

LESSON OUTLINE

I. Satanic Imitations Versus Spiritual Gifts. I Corinthians 12:1-3

A. No ignorance please! vs. 1

Paul was determined that the Corinthian Christians be not ignorant or without knowledge concerning the gifts. Because of the pagan, false religious systems in Corinth, Paul had to give the Church sure, tested truth in order to discuss the differences. What the Holy Spirit gives is divine and not devilish or demonic! The pagan past had no part in their present life in Christ (II Cor.5:17).

B. No ignorance please! vs. 2-3

Paul wanted the church not to be influenced by the practices of their past (vs. 2) and know that those who follow Christ will never curse or demonically blaspheme His name. "Some of the Corinthians were fleshly and given over to ecstasies that were controlled by demons. In that condition, they actually claimed to prophesying or teaching in the Holy Spirit while demonically blaspheming the name of the Lord whom they were supposed to be worshipping. They were judging the use of the gifts on the basis of experience and not content." (MacArthur). The Holy Spirit will never lead a person to blaspheme or speak ill concerning the name and person of Jesus Christ. He will only lead one to acknowledge Jesus as Lord! vs. 3.

II. Source of Spiritual Gifts. I Corinthians 12:4-7

(According to Dr. J. Vernon McGee the source of spiritual gifts is the Triune Godhead.)

A. vs 4. The Holy Spirit bestows the gifts (Magee). He grants a variety of gifts or abilities upon Christians.

B. vs. 5. The Lord Jesus directs or administers the gifts (Magee). He gives unique ministry arenas to use the gifts.

C. vs. 6. The Father applies the power to energize the gift (Magee.)

He empowers the gifts to the magnitude in which they are to be carried out or performed. Verse 6 reminds us to use the gifts where the Lord dictates, for He knows where it will do the most good. And remember, gifts were given for the edifying of the body of Christ.

NOTE: Absolutely no one has the right to choose their own gifts or to use their gifts in a selfish, self-serving manner. They are under the control and sovereign rule of the Lord.

D. vs. 7. "But the manifestation of the spirit is given to every man to profit withal."

Dr. H. A. Ironside shares: "The gift and the manifestation are all of the Spirit of God within the believer, and when it comes to using those gifts, all must be in subjection to the Lordship of Christ. If, for instance, God has given me some particular gift, I am not to use that gift whenever and as I think fit, but only in subjection to the Lord Jesus Christ Himself."

III. Selections of Spiritual Gifts. I Corinthians 12:8-11

Paul now gives a partial list of the gifts or graces of the Holy Spirit, to be used in the building of the church and the evangelizing of sinners. Notice also some commentary including the purpose and description of the gifts' usage by Dr. J. Vernon McGee:

vs. 8 – Wisdom: Insight into the truth of God's Word.

Knowledge: The ability to investigate and discover golden nuggets in God's Word.

vs. 9 – Faith: The ability to believe God and see a job done before it happens.

Healing: Special ability of an individual used of God to accomplish the work of healing in human bodies. (Acts 5:12-16; 8:5-8)

vs. 10 – Working of Miracles: That is, to do the supernatural.

Prophecy: To declare the unrevealed will of Christ (foretell). To declare the revealed will of Christ (forthtell).

Discernment of Spirits: To distinguish between the false and the truth immediately.

Tongues and Interpretation: The ability to both speak and understand languages unstudied."

vs. 11 – It is the job of the Holy Spirit to select to whom and which gift will be bestowed on each believer. Paul encouraged the Corinthians to pray for the best gifts in verse 31 (seek the will of God for the gift he has prepared for you!)

Closing

Beloved, this is the first of several lessons we will examine this month concerning Spiritual Gifts. Let us again remember Paul's admonition in I Corinthians 12:1 (NLT), "*Now, dear brothers and sisters, regarding your question about the special abilities the Spirit gives us. I don't want you to misunderstand this.*"

Bibleway Missionary Baptist Church, New Orleans, LA & Little Bethel Baptist Church, Amite, LA

Mailing Address: Post Office Box 19768, New Orleans, LA 70179-0768

Phone: (504) 486-7876 Email: bible32@bellsouth.net

Website: www.thestudyhour.com

Radio Broadcast: WABL AM (Amite City), Saturday, 3:00 p.m.

TV Telecast: WHNO TV-Channel 20, Sunday, 6:30 a.m.



Looking Ahead:

May 17, 2015

I Corinthians 12:14-31

You are invited to attend Noon Bible Study every Wednesday as Pastor Davis teaches the lesson at Bibleway.