

GOD'S OPERATION OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

We are currently studying the Spiritual Gifts section of 1st Corinthians, chapters 12-14) where Paul is responding to “Questions asked by the Corinthian congregation” (1 Cor.7:1).

(1 Cor.7:1) “Now concerning spiritual (gift), brethren, I do not want you to be unaware (agnoeo/ p.a.infin).”

In our [last lesson](#) we studied how spiritual gifts form ONE BODY in Christ. (1 Cor.12:12-17).

This is very important in biblical history. It is a big deal!

In the next three lessons, Paul will outline each member of the Godhead's involvement with Spiritual gifts.

- The Holy Spirit's involvement with spiritual gifts (1 Cor.12:4, 7-11)
- The Lord's involvement with spiritual gifted ministries (1 Cor.12:5, 12-17)
- **God, The Father's involvement** with spiritual gifted ministries performances (1 Cor.12:6, 18-31)

This lesson will study four aspects of God's involvement in the operation of spiritual gifted ministries within the body of Christ, the Church.

1. We will begin our study by dividing our lesson text into three sections for study. Paul will show three ways God's operation of spiritual gifts works in (1 Cor.12:18-31).

(1 Cor.12:18-23) ¹⁸ But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. ¹⁹ If they were all one member, where would the body be? ²⁰ But now there are many members, but one body. ²¹ And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; or again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²² On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary; ²³ and those *members* of the body which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our less presentable members become much more presentable,

- **God placed** (tithemi/ a.m.ind.3ps) each spiritually gifted member in the body (1 Cor.12:18).

(1 Cor.12:24-27) ²⁴ whereas our more presentable members have no need of it. But God has *so* composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that *member* which lacked, ²⁵ so that there may be no ^[a]division in the body, but *that* the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if *one* member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. ²⁷ Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.

- **God so composed** (sunkerannumi/ a.a.ind.3ps) [to mix or blend together] the body so that all spiritually gifted members are equally important (1 Cor.12:24).

(1 Cor.12:28-31) ²⁸ And God has ^[a]appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then ^[b]miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, *various* kinds of tongues. ²⁹ All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not *workers of* miracles, are they? ³⁰ All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they? ³¹ But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way.

- **God has appointed** (tithemi/ a.m.ind.3ps) [an order of placement] of each spiritual gifted ministry in the body (1 Cor.12:28).

We will divide (1 Cor.12:28-31) into two parts for further study.

- (1 Cor.12:28) The order of placement of gifts.
- (1 Cor.12:29-31) Seven rhetorical questions that expect a NO answer to teach an important doctrinal point about the danger of mono-gifted thinking churches.

2. Paul added a **fourth way** of God's operation of spiritual gifts work in (Rom.12:3-8).

(Rom.12:3) "For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you **not to think more highly of himself than he ought**; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as **God allotted** (merizo/ a.a.subj.3ps) [to divide into parts] to each measure of faith."

3. Peter added a **fifth way** God's operation of spiritual gifts work in (1 Pet.4:10-11).

We will divide (1 Pet.4:10-11) into four parts for study.

- "As each one has received a special gift, **employ it** in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.
- **Whoever speaks**, is to do so as one who is **speaking the utterance of God**;
- **Whoever serves** is to do so as one who is **serving by the strength** (ischus) [power of His might] (Eph.6:10) **which God supplies** (choregeo) (Eph.4:16)
- **So that** in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever."

Paul supported Peter's doctrinal point in:

(Eph.4:10-16) "But speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted together by what every joint supplies (epichoregeo), according to the proper working (energeia) of each individual part, **cause the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.**" (Eph.4:15-16)

4. When you study the major passages on spiritual gifts, it is important to count and list them.

(1 Cor.12:8-10) ⁸ For to one is given the **word of wisdom** through the Spirit, and to another the **word of knowledge** according to the same Spirit; ⁹ to another **faith** by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of **healing** by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ and to another the effecting of **miracles**, and to another **prophecy**, and to another the **distinguishing of spirits**, to another *various* kinds of **tongues**, and to another the **interpretation of tongues**.

- 9 gifts listed
- This is the only place that all temporary gifts are listed together.

(1 Cor. 12:28-30) ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church, first **apostles**, second prophets, third **teachers**, then ^[b]miracles, then gifts of healings, **helps**, **administrations**, *various* kinds of tongues. ²⁹ All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not *workers of* miracles, are they? ³⁰ All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they?

- lists four additional gifts

(Rom.12:7-8) ⁷ if **service**, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ or he who **exhorts**, in his exhortation; he who **gives**, with liberality; he who **leads**, with diligence; he who shows **mercy**, with cheerfulness.

- lists 5 additional gifts

(Eph.4:11) ¹¹ And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* **evangelists**, and some *as* pastors and teachers,

- lists 1 additional gift. Teacher is the gift and pastor is the office (Acts 20:28; 1 Pet.5:1-2). You could have the gift of teacher and not hold the office of pastor. But if you hold the office of pastor, you have the gift of teacher.