

Spiritual Gifts (Part One) **(The Sets of Gifts)**

During the month of June, we will be studying Spiritual Gifts on Sunday. Paul is the major writer of the subject of Spiritual Gifts (Rom.12); (1 Cor.12-14); (Eph.4). Peter mentions them in (1 Pet.4:10-11).

Peter offers special advice when studying Paul's writings in (**2 Pet.3:15-18**). He suggests that we put on our **thinking cap** while studying Paul's teachings on Spiritual Gifts. Peter prepared us by using the Greek word (dus-noetos / dus prefix) [**misunderstood**] - "hard to understand and / or misunderstood."

This lesson will study three reasons why Paul's writings are often considered "hard to understand", especially regarding Spiritual Gifts in the Corinthian Church.

1. As the Apostle to the Gentiles, Paul became a master of the Greek language especially as a writer (1 Cor.1:22) [Jews search for signs, Greeks search for wisdom].

An example is Paul's use of the Greek grammar. He used (**de**) as the transitional conjunction (**now**) to outline his thoughts on Spiritual Gifts into seven sections of study (1 Cor.12:1-31).

- (1 Cor.12:1-3) (1 Cor.12:1) [Now]
 - Spiritual gifts differ from the gift of the Spirit (1 Cor.12:13) and gifts are different than fruit of Spirit (Gal.5:22-23).
- (1 Cor.12:4-6) (1 Cor.12:4) [Now]
 - All three members of Godhead are involved in Spiritual gifts (1 Cor.12:4, 11)
- (1 Cor.12:7-10) (12:7) [Now]
 - Sets of nine Spiritual gifts (lesson text).
- (1 Cor.12:11-17) (12:11) [Now]
 - One body with many parts [gift of Edification] (1 Cor.12:7, 12, 14, 20, 25-27; 14:12).
- (1 Cor.12:18-19) (1 Cor.12:18) [Now]
 - God placed (tithemi / a.m.ind. 3ps) each part (gift) in the body.
- (1 Cor.12:20-26) (1 Cor.12:20) [Now]
 - God composed (sugkerannumi / a.a.ind.3ps) the body parts for unity (vs.24)
- (1 Cor.12:27-31) (1 Cor.12:27) [Now]
 - God placed (tithemi / a.m.ind.3ps) gifted ministries in the church (vs.28).

2. In our lesson text, Paul used the Greek verb (didomi) (present passive indicative / 3ps) [is given]) as a Greek marker or a divider of thoughts in (1 Cor.12:7) and in (1 Cor.12:8-10).

In (1 Cor.12:7), Paul used **didomi** to teach the function of Spiritual gifts as the visible manifestation (he phanerosis) of the indwelling ministry of Holy Spirit.

In (1 Cor.12:8-10), Paul used **didomi** again to establish sets of Spiritual gifts that would cease and that would be abolished during the church age (1 Cor.1:7, 10; 1 Cor.12-14).

3. Another example of Paul's mastery of Greek grammatical thought was the use of the (men-de sequence) to establish an emphatic series of spiritual gifts. (Remember, Put on your thinking cap!)

- (1 Cor.12:8) 1st set
 - Hos (relative pronoun used adverbially) [each one / dsm] **men** (particle of affirmation) with a series of the (**same kind**) [dsm]
 - **de allos** (word of wisdom)
 - **de allos** (word of knowledge).
- (1 Cor.12:9-10a) 2nd set (Heteros) [different kind] of (faith) (dsm)
 - **de allos** (gifts of healings) [iama / dsm]
 - **de allos** (effects of miracles) [operations of power]
 - **de allos** (prophecy)
 - **de allos** (distinguishing spirits).
- (1 Cor.12:10b) 3rd set (Heteros) [different kinds] (of tongue / dsm)
 - **de allos** (interpretation of tongues / dsm).

Let me point out Paul's concept of sets of spiritual gifts listed by Paul in (1 Cor.14).

- Tongues and interpretation (1 Cor.14:5-6, 10-13, 22-28; **12:10**).
- Prophecy and discerning spirit (1 Cor.14:29-33; **12:10**).

Gift of Tongues was 1 of 4 signs to the first century Jews regarding Jesus Christ.

- Virgin birth of Jesus Christ (Matt.1:20-23; Isa.7:14)
- Miracles of Jesus Christ (Luke 4:17-21; Isa.61:1-2)
- Resurrection of Jesus Christ (John 2:18-23; Ps.16:9-11)
- Gift of Tongues (1 Cor.14:21-22; 1:22; Isa.28:11-12; Acts 2) [Jewish Pentecost]