

The Person, Purpose & Impact of THE HOLY SPIRIT

MODULE FIVE – A “GIFTED” CHURCH (Expanded Version)

The inspired letters of Paul are a rich source for knowledge on the Holy Spirit. As we continue our Scripture survey study, we will begin with Paul’s letter called 1 Corinthians. Just a casual read-through makes two points abundantly clear: First, this was a very “gifted” church; and, second, it was a very CONFLICTED church! Woven into Paul’s corrective teaching are some valuable “Holy Spirit” truths, insights and applications. It is here we learn the answer to this important question: **Did God intend for the miraculous gifts to be temporary, or perpetual?**

FIVE-A. As we examine the selected passages below, fill in the blanks, answer the questions, and, as we’ve been doing, identify which of the FIVE MAIN HOLY SPIRIT ACTIVITY AREAS is being discussed: 1. CREATION; 2. COMMUNICATION; 3. COMMUNION; 4. CAPABILITY; 5. CHANGE.

i. The fully gifted Corinthian church

- a. ____ 1:4-7 – God’s “grace” to the Corinthians included saving grace and **SERVING** grace (1 Pet 4:10-11)

✎ What terms does Paul use to describe the Corinthians’ degree of “giftedness?”
“THE GRACE OF GOD GIVEN YOU” “IN EVERY WAY ENRICHED IN HIM IN ALL
SPEECH & KNOWLEDGE” “NOT LACKING IN ANY SPIRITUAL GIFT”

✎ How was “the testimony of Jesus CONFIRMED” among them? (see Mark 16:19-20;
Heb 2:3-4) PRESUMABLY BY PAUL & HIS APOSTOLIC GIFTS & THOSE HE GAVE
GIFTS TO

- b. ____ 1:10-13; 2:14-3:4; 13:1-3 – “Gifted,” but ...

✎ How “gifted” we are does/does not determine how SPIRITUAL or MATURE we are.

✎ How “gifted” we are does/does not determine how UNITED or LOVING we are!
(See 14:1)

ii. “Giftedness” and Body life

- a. ____ 12:4-11 – All these “spiritual gifts” are from the same SOURCE, GOD, and for the same PURPOSE: “for the COMMON GOOD.”

✎ Write down the nine “spiritual gifts” here: UTTERANCE OF WISDOM;
UTTERANCE OF KNOWLEDGE; FAITH; GIFTS OF HEALING; WORKING OF
MIRACLES; PROPHECY; ABILITY TO DISCERN BETWEEN SPIRITS; VARIOUS
KINDS OF TONGUES; THE INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

- b. ____ 12:12-26 – God meant for the diversity of “gifts” to UNITE the church in a single purpose, not to DIVIDE the church and create rivalries!

✎ The two wrong “gift” attitudes: 1) “Because I’m not ..., I don’t BELONG” -
INFERIORITY 2) “I don’t NEED you” – SUPERIORITY

iii. “A more excellent way” (12:31; Chapter 13)

a. *The subject of Ch. 13 is the same as Ch. 12 (12:1): SPIRITUAL GIFTS!*

✧ *So, what does LOVE have to do with it? (13:1-8a,13; 14:1; 16:14) Paul is contrasting something TEMPORARY and of LESSER importance, with something PERMANENT and of GREATER/GREATEST importance!*

b. *In 13:8, what does Paul say will “pass away” or “cease”? PROPHECIES, TONGUES, MIRACULOUS KNOWLEDGE (Notice that all three areas have to do with the COMMUNICATION OF THE WORD!)*

c. *The “when” question (13:9-12)*

✧ *How does Paul describe what the church currently knew and prophesied? He describes it as PARTIAL.*

✧ *So, when would the PARTIAL pass away? When the PERFECT/COMPLETE had come.*

[NOTE: The Greek word used here is τέλειος (teleios), which means complete, whole, perfect, mature. So, if we can identify what the “partial” is, we can also identify what the “complete” is. It is the complete REVELATION of the WORD and WILL of God. See Mark 16:19-20; Heb 2:3-4; Acts 2:18]

✧ *The analogy of the child is speaking of the difference between the _NEW/YOUNG church vs. the MATURE church. (The church in its foundational, developmental stage vs. its established, fully functional stage – Eph 4:11-12; 2:20; 3:5-6)*

✧ *The analogy of the mirror reminds us that the “face to face” comment is talking about MY face, not Jesus! (see James 1:23-25)*

✧ *So, did all those miraculous gifts pass away? The Biblical evidence says, YES. The historical evidence says, YES. The contemporary evidence says, YES.*

iv. “Unpacking” 1 Corinthians 14

Since the Corinthian church was very gifted and using the gifts improperly, they needed guidance “for the time being.” Paul lays out principles for their proper use, particularly in the context of their worship. But Paul’s inspired instructions here are still relevant and applicable for church worship today, even though the apostolic gifts have ceased.

A. PROPHECY _____ TONGUES (1-5)

B. THE _____ WITH TONGUES (6-12)

C. THE IMPORTANCE OF _____ COMMUNICATION (13-25)

D. THE _____ OF WORSHIP (26-33)

E. AN _____ WORSHIP (34-40)