

FUNDAMENTAL FACTS FOR FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS

Lesson Five **GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

1 Corinthians 12:1

Someone has remarked, that of all the teachings in the Bible we are **ignorant** of, we are **MORE** ignorant of the teaching of the gifts of the Spirit than **ANY** other. And this after Paul says "...I would not have you ignorant."

Let's look at several aspects of these gifts. For instance:

THE NEED FOR THE GIFTS TODAY
WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE GIFTS?
HOW MANY GIFTS ARE THERE?
WHOSE GIFTS ARE THEY?
TO WHOM ARE THE GIFTS GIVEN?
WHAT ABOUT THE LOVE FACTOR?

THE NEED FOR THE GIFTS TODAY:

Can any deny the **DESPERATE** need of the **CHURCH** today in its effort to reach out to a degenerate world?

Some would argue that the gifts were given to **PROVE GOD'S WORD TO BE TRUE** and establish the church in the early days, the beginning of Christianity. I cannot disagree with this premise; however, **DO WE NOT** still need them for the very same purpose?

Surely, the church today needs **CREDIBILITY** in a perverted world. Surely all the scoffers and skeptics did not pass with the days of the apostles.

The devil is still loose. The manifesting of the work of demon powers is seen on every hand.

Each **CHILD OF GOD** needs the gifts in order to be able to cope with satanic powers and defeat the works of the devil in the lives of men.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE GIFTS?

Read together I Corinthians 12:7; 14:1,2

In a nutshell, the purpose of the gifts is the **EDIFYING** of the church. Paul makes this clear in his discourse concerning tongues and interpretation of tongues.

*Follow after charity, and **DESIRE** spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.*

For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.

*But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to **EDIFICATION**, and **EXHORTATION**, and **COMFORT**.*

*He that speaketh in an unknown tongue **EDIFIETH** himself; but he that prophesieth **EDIFIETH** the church.*

*I would that **YE ALL** spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.*

1 Corinthians 14:1-5

Fundamental Facts-Lesson 5 -Page 2

“...that the **CHURCH** may receive edifying” is the crux of the matter.

Christ loves **HIS CHURCH**, make no mistake about it, this is **HIS BODY**.

Read together Romans 12:5; I Corinthians 10:17, 12:12; Ephesians 1:20-23; Colossians 1:18.

Again, in the discourse concerning tongues and prophecy, Paul emphasizes it is more important to edify or build up the **WHOLE CHURCH**, rather than just one individual. He goes on to explain that tongues **WITH THE** interpretation is equal to prophecy.

*I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, **EXCEPT HE INTERPRET**, that the church may receive edifying.*

1 Corinthians 14:5

HOW MANY GIFTS ARE THERE?

For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

1 Corinthians 12:8-10

- 1. The gift of the word of wisdom.**
- 2. The gift of the word of knowledge**
- 3. The gift of faith.**
- 4. The gifts of healing.**
- 5. The gift of the working of miracles.**
- 6. The gift of prophecy.**
- 7. The gift of discerning of spirits.**
- 8. The gift of diverse kinds of tongues**
- 9. The gift of interpretation of tongues.**

Although I have listed the number and names of the gifts, allow me to put them **INTO THREE** classifications, or categories, so they may be identified more easily.

I. THE REVELATION GIFTS

1. The gift of the **WORD OF WISDOM**.
2. The gift of the **WORD OF KNOWLEDGE**.
3. The gift of **DISCERNING OF SPIRITS**.

II. THE POWER GIFTS

1. The gift of **FAITH**.
2. The **GIFTS** of **HEALING**.
3. The gift of the **WORKING OF MIRACLES**.

III. THE VOCAL GIFTS

1. The gift of **DIVERSE** kinds of tongues.
2. The gift of **INTERPRETATION** of tongues.
3. The gift of **PROPHECY**.

It may be easier for you to remember the nine gifts in these three categories.

Fundamental Facts-Lesson 5 -Page 3

WHOSE GIFTS ARE THEY?

Read together I Corinthians 12:4-7.

Without a doubt, the gifts belong to the Holy Spirit. Therefore, they are His to give.

*For to one is **GIVEN BY THE SPIRIT** the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge **BY THE** same Spirit;*

*To another faith **BY THE** same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing **BY THE** same Spirit;*

1 Corinthians 12:8-9

TO WHOM ARE THE GIFTS GIVEN?

*But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to **EVERY MAN SEVERALLY** as he will.*

1 Corinthians 12:11

I find the preceding scripture to be good news indeed. While it is true the Spirit gives the gifts according to His will, the verse also says "...dividing to every man." It seems obvious, at least to me, that **ANY** and **EVERY** born again, Spirit filled believer is a likely candidate to receive **ONE OR MORE** gifts of the Holy Spirit. Notice the word "severally" in verse 11. I call special attention to that word as it is very important.

There are those who teach that every Spirit filled believer has **ALL NINE** gifts of the Holy Spirit in him, potentially at least. They teach one person can have all nine gifts of the Spirit in actual experience and usage. Others teach that a Spirit filled believer can have **ONLY ONE OR TWO** gifts.

So now, let's look at that word "severally." Does it mean that the Spirit gives **several** gifts to every man? That is **not** the meaning. The word "severally" is from the Greek word **idios** which means private, or separate, alone, apart, aside, their own.

This is very interesting, especially the word **alone**. Does this mean one gift **alone**? No, that is not the meaning. The word **severally** does not mean **one alone** or **many**. It simply means the gifts are the **PROPERTY** of the Holy Spirit, to be given at **HIS WILL**, to **WHOMEVER** He pleases. He will give these gifts as He chooses, **PRIVATELY, SEPARATELY, ALONE, APART** and **ASIDE** from what **ANYONE** else thinks, feels, or says about it. It will be Him, **ALONE**, dealing with each individual, **ALONE**, without consideration to what, if any gifts, someone else may have. If the Spirit wants to give one gift or nine gifts to an individual, that is between the **GIVER** and the **RECEIVER** of the gift, or gifts, **ALONE**.

Can the Holy Spirit be influenced by the receiver? I believe He **CAN** and **WILL** be influenced by the individual whose heart is hungry to serve and glorify God with the gift(s).

*Blessed are they which do **HUNGER** and **THIRST** after righteousness: for they **SHALL** be filled.*

Matthew 5:6

*But **COVET EARNESTLY** the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.*

1 Corinthians 12:31

***FOLLOW AFTER** charity, **AND** desire spiritual gifts...*

1 Corinthians 14:1

I **CANNOT** believe God wants us to hunger and thirst, covet and desire, if He did not intend to answer. So, therefore, any member of the body, Christ's body, who hungers and thirsts for, or covets and desires after, the gifts of the Holy Spirit **IS A LIKELY** candidate to receive.