/ ikos**) [NOTE: the word (gifts) is not in the text, but is found in the context of chs.12-14] , brethren, I do not want you to be Ignorance.” (1 Cor.7:1; 7:25; 8:1; 12:1; and 16:1).

The Greek word **Pneumatikos** became a prominent doctrinal term with the Advent Ministry of The Holy Spirit beginning with Pentecost and the Book of Acts. This word is not found in the Septuagint nor in the four Gospels; although John does record the teachings of Jesus on the Advent of The Holy Spirit (John 7:37-39 and John14-16).

(John 16:7) “But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away, the other Helper (Gk.-parakletos/ Heb.-menachem) will not come to you **but if I go**, I will send Him to you.” [The New Covenant of The Holy Spirit]

4. **One of the great doctrinal truths that you learn from the study of Spiritual Gifts is that the Church Age is the age of equipping every Church Age Believer (CAB) with a spiritual gifted ministry to and through the local church (1 Cor.12-14; Rom.12; Eph.4).**

In the Church Age, the **local church** is the Divine Agency of custodianship of the Word of God and Gospel evangelism beginning locally and extending to the ends of the earth (Matt.28:16-20; **Acts 1:8**).

This New Covenant transition of custodianship from the Jewish Age to the Church Age is the story of the Book of Acts.

- Return to our introduction to this lesson and read again all the Scriptures listed.

(1 Cor.12:1-31) is an outline of the problems created by ignorance, within the Church, of the function of Spiritual Gifts (1 Cor.12:1).

- (1 Cor.12:1-3)
  - Conflict between the spirit of the world and The Holy Spirit.
    - (cosmos diabolicus thinking) vs (divine viewpoint thinking)
- (1 Cor.12:4-6)
  - Varieties of gifts, ministries, and works involving the One Godhead.
- (1 Cor.12:7-11)
  - The manifestation of spiritual gifts is for the common good of church body
- (1 Cor.12:12-31)
  - The local church is one body with many spiritual gifted members.