

# **FUNDAMENTAL FACTS FOR FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS**

*Lesson Six*

**GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (continued)**

## **WHAT ABOUT THE LOVE FACTOR?**

There are those who really get confused at this point. I have heard speakers say the gifts of the Spirit **ARE NOT** important, it's **LOVE** that counts. Others have thought that I Corinthians 13 was a **MISPLACED** chapter. Not at all! Look and see and marvel at the wisdom of God when He moves upon His servant Paul.

God knew there would be those who would receive a **gift**, then get **PUFFED UP** with **PRIDE** because of that gift. He knew others would try to use their **gift** to **USURP** authority or **LORD** it over someone who did not have a gift.

So God straightens it all out in the thirteenth chapter.

Remember, that word charity in chapter 13 of I Corinthians is taken from the Greek word, AGAPE, which means **LOVE**, even **DIVINE**, spontaneous love.

It would not be improper to substitute the word love every time the word charity appears in this chapter

*Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not **CHARITY**, I am become as **SOUNDING BRASS**, or a tinkling cymbal.*

*And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have **ALL FAITH**, so that I could remove mountains, and have not **CHARITY**, I am **NOTHING**.*

*And though I bestow **ALL MY GOODS** to feed the poor, and though I **GIVE MY BODY** to be burned, and have not **CHARITY**, it profiteth me **NOTHING**.*

**1 Corinthians 13:1-3**

“Look,” God is saying, “You can have the gift of prophecy, the gift of discerning of spirits, the gift of the word of knowledge, and the gift of faith, but, if these gifts are not **CONTROLLED** and **REGULATED** by **LOVE**, and that love must be found in you, you are **NOTHING**.” Notice, He didn’t say you are **LACKING SOMEWHAT**. He didn’t say you were a **LITTLE LESS THAN THE BEST**. He says, “Nothing,” zero, zilch, nada.

He goes on to say:

***CHARITY** suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; **CHARITY** vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,*

*Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;*

*Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.*

**1 Corinthians 13:4-7**

Charity, which is taken from the Greek word **agape**, means the **HIGHEST FORM** of love. This love will keep us from being **PROUD**, **HARSH**, and **IMPATIENT** with others. Man has a problem. When he feels **SPIRITUAL**, or **USED** of God, he begins to get proud or impatient with those he feels to be **LESS SPIRITUAL**. Agape love takes care of that problem.

## Fundamental Facts-Lesson 6-Page 2

Should we then seek to excel in love and NEGLECT the spiritual gifts? No, this is not God's will at all.

Watch this:

*But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a **MORE EXCELLENT WAY**.*

**1 Corinthians 12:31**

*And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.*

**1 Corinthians 13:13**

***FOLLOW** after **CHARITY, AND DESIRE** spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.*

**1 Corinthians 14:1**

The answer is to **FOLLOW AFTER** agape love **AND DESIRE** spiritual gifts. How can any sincere believer miss this obvious answer unless he has been prejudiced by prior teaching?

Paul closes out Chapter 12 by saying, "I shew unto you a **MORE EXCELLENT** way." Then he spends an **ENTIRE** chapter, Chapter 13, talking about **LOVE**. And then he tells us in so many words, "**GO FOR IT**, get it all!"

To those who say the gifts have ceased with the passing of the New Testament apostles, let me point out that the words in verses 10 through 12 are talking about **HEAVEN**, not the passing of the apostles, or the **PRINTING** of the Bible.

*Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.*

*For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.*

*But when **THAT WHICH IS PERFECT** is come, then that which is **IN PART** shall be done away.*

*When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.*

*For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.*

**1 Corinthians 13:8-12**

Paul is clearly referring here to our limited state of knowledge **IN THIS PRESENT WORLD** as compared to what we will know in heaven. Remember, the gift of the "word of knowledge" is not, as some mistakenly believe, the gift of knowledge. Even with the gifts we are **SEVERELY LIMITED** compared to how we will know in heaven. When Paul says, "...then shall I know even as also I am known," he is clearly referring to heaven and our **GLORIFIED BODIES**.

Allow me to give a brief description of each of the gifts and their individual functions in edifying the body of Christ.

### **I. THE REVELATION GIFTS**

#### 1. THE GIFT OF THE WORD OF WISDOM.

The gift of the word of wisdom is a **SUPERNATURAL** revelation of **ONE TINY PART** of God's wisdom to the recipient of this gift. It is **miraculous** as all the gifts are.

It is **NOT** natural wisdom, psychology, or human insight.

#### 2. THE GIFT OF THE WORD OF KNOWLEDGE.

The gift of the word of knowledge is a **SUPERNATURAL** revelation of one **BIT** or **PARTICLE** of God's tremendous storehouse of knowledge.

It is **NOT** suspicion, worry, or guessing. It **DOES NOT** have anything to do with what we studied in school, it is **NOT** human intellect.

#### 3. THE GIFT OF DISCERNING OF SPIRITS.

The gift of discerning of spirits is the **SUPERNATURAL** ability to look into the realm of the spirit world, at least enough to know whether a spirit is **GOOD** or **BAD**.

## Fundamental Facts-Lesson 6 -Page 3

It is **NOT** fortune telling, seances, or witchcraft.

### **II. THE POWER GIFTS**

#### 1. THE GIFT OF FAITH.

The gift of faith is the **SUPERNATURAL ABILITY** to believe what God says is an established fact. It is God's faith **miraculously** placed in our heart.

It is **NOT** mind over matter, emotion, or **JUST** hoping.

#### 2. THE GIFTS OF HEALING.

The gifts of healing is the **SUPERNATURAL** ability to impart divine healing effecting deliverance from pain, sickness, and disease.

It is **NOT** medical science or psychology.

#### 3. THE GIFT OF THE WORKING OF MIRACLES.

The gift of the working of miracles is the **SUPERNATURAL** ability to intervene in the **COURSE OF NATURE** when the work of God can be furthered. I believe some healings can really be attributed to the working of miracles in conjunction with the gifts of healing.

### **III. THE VOCAL GIFTS**

#### 1. THE GIFT OF TONGUES.

The gift of diverse kinds of tongues is the **SUPERNATURAL** ability to deliver a message in a language **UNKNOWN** to the speaker.

It is **NOT** the ability to learn and speak foreign languages.

I believe it is different from the evidence of tongues given when a person is baptized with the Holy Ghost.

#### 2. THE GIFT OF INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES.

The gift of the interpretation of tongues is the **SUPERNATURAL** ability to interpret or **MAKE CLEAR** what has been spoken in another tongue.

It is **NOT** knowing the language which has just been spoken. It is **NOT** guessing at what you **THINK** the message was meant to be.

#### 3. THE GIFT OF PROPHECY.

The gift of prophecy is the **SUPERNATURAL** ability to speak a message direct from God in your own, known language.

It is **NOT** anointed preaching. It is not giving someone a "piece of your mind" in religious disguise.

I do believe anointed preaching **SOMETIMES MERGES** with prophecy when the preacher proclaims anointed truths that he himself was **UNAWARE** of until God revealed it to him at that moment.

May I point out to you that when any of these gifts are operating, the person using the gifts still has control of himself. Some have done outlandish things claiming they were **forced** by the Holy Spirit.

*And the spirits of the prophets **ARE SUBJECT** to the prophets.*

*For God **IS NOT** the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.*

**1 Corinthians 14:32-33**

I think it would be well to let the Apostle Paul close this chapter.

*Let all things be done **DECENTLY** and in **ORDER**.*

**I Corinthians 14:40**

*As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.*

**Galatians 1:9**