

End of All things is at Hand: Four Instructions (part 4)

I. REVIEW

7 But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers. 8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.” 9 Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. 10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 4:7-11)

- A. ***The end of all things:*** The end or conclusion of something, its goal or fulfillment, its culmination. Peter is referring to the *culmination of God's redemptive plan*, the return of Christ, the final judgment, and the establishment of God's eternal kingdom.
- B. ***Four instructions in light of the end of the age:***
 - 1. Be serious and watchful (vs 7)
 - 2. Have fervent love for one another: love covers a multitude of sins (vs 8)
 - 3. Be hospitable (vs 9)
 - 4. As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another (vs 10)

II. AS EACH ONE HAS RECEIVED A GIFT: MINISTER IT TO ONE ANOTHER

10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. (1 Peter 4:10)

- A. ***As each one has received a gift:*** Peter does not say, “If you have received a gift.” He says that each believer has received a gift. No believer has every gift, but every believer has a gift.
- B. Not only are there different gifts, in the design of God, there are different measures to these gifts. We can only give to the measure that we have received. He does this for several reasons, one of them is to provide the best context for us to grow in the most important issue in our life.. love and humility. As we grow in this understanding of this design of God we avoid two common ways of thinking. The first is, “*My gift is more important than yours.*” The second is, “*I have nothing meaningful to offer.*”(Divine limitation for our own good)

1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing..(1 Cor 13:1-2)

7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high... and gave gifts to men." (Eph 4:7-8)

- C. Comparison is one of the primary strategies of the devil to get saints to not operate in the gifts. Peter instructs us to minister as with the ability to which God supplies.

If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ... (1 Pet 4:11)

- D. We want our aim to be *fully pleasing* to the heart of the Lord rather than fully impressive in the eyes of men.

10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. (Col 1:10)

- E. He has made us sufficient as ministers.

5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, 6 who also made us sufficient as ministers... (2 Cor. 3:5-6)

- F. **A gift**: By definition a gift is not earned. A spiritual gift is not a reward for being unusually mature or talented. It is an expression of God's grace. The word translated "gift" is connected to the word for grace. A gift is a grace given ability or capacity through which God works to strengthen others.

- G. **Minister it to one another**: The gifts given are to be cultivated and used for the edification of one another. To minister is to serve, attend to the needs of others, to render practical help...etc.

III. MANIFOLD GRACE OF GOD

10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 4:10-11)

- A. **As good stewards of the manifold grace of God**: Responding to the gift given by ministering to one another is called good stewardship. We are stewards of the *manifold grace of God*. Meaning the many sided, richly varied, diverse expression of God's grace through His people.

10 to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, 11 according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Eph 3:10)

- B. The grace and wisdom of God is seen in His beautiful design of the body of Christ. In His design have *need of one another* as we are interdependent upon one another.

20 But now indeed there are many members yet one body. 21 And the eyes cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” 22 No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. (1 Cor 14:20-22)

- C. We are to be intentional about bestowing greater honor on those which are natural mind thinks of as “*less honorable*”. In doing so we preserve the unity of the body and avoid harmful schisms.

23 And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty, 24 but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor the part which lacks it, 25 that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. (1 Cor 14:23-26)

IV. OPERATING IN THE DESIGN OF GOD AND THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

- A. 5 fold ministry is given with to primary purposes. First, the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry. Notice that it is “the saints” that were doing the work of the ministry. The second primary purpose of the five fold ministry is the edifying of the body of Christ.

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry and the edifying of the body of Christ. (Eph. 4:11-12)

- B. The end result of the five fold ministry working in maturity will be the body growing to the unity of the faith, growing to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Eph 4:13)

- C. In the passage we see the contrast between growing in maturity and being compared to children that are tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting.

14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting (Eph 4:14)

- D. Rather than remain children we are to “grow up” in all thing into Him who is the head. It is in Christ we are joined and knit together by what each joint supplies. When every part does its share the work becomes effective causing growth of the body for the edifying of itself.

15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head, Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part doest its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. (Eph 4:14-16)

- E. In addition to the five fold ministry we see the additional gifts of healing, helps and administration in 1 Cor 12:28.

28 God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healing, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. (1 Cor 12:28)

- F. The Holy Spirit wants the Church to understand the spiritual gifts.

1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant... (1 Cor. 12:1)

- G. The manifestation of the Spirit is given to every one. The Spirit will not use us all in the same exact same way. We want to open to being used in whatever way He sees fit.

7 The manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: 8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 the Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually... (1 Cor. 12:7-11)

- H. All these gifts are supernatural and not natural. There are three recognized categories of the gifts. **Gifts of revelation** reveal something: word of wisdom, word of knowledge, discerning of spirits. **Gifts of power** do something: the gift of faith, working of miracles, and gifts of healings. **Gifts of inspiration** say something: prophecy, tongues, and interpretation of tongues.

- I. These lists in Eph 4, 1 Cor 12, and Rom 12 are generally understood as representative rather than exhaustive. Peter's point, in 1 Peter 4, is that every Christian has received some grace gift from God and that we should use it. In Romans Paul says a similar exhortation.

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them; if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; 7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; 8 he who exhorts, in exhortation, he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. (Rom 12:6-8)