**1 CORINTHIANS 12A**

**SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

**12:1** Now concerning spiritual *gifts,* brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant: 2 You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led.

* Paul reminds the Corinthian Church that their background was worshipping idols… And now they are practicing the gifts with much of the over zealousness of idol worshippers…
* I love that Paul will end this chapter with the words: “Seek after the best gifts…” Then, Paul will lecture them about love.
* So he starts with a couple of warnings… Remember where you came from… And then he deals with a silly rumor that STILL gets used to discourage the Gifts of the Spirit.

**STOPPING A SILLY RUMOR**

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

* **COURSON** - A rumor circulating in Paul's day said, "If you pray in the Spirit, you can actually unknowingly curse Jesus." And such a rumor is heard to this day. Paul, however, makes it clear that it is impossible for a person praying in the Spirit to say Jesus is accursed.

**GUZIK** – “Here, Paul lays down a broad principle for discerning matters regarding **spiritual gifts**: **#1** - judge things by how they relate to Jesus Christ. Does a supposed spiritual gift glorify Jesus? Does it promote the true Jesus, or a false one? Jesus made it plain, saying that when the Holy Spirit would come, *He will testify of Me* (Joh\_15:26), and *He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you* (Joh\_16:14).

**#2**- The ministry of the Holy Spirit is not to promote Himself or any man, but to glorify and represent Jesus. We can therefore trust that the true ministry of the Holy Spirit will be according to the nature of Jesus.”

* This silly rumor is still used by Cessationists to discourage people from accepting the gifts of the Spirit, especially the gifts of tongues.
	+ Cessationists are Christians who teach that the gifts ceased with the deaths of the 12 Apostles. These believers will stick with this belief right up until they or a family member gets sick and then they will pray for a miracle like they became a Pentecostal.
	+ I taught this silly rumor right up until I prayed for the gifts… and got them. I’m SO glad I did… And I hope that you too will pray for them.
	+ How do you ask? **Luke 11:10-12**
* **Luke 11:10** For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 11 If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if *he asks* for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will ***your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"**

* BTW… You **DO NOT** need to be afraid of the Holy Spirit. He has only the best for you at heart! Anybody who wants you to fear the Holy Spirit and His gifts is ignorant.

**DIVERSITY TRAINING**

4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same **Spirit**. 5 There are differences of ministries, ***(Thankfully)*** but the same **Lord**. 6 And there are diversities of activities, ***(NOT a formula)*** but it is the same **God** who works all in all.

* Are you thankful that we all do not have to be alike… Act alike… Sound alike…? Or worship alike? I AM!
* The temptation is to judge others who act, sound and worship differently than we do! DON’T DO IT!
* When you do… You might just be mocking the Holy Spirit at work in others and I have heard that it makes Him angry when people do that.
* Do you remember when the disciples tried to stop the ministers who did not follow them? It’s in Mark 9…
* **Mark 9:38** Now John answered Him, saying, "Teacher, we saw someone who does not follow us ***(Our style)*** casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow us."

39 But Jesus said, "Do not forbid him, for no one who works a miracle in My name can soon afterward speak evil of Me. 40 For he who is not against us is on our side. 41 For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in My name, because you belong to Christ, assuredly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.

**YOU GET A GIFT… YOU GET A GIFT… YOU GET A GIFT!**

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given **to each one** for the profit *of all* ***(NOT for personal gain)*** 8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, **(The word of wisdom doesn't come from one's ability to figure out a situation. It is supernaturally given to answer a question or solve a problem. COURSON)**

8b to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, **(GUZIK - The unique ability to declare knowledge which could only be revealed supernaturally,)** Jesus – “It is true you do not have a husband… you have had 5 of them and you’re shacking up now…)”

* Knowledge, without wisdom, is sometimes worse than ignorance. Knowing **WHEN** to speak is wisdom. HINT – Less is better.

***MORE GIFTS***

9 to another faith by the same Spirit, (**Courson** – “The operation of faith is the ability to step out in response to the leading of the Spirit and do something you would never have done otherwise.”)

* This gift takes some courage and wisdom. Have I seen people get healed when we prayed for them? Yes! Has it happened every time I prayed? No. Why not? It is a gift that GOD gives… Should YOU pray with faith? YES!
* **CHUCK SMITH** – “This gift is NOT a reservoir waiting to be tapped… It is a one at a time kind of gift… Just be ready to exercise it!”

***LIKE THE FAITH GIFT…***

9b …to another gifts of healings ***(like me)*** by the same Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, ***(Like in the book of Acts)*** to another prophecy, **(COURSON – “Prophecy consists of words of edification, exhortation, or comfort spoken at the very time they're most needed.” Acts 21 tells of prophecy given by Agabus.)**

10b **…**to another discerning of spirits, ***(Acts 8:20)*** **Being able to know the heart of others…**

10c …to another *different* kinds of tongues, ***(Languages)*** to another the interpretation of tongues. ***PAUL EMPHASIZES ORDER IN THE GIFTS…Listen…***

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

**ONE BODY WITH MANY MEMBERS**

12 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also *is* Christ. **IE, WE are ALL needed in the body of Christ**

**UNITY**

13 For by one Spirit **(Holy Spirit)** we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. 14 For in fact the body is not one member but many.

**DO NOT SAY: “I’M NOT THAT IMPORTANT”**

15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? 17 If the whole body *were* an eye, where *would be* the hearing? If the whole *were* hearing, where *would be* the smelling?

**GOD IS PLEASED WITH YOU!**

18 But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just **as He pleased**.

19 And if they *were* all one member, where *would* the body *be?* 20 But now indeed *there are* many members, yet one body.

* **Revelation 4:11**  (KJV) Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.
* **God created you to enjoy you… Remember that!**

**WE NEED YOU!**

21 And the eye 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. 23 And those *members* of the body which we think to be less honorable, ***(Visible)*** on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable *parts* have greater modesty,

**SO MUCH FOR THE BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE**

24 but our presentable *parts* have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that *part* which lacks it, 25 that there should be no schism ***(Disharmony)*** in the body, but *that* the members should have the same care for one another.

**ONE FOR ALL**

26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with *it;* or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with *it.* 27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

**GOD GIVEN GIFTS**

28 And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.

***NOTICE THE ORDER!***

**THE ANSWER IS NO!**

29 Are all apostles? *Are* all prophets? *Are* all teachers? *Are* all workers of miracles? 30 Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? ***NO!***

**ARE SOME GIFTS BETTER THAN OTHERS?**

31 But earnestly desire the best gifts. **(Depending upon your calling)** And yet I show you a more excellent way. ***Next chapter***