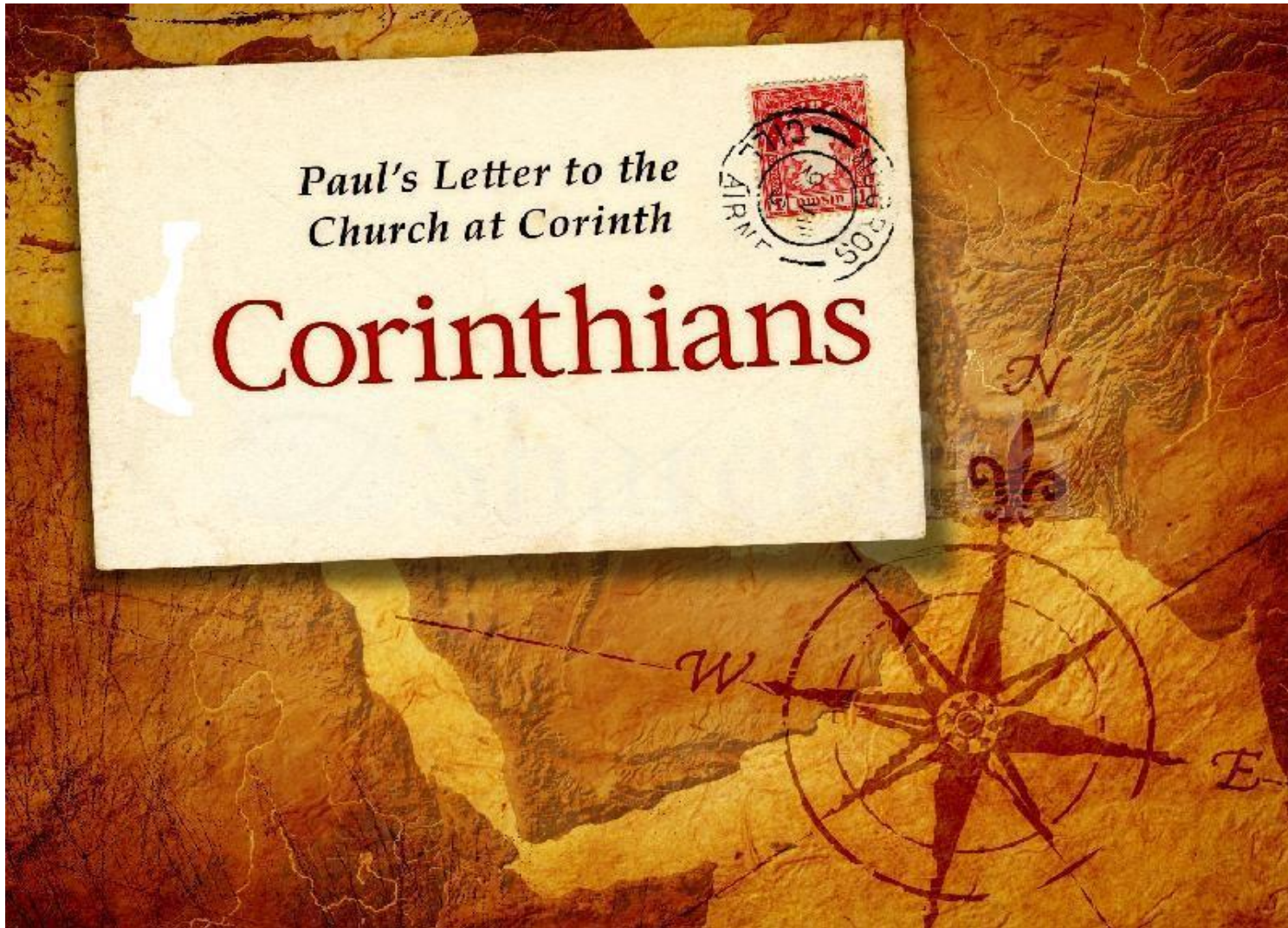


1 Cor. 12:7-11

Spiritual Gifts in the Corinthian Church



Chp 12:1 - 6 Outline*



- A. Review of Their Pagan Past 12:1-3
- B. Statement of the Corinthians' Existing Gifts 12:4-11
 - 1. Their Divine Origin 12:4-6
 - a. In God the Holy Spirit 12:4
 - b. In God the Son 12:5
 - c. In God the Father 12:6
 - 2. Their Single Aim 12:7
 - 3. Their Diverse Nature 12:8-11
 - a. Gifts Relating to the Needs of the Mind 12:8
 - The Ability of Communication
 - The Ability of Appropriation
 - b. Gifts Relating to the Needs of the Body 12:9
 - c. Gifts Relating to the Needs of the Spirit 12:10

* from McCalley

¹ Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware.



you (Corinthians) *to be unaware*

to be unaware - *agnoeō* - to be ignorant of

- 1 Cor 10:1 For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea.

concerning spiritual gifts

spiritual – *pneumatikon* – lit: spirituals; that which is characterized by the Holy Spirit

- The context tells what these *spirituals* are. Verses 9-10 show them to be special abilities for serving the body of Christ.

McCalley

² You know that when you were pagans, *you were* led astray to the mute idols, however you were led.



you know – *oida* – you know on basis of facts

that when you (Corinthians) were pagans

you were led astray to the mute idols

[you were] being carried away to the mute idols Interlinear

mute - *aphōnos* - "voiceless, or soundless"

- paganism followed idols that could not express their will or answer questions McCalley
- Dumb idols are idols that do not speak in contrast with the living God who does speak. Constable
- Heb 1:1-2a God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son.

³ Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed"; and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.



Therefore I make known

1st - no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed"

by - *en* - by means of

- Only a believer can speak "by means of" the Holy Spirit.
- No one the Holy Spirit motivated would curse Jesus Christ.

Constable

2nd - no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit

- Only a believer can truly say "Jesus is Lord."
- An example of this is Thomas's declaration: "My Lord and my God!"
- The Holy Spirit's function is to glorify the person of Christ.

4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.



now there are varieties of gifts

varieties - *diaíresis* - distribution, apportionments
lit: different kinds

- Rom 12:6a Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us...

of gifts – *charisma* - "a gift of grace, a gift involving grace" (*charis*) on the part of God as the donor

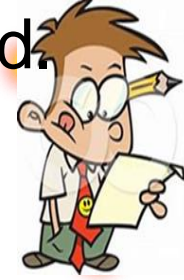
- Gifts [*charisma*] are abilities that enable a person to glorify and serve God. Constable

but the same Spirit

same – only one God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit

⁵ And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord.

⁶ There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons.



of ministries - *diakonia* - service, ministry; is used of the service of believers to body of Christ; “service” is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit

of effects - *enérgeōma* - effect, working, energizing; It is the result of the energy of God in the believer.

The results are energized by God's grace.

who works (energizes) **all things in all persons**

- It is God who is responsible for our abilities, our opportunities for service, and the individual ways in which we minister including the results. Constable
- The believer is to walk by faith, run with endurance the race that is set before us, lay aside every encumbrance.

Today's Verses



- ⁷ But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.
- 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.
- ¹¹ But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.



complete subject: the manifestation of the Spirit

manifestation - *phanerosis* - a manifestation, a making visible or observable

2 Cor 4:2b but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God

verb: is given **modifier:** to each (every believer)

- The words *each one* call attention to the fact that no believer is without at least one spiritual gift. McCalley

modifier: for the common good

common good - *sumphéron* - advantage, profit, benefit

- These spiritual gifts are to profit every one in the local church.

Merryman

Corinthians' Spiritual Gifts Overview



- Verses 8 to 10 list nine spiritual gifts.
- From the context of 1 Corinthians these were given to help establish the church at Corinth.
- They did not have the Bible as we have it today.
- They had to look to Paul, Apollos and Cephas for the teaching of God's word.
- Apparently Paul's letters would be read to the church at Corinth.
- The question then arises do these gifts apply to believers today.

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.



For to one is given through the intermediate agency of the Spirit a word of wisdom, and to another a word of knowledge according to the same Spirit. Wuest

- a word not the word (no definite article)
- This [no article] probably points to Paul's referring to an utterance [verbal expression] of wisdom or knowledge. Constable
- 1 Cor 2:4 and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.
- The word of knowledge helped them apply their wisdom to a given situation. Merryman

⁸ For to one is given through the intermediate agency of the Spirit a word of wisdom, and to another a word of knowledge according to the same Spirit.

Wuest



- The Holy Spirit's method "For to one is given" then "to another [is given]."
- The delivery method is the "through the intermediate agency of the Spirit."
- For the gift of "knowledge" we have a direct statement that it is going to pass away.
- 1 Cor 13:8 Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away.

⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,



to another [is given] faith by the same Spirit

- the faith exercised for salvation is not a gift
- Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it [salvation] is the gift of God.
- To another [wonder-working] faith by the same [Holy] Spirit. Amplified
- Faith was to be used in the performance of healing and miracles. Merryman
- Certain gifts are extensions of abilities possessed and exercised by all believers. McCalley

⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,



to another [is given] gifts of healing by the one Spirit

- the ability to heal instantly
- In New Testament times they did not always utilize the gift of healing.
- Phil 2:27 For indeed he [Epaphroditus] was sick to the point of death, but God had mercy on him, --- so that I would not have sorrow upon sorrow.
- 2 Tim 4:20 Erastus remained at Corinth, but Trophimus I left sick at Miletus.
- Paul could not heal himself.
- The gift of faith [wonder-working] was used in conjunction with the gift of healing.

Merryman

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.



to another [is given] the effecting of miracles

- the ability to effect a miracle instantly
- Acts 5:12 At the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were taking place among the people; and they were all with one accord in Solomon's portico.
- Gift of faith was used in conjunction with the gift of miracles. Merryman
- Other verses: Acts 20:9-10, Gal 3:5

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.



to another [is given] prophecy

prophecy - *prophēteia* - the speaking forth of the mind and counsel of God

- Much of OT prophecy was purely predictive, see Micah 5:2
- It [prophecy] is the forth-telling of the will of God, whether with reference to the past, the present, or the future.
- With the completion of the canon of Scripture prophecy apparently passed away, 1 Cor. 13:8, 9.
- In his measure the teacher has taken the place of the prophet.
- The message of the teacher is gathered from the completed revelation contained in the Scriptures Vine & Hogg

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.



and to another [is given] the distinguishing of spirits
distinguishing

- diakrisis - a clear discrimination,
discerning, judging – [in] 1 Cor. 12:10, of
"discerning" spirits, judging by evidence
whether they are evil or of God.

- It was given to detect false teaching and the spirits behind these teaching (selfishness, ego, ungodly ones)

Merryman

- 1 John 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

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.



to another [is given] various kinds of tongues

tongues - *glōssa* - the supernatural gift of speaking in another language without its having been learnt

- Chp. 14 gives instruction concerning the use of the gift, the paramount object being the edification of the church. Vine
- The fact that tongues is a foreign language will be shown in Chapter 14.
- 1 Cor 13:8 Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease

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.



to another [is given] the interpretation of tongues

interpretation - *hermēneia* – the verb form denotes "to explain, interpret" (Eng., "hermeneutics"), and is used of explaining the meaning of words in a different language

- 1 Cor. Chp 14 will give us more proof that tongues are a real foreign language.
- Since tongues will cease from 1 Cor 13:8 so will the interpretation of tongues.

11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.



Subject: one and the same Spirit

- The manifestations of the Spirit vary; they all indicate the presence and working of the Spirit of God. Constable
verb: works - *energeō* - to be active, operative, energize
present tense - continuous action

two continuous actions by the Holy Spirit:

1st – [works - energizes] all these things

all these things – gifts, ministries and effects from
verses 4, 5 and 6

We should probably not view these words as representing entirely separate ideas but as facets of God's work in and through the believer.

Constable

¹¹ But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.



2nd – distributing to each one individually just as He wills

distributing - diaireō - to divide into parts, to distribute, to apportion

- Luke 15:12 "The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.'" So he divided his wealth between them.
- Each person is unique and the Holy Spirit relates to each person as an individual.
- Paul also stressed again the Spirit's sovereignty [i.e. just as He wills] in distributing the gifts (cf. John 3:8).

Constable

Final Thoughts *



- A gift in the spiritual sense means the Holy Spirit is doing a particular service through the believer and using the believer to do it.
- It is not something the believer is doing by the aid of the Holy Spirit, nor is it a mere augmentation of --- a natural gift.
- As it was seen earlier regarding the fruit of the Spirit that it is a direct product wrought by the Spirit within the believer.
- In like manner the exercise of a spiritual gift is a direct achievement of the Holy Spirit.
- The fruit of the Spirit is inward, it is standardized, and it is uniform in its outworking.
- But the gifts which are wrought by the Spirit are outward in the realms of service.
- [Gifts] are varied to the point that it may be assumed that no two Christians are appointed to exactly the same responsibility.

* Chafer