

Understanding Spiritual Gifts

Week 3 - Can You Choose or Earn a Particular Gift for Yourself?

INTRODUCTION

- Spiritual Gifts fall into two categories: Speaking & Serving.
- The purpose of the Gifts is for the building up of the Church/Family.
- The Church at Corinth, like all of us, had a lot of questions about how the Gifts of the Spirit were to work in the church!
- 1 Corinthians 12-14 was Paul's response to their confusion and ignorance.

1 Corinthians 12:1

Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed.

What was Paul's concern in this verse?

- Paul was worried the people in Corinth were getting the priorities of Spiritual Gifts out of order!

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

4 There are different spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; 5 and there are different ministries and the same Lord; 6 and there are different activities but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. 7 A demonstration of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good.

What were the three "different kinds of"?

- Different kinds of Gifts - Ministries - Activities

According to V.4, are all the gifts the same?

- No! Nor will everyone have the same gift!

According to V.7, who gives the Gifts and for what Purpose?

- They are given by the Spirit.
- They are given for the "common good!"

According to V.5-6, will everyone have the same ministry and results?

- No - they will vary
- No - Ministries results will vary!
- The results are from God - NOT us!

1 Corinthians 12:8-11

8 A word of wisdom is given by the Spirit to one person, a word of knowledge to another according to the same Spirit, 9 faith to still another by the same Spirit, gifts of healing to another in the one Spirit, 10 performance of miracles to another, prophecy to another, the ability to tell spirits apart to another, different kinds of tongues to another, and the interpretation of the tongues to another. 11 All these things are produced by the one and same Spirit who gives what he wants to each person.

According to V.11, how does He distribute the gifts?

- As He wills for His plan.

What happens someone tries to be "just like" someone else's ministry?

- If they're not working in the gifts God's given them - they're just "faking it" and it's not God's plan!

1 Corinthians 12:28-31

28 In the church, God has appointed first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, the ability to help others, leadership skills, different kinds of tongues. 29 All aren't apostles, are they? All aren't prophets, are they? All aren't teachers, are they? All don't perform miracles, do they? 30 All don't have gifts of healing, do they? All don't speak in different tongues, do they? All don't interpret, do they? 31 Use your ambition to try to get the greater gifts. And I'm going to show you an even better way.

How would you respond to someone who was teaching that we must have the same gifts or gift as a sign of true faith?

- Clearly, God did not intend for us all to demonstrate the same gifts. He's planned it that we would all have a variety for the common good and growth of the church!

Explain V.31! It sounds like Paul is contradicting himself!

- Paul isn't speaking to the individual here - but the whole church! He's basically saying to honor the best in people. The greatest gift is grace and Love! That's a more "excellent way!"

What have you learned this week about spiritual gifts?

CLOSING

- The results of our ministries has nothing to do with us OR our gifts! God determines the results!
- Reaching 100, or 50, or 10 isn't the point! REACHING is the point!
- Don't determine the importance of a person's gift on the size of their ministry!
- God chooses our ministries to work His plan - not ours!
- God doesn't need us to accomplish His will, but He allows us to serve alongside Him to experience the Joy of serving!
- Don't seek after "great results!" But seek to give glory to the one who provides the results!
- Remember - one person turned to Christ and effect a generation of people!

*A man by the name of **Edward Kimball** who gathered the nerve to witness and win the soul of a young shoe salesman named **D.L. Moody** to Christ. D.L. Moody went to England and worked a profound change in the ministry of **F.B. Meyer**. F.B. Meyer, with his new evangelistic fervor, influenced **J. Wilbur Chapman**. Chapman helped in the ministry of converted baseball player **Billy Sunday**, who had a profound impact upon **Mordacai Ham**. And Mordacai Ham, holding a revival in North Carolina, led **Billy Graham** to Christ. And the man who started it all was a layman, Edward Kimball, who took seriously Christ's commission to be a witness in his world."*

- Don't seek the gifts! Seek the Gift Giver!