

**“The Gifts of the Holy Spirit”**  
**July 5, 2015**

**1 Corinthians 12:1-11**

**CORE-** HS giving us what we need in order to see things, know things, believe for things, say things, and do things that flow from His heart. He loves to give us what we need to bring His heart to the world around us (*express His love*). In light of this, there are several things for us to keep in mind:

1. **God’s Word is intended to be EXPERIENCED.**
  - Not merely studied, analyzed & categorized
  - Just as Jesus, “the Word became flesh” (John 1:14), we can live it, too!
  - *“You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.” (John 5:39-40) Lit.- “to enter into My way of life” (erchomai)*
  
2. **Gifts have been CONTROVERSIAL since the 1<sup>st</sup> day they were given.**
  - Acts 2:12-13- “amazed, perplexed, made fun of”
  - Yet, they didn’t get defensive or let their love grow cold—rather, they persevered in faith, persisted in love, & asked Him for more (Acts 4).
  
3. **What is the DISTINGUISHING MARK that a gift is “from God”?**
  - What place does Jesus have (v. 2-3)?
    - Is He “cursed”? (*anathema*) “*to ban; excommunicate; reject; dishonor; refuse to relate to*”
    - Or is He honored as “Lord”? (*kurios*) “*supreme authority; a title of honor—giving reverence & respect to; to submit to & serve because He is trusted*” (i.e., Repent of being “unfriendly” to Holy Spirit)
  
4. **Never lose sight of the ULTIMATE PURPOSE of His gifts.**
  - (v. 7) He wants to “manifest” Himself—“*to render apparent; to communicate clearly; to “make known” tangibly*”
  - His gifts are to **EXPRESS** His love—more than **EVIDENCE** to prove He’s right
  - His **POWER** and His **LOVE** are inseparable
  
5. **We need BOTH the FRUIT of the Spirit as well as His GIFTS.**
  - We don’t need to be selective—we need **BOTH** (1 Cor. 14:1)
  - **FRUIT** grows as we receive instruction/correction from Him
  - **GIFTS** flow as we desire to minister with Him
  - I Cor. 14:39-40- “**ALL** things must be done” is the foremost part of this command—hard to bring “order” to inactivity
  - The ox **AND** the strength (Proverbs 14:4) vs. “no ox” & “clean stall.”

- “Caution” can become “quenching”—limiting His ministry
  - NOTE: People will always either be “amazed, perplexed, or make fun of” something they don’t understand
  - NOTE: Don’t allow the fear of extremes to keep you from the “stream”
6. These gifts equip us for ministry EVERYWHERE!
- HS moving us from ministry TO the saints → ministry OF the saints.
  - (i.e., “indoor plants” or “the planting of the Lord—that He might be glorified”)
  - Holy Spirit “has them” and HE “distributes them” (1 Corinthians 12:11)
7. Anticipate continuous fillings (NOTE: Overflowing is FULL)
- a. Increased fillings throughout the book of Acts
  - b. i.e., Peter “having just been filled with the HS”
  - c. Move past the “one-experience-ends-all-experiences” mentality.
  - d. Don’t “limit the Holy One” (Psalm 78:41)—“graven images” (“reduced imaginings” of God)

## **FINAL THOUGHTS**

Be a great **RECEIVER** (all about attitude/posture of the heart)

- **Be humble** (teachable, correctable, moldable, not easily offended)
- **Stay hungry** (going after “more”; leave comfort zones—“silk chains” of religious spirit/masonic ties)
- **Stay connected** (we learn best in accountable, encouraging, persevering relationships—Romans 15)
- **Be fearless** (risk, make mistakes, learn from them—repeat)

(NOTE: *The Holy Spirit and You*, Dennis & Rita Bennett)