

THE CHURCH THAT CHANGED A CONTINENT AND THE MAN WHO LED IT  
**FIRST CORINTHIANS**

STUDY NUMBER 9  
Wednesday, July 17, 2013

**I Corinthians Chapter 12**  
THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1 Tonight we study one of the most controversial chapters in all the Word. On one side  
2 you have non-Pentecostals who claim that these spiritual gifts are no longer necessary - or  
3 even in existence any longer. On the other side are those who make the spiritual gifts  
4 the main substance of their lives and often abuse or misuse them. These people often  
5 seek for these gifts and then, upon receiving them, mishandle them - like employing a  
6 tow-truck to open a can of peas.

7  
8 Jesus gave us the very clear reason for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and resultant  
9 spiritual gifts:

10  
11 Acts 1:8

12 **But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye**  
13 **shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and**  
14 **unto the uttermost part of the earth.**

15  
16 Indeed, these were the very last words spoken by Jesus before His ascension to the Father  
17 in Heaven. There certainly is no scriptural basis for believing the gifts have become  
18 extinct or without purpose. Nor is there any scriptural basis for making the gifts sthe  
19 “center ring” for our faith for, as Paul reminded us in I Corinthians 3, the Foundation for  
20 our relationship to God is Jesus Christ Himself. **Making the gifts paramount even above**  
21 **and beyond Jesus and His Great Commission is like a small child making a Christmas gift**  
22 **more important than the parents who gave it.**

23  
24 A carpenter craftsman is known by the product he turns out – not the tools that adorn his  
25 workbench. So these tools described in chapter 12 should be used for the very intent stated by  
26 Jesus in Acts 1:8 – that of being WITNESSES AROUND THE WORLD.

27  
28 A truly Pentecostal church should:

- 29 • make a substantial impact on its community
- 30 • have a powerful missions ministry around the world
- 31 • see many people won to Christ through its ministry

1 THE FACT THAT A CHURCH HAS THE CHAPTER 12 PENTECOSTAL GIFTS IN EVIDENCE IN ITS SERVICES DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN IT IS A SPIRIT-FILLED CHURCH ANY MORE THAN HAVING A HAMMER AND SAW ON YOUR WORKBENCH MAKES YOU A MASTER CARPENTER. IT IS WHAT YOU DO WITH THOSE TOOLS THAT COUNTS.

2  
3 The Religious Climate of Corinth

4  
5 The city was given to pagan, idol-worshipping religion. I have been in enough pagan  
6 temples around the world, observing the conduct or demeanor of the participants, to know  
7 that much of the worship is demonic - yes, even insane. And, in Corinth, a neutral  
8 observer would have to conclude that the very sanity of the idol worshipping citizens was  
9 in question.

10  
11 *The inspiration of Greek soothsayers and divines expressed itself in a wild frenzy. The*  
12 *gloried in their absolute madness. They uttered their oracles like the Pythian prophetess*  
13 *with foaming lips and streaming hair. So the Corinthian Christians were inclined to*  
14 *believe that the more one was deprived of reason and self-consciousness, the more truly*  
15 *he was under the power and control of the Spirit of God. It was this mistake which in*  
16 *part had led these Christians to prefer those gifts which were the more startling and to*  
17 *despise those which were the more practical and useful. Paul seems to indicate that the*  
18 *Holy Spirit operates through the illumined mind and quickened vision and active reason*  
19 *of the believer.*

20 FIRST EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS / CHARLES ERDMAN / WESTMINSTER PRESS / P 106

21  
22 So the more bizarre the behavior of freakish the frenzy, the Corinthians in the church  
23 were considering it the "moving" of the Holy Ghost. We have seen even in our day in  
24 some of the alleged revivals that have gained notoriety the sight of people jerking their  
25 bodies or convulsing themselves in a way that brings everyone's attention to THEM....not  
26 Jesus.

27  
28 NOTE HIS PRIMARY TRUTH OF SCRIPTURE: John 16:13-14

29 **Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for**  
30 **he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and**  
31 **he will shew you things to come. [14] He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of**  
32 **mine, and shall shew it unto you.**

33  
34 The Holy Spirit NEVER draws attention to anyone except CHRIST! Paul teaches us  
35 that the first and most reliable test of the Holy Spirit's operation is this: ABSOLUTE  
36 LOYALTY TO JESUS CHRIST.

1 Often on religious television, we are given the sights of people doing weird things - such  
2 as laughing hysterically (at nothing), rolling on the floor, shrieking, jerking, etc. It is  
3 evident that the observer's first thoughts are NOT of Jesus but rather....hey, these people  
4 are crazy! Mark it clearly: THE HOLY GHOST IS NOT CRAZY! It is safe,  
5 therefore, to conclude that the Holy Spirit working within us is revealing Jesus Christ -  
6 not people themselves becoming the objects of attention.

7  
8 Are there sometimes unusual "moves of the Holy Spirit?" Yes, of course. But in every  
9 case true manifestations draw people to Christ - not a preacher or even the one doing the  
10 "manifesting." Someone has rightly observed:  
11

THE MORE TRULY ONE IS UNDER THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE  
MORE ACTIVE AND ALERT WILL BE THE FACULTIES OF THE MIND AND  
THE REASON.

12 Now....let's see what the Word says about THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

13  
14 1 Cor. 12:1-11

15 **Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant. [2] Ye**  
16 **know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were**  
17 **led. [3] Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of**  
18 **God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by**  
19 **the Holy Ghost. [4] Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. [5] And**  
20 **there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. [6] And there are**  
21 **diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. [7] But the**  
22 **manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. [8] For to one is**  
23 **given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the**  
24 **same Spirit; [9] To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing**  
25 **by the same Spirit; [10] To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to**  
26 **another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the**  
27 **interpretation of tongues: [11] But all these worketh that one and the selfsame**  
28 **Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.**

29  
30 Paul gives us nine Holy Spirit-originated gifts:

31 \* Wisdom \* Knowledge \* Faith \* Gifts of Healing \* Miracles \*  
32 Prophecy \* Discerning of spirits \* Tongues \* Interpretation of Tongues  
33

34 Note carefully: There are many more Spirit-given gifts to followers of Jesus besides  
35 these listed in I Corinthians 12. But our study tonight will be limited to these nine.  
36

1           HERE ARE SOME GENERAL PRINCIPLES CONCERNING THE GIFTS

2  
3   1. Spiritual gifts are given to believers according to the will and wishes of the Holy  
4 Spirit Himself. *There have been people who have gone around church to church*  
5 *claiming they can 'impart' spiritual gifts (such as healing). They are wrong!*  
6

7   2. A believer can have and exhibit more than one spiritual gift.

8  
9   3. The fact that a person has one or more spiritual gifts does not, of itself, mean that  
10 person is more spiritual than another.

11  
12   4. These spiritual gifts can be counterfeited by Satan.

13  
14   1. **The Word of Wisdom** - This is an utterance or understanding of a given situation by  
15 the Holy Spirit.

16  
17 Here is a biblical example:

18  
19 Acts 15:13-22

20   **And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren,**  
21 **hearken unto me: [14] Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the**  
22 **Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. [15] And to this agree the words**  
23 **of the prophets; as it is written, [16] After this I will return, and will build again the**  
24 **tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof,**  
25 **and I will set it up: [17] That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all**  
26 **the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these**  
27 **things. [18] Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world. [19]**  
28 **Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles**  
29 **are turned to God: [20] But that we write unto them, that they abstain from**  
30 **pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood.**  
31 **[21] For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the**  
32 **synagogues every sabbath day. [22] Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the**  
33 **whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and**  
34 **Barnabas; namely, Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, chief men among the**  
35 **brethren:**  
36

37 This episode would change the course of missions around the world. The issue was  
38 whether or not Gentiles (non-Jews) could be saved without resorting to Jewish edicts,  
39 such as circumcision, first. The Holy Spirit moved upon James (the bishop of the early  
40 church and half-brother to Jesus) declare a new and powerful truth to the existing church.

1 So this gift imparts a divine truth to a human heart in a difficult situation. Now note  
2 this, however: THE WORD OF WISDOM DOES NOT REPLACE THE WISDOM OF  
3 GOD FOR EVERY DAY LIVING. THIS COMES ABOUT BY DILIGENT STUDY  
4 OF GOD'S WORD AND PRAYER.  
5

6 **2. The Word of Knowledge** - This is a special gift that reveals something about  
7 someone or something that is essential for the Kingdom.  
8

9 Acts 5:1-10

10 **But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, [2]**  
11 **And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain**  
12 **part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. [3] But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan**  
13 **filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the**  
14 **land? [4] Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not**  
15 **in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not**  
16 **lied unto men, but unto God. [5] And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and**  
17 **gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. [6] And**  
18 **the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him. [7] And**  
19 **it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was**  
20 **done, came in. [8] And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land**  
21 **for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. [9] Then Peter said unto her, How is it**  
22 **that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them**  
23 **which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. [10] Then**  
24 **fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men**  
25 **came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband.**  
26

27 There was no way for Peter to know that Ananias and Sapphira were lying to the Holy  
28 Spirit. But this knowledge was given to Peter in that specific occasion. It must have  
29 been a shocking thing in that church service when a man and his wife died right then and  
30 there!  
31

32 **3. Faith** - This is not "saving faith" for salvation. This gift of faith is a supernatural  
33 faith given a believer by God to believe Him for the impossible and miraculous. It is a  
34 faith that can move mountains: 1 Cor. 13:2 **And though I have the gift of prophecy,**  
35 **and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that**  
36 **I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.**  
37

38 Sidebar: I do not personally believe this means you can look at a mountain - or any  
39 problem for that matter - and VOILA wish it away. But I rather believe that God gives a  
40 person the faith to believe THE MOUNTAIN CAN BE MOVED - or the situation can be

1 solved - as God imparts His power to your life.

2  
3 FAITH is the gift I personally cherish most - and pray for regularly. Why? Hebrews  
4 11:6 **But without faith it is impossible to please him:** So my constant prayer is,  
5 "Oh God, please increase my faith!" We must have this faith, this precious gift, in  
6 operation because the work to which we have been called is simply IMPOSSIBLE by  
7 human means alone.

#### 8 9 **4. Gifts of Healing -**

10  
11 Notice that this is a plural issue - "gifts", not "gift." There are many kinds of healing  
12 that are necessary in the Body of Christ.. We can all pray for sick people; however, not  
13 all have the special gifts of healing indicated here. Today, largely because of television,  
14 healing ministries have been often linked with theatrics on the platform. Some of it is  
15 legitimate; some is just showmanship. But healings from God are authentic and are still  
16 happening today.

#### 17 18 **5. Miracles -**

19  
20 There are truly sovereign acts of God that change normal or natural happenings, and bring  
21 glory to God and strength to the Church. John 6:2 **And a great multitude followed**  
22 **him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased.**

#### 23 24 **6. Prophecy -**

25  
26 Prophecy falls into several categories. It is not a showman attempting to predict the  
27 future. It is really a special gift that enables a believer to bring a word or verbal support  
28 from the Lord - always within the boundaries of the written Word of God. Prophecy  
29 also encompasses anointed preaching of the Word.

30  
31 I have known several people whom I believed were prophets of God. They were usually  
32 not the most popular of ministers for their was often rebuke or correction in their  
33 ministry. You won't hear many "prophets" on Christian TV. In the Old Testament,  
34 prophets were often stoned to death by people incensed at their words or teaching.

#### 35 36 **7. Discernment of Spirits -**

37  
38 This gift enables a believer to clearly differentiate between evil spirits from God's Spirit  
39 and also to know if an utterance (points 8 and 9 which follow as well as prophetic) is of  
40 God or not. 1 Cor. 14:29 Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.

1 We remember Jesus' words in Matthew 24 and 25 regarding end-time happenings in  
2 which our Lord stressed three times that DECEPTION OF BELIEVERS would be  
3 rampant. Matthew 24:5 **For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and**  
4 **shall deceive many.** Note: not deception of non-believers but deception of  
5 BELIEVERS! There is so much stuff and nonsense being taught and preached in  
6 churches, printed in books and delivered in media today that it is almost suffocating.  
7 And almost all of it in the name of the Lord! So how can a believer tell if something is  
8 true or not? We must know the Word ourselves (which only happens as we STUDY the  
9 Bible) and it is a blessed help if we also have the reliance upon the Holy Spirit in the gift  
10 of discerning of spirits to know the true from the false.

## 11 12 **8. Tongues -**

13  
14 While we Pentecostals believe that speaking in tongues is the initial or first physical  
15 evidence of receiving the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, this gift of tongues has to do with  
16 the ongoing personal worship of the believer and/or his or her participation in group  
17 settings with giving verbal messages to those assembled. Tongues may be an existing  
18 spoken language such as happened in Acts 2:4-6: **And they were all filled with the**  
19 **Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them**  
20 **utterance. [5] And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every**  
21 **nation under heaven. [6] Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came**  
22 **together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his**  
23 **own language.** We also note carefully 1 Cor. 13:1: **Though I speak with the**  
24 **tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass,**  
25 **or a tinkling cymbal.**

26  
27 Such speech has not been previously learned by the speaker and is often unintelligible  
28 both to the speaker and the hearers. Praying in tongues ("using your prayer language" as  
29 some people put it) often happens as we intercede for persons for whom we have no prior  
30 language and do not know the depths of their need and also for just worshiping the Lord.

31  
32 Tongues in a group meeting **MUST** be accompanied by a Spirit-given interpretation that  
33 may contain a revelation, knowledge or special unique message from God. This activity  
34 **MUST** be regulated and should never be allowed out of control.

## 35 36 **9. Interpretation of Tongues -**

37  
38 This is the Spirit-given ability to understand and communicate the meaning of an  
39 utterance in tongues. This gift may be exercised by the one who initially spoke in  
40 tongues, but is far more credible when exercised by a second party.

1 WHY ARE THE GIFTS IMPORTANT?  
2

3 1 Cor. 12:12-31

4 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one  
5 body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. [13] For by one Spirit are we all  
6 baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or  
7 free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. [14] For the body is not one  
8 member, but many. [15] If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of  
9 the body; is it therefore not of the body? [16] And if the ear shall say, Because I am  
10 not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? [17] If the whole  
11 body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were  
12 the smelling? [18] But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body,  
13 as it hath pleased him. [19] And if they were all one member, where were the body?  
14 [20] But now are they many members, yet but one body. [21] And the eye cannot say  
15 unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need  
16 of you. [22] Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more  
17 feeble, are necessary: [23] And those members of the body, which we think to be less  
18 honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts  
19 have more abundant comeliness. [24] For our comely parts have no need: but God  
20 hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part  
21 which lacked: [25] That there should be no schism in the body; but that the  
22 members should have the same care one for another. [26] And whether one member  
23 suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members  
24 rejoice with it. [27] Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. [28]  
25 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly  
26 teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of  
27 tongues. [29] Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of  
28 miracles? [30] Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all  
29 interpret? [31] But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more  
30 excellent way.

31  
32 The Church, which is the Body of Christ on this earth, has two main parts: 1) The  
33 Head, which is Christ Himself and 2) the Body (us) which has many, many parts. Our  
34 physical bodies do not have just one single organ or member, but many. Our arms, legs,  
35 fingers, heart, liver, spleen, etc. Well, the Body of Christ is like that, too. Every real  
36 believer becomes a part of His body. 1 Cor. 12:14 For the body is not one member,  
37 but many.

38  
39 Every member is a part of the body. Every member is very important to Jesus - just as  
40 every part of my physical body is important to me. Every member has a different



1 function. There is a difference in your ear and your big toe. You need both. The  
2 members of Christ's body are like the members of your own body. Each member has its  
3 own function and is therefore important.

4  
5 We are not to compare ourselves with other members of the Body. To do so displeases  
6 the Lord. We do not compete in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. All are needed. Each one  
7 is vital to our Lord Jesus Christ.

8  
9  
10 Next week: Chapter 13 The Love Chapter

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