

1 CORINTHIANS: LESSON 32

Chapter 12: Introduction to The Gifts of the Spirit

19 January 2018

First Corinthians Chapters 1-11 deal with rebuke, reproof, and correction of error in the church at Corinth. In Chapter twelve, the Holy Spirit begins to deal with the solution to the problems and to discuss how things are supposed to function in a church and in an individual's life.

Verse by Verse

Vs 1 These instructions are written to "**brethren.**" If you're not a born-again child of God, you have no spiritual gifts because you don't have the Holy Spirit in you. Immediately after you receive Jesus Christ as your Savior, "**your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you**" (1 Cor 6:19, 3:16). These are called gifts of the Spirit because the Holy Spirit decides which gift to give you. You don't make that decision.

God doesn't want His children to be "**ignorant**" concerning spiritual matters. He gave us the Bible to instruct us so that we don't get led astray by the many false teachings on this subject.

Vs 2 We used to be involved in some form of idolatry. We chose our own religious orientation and our own level of faith and method of practice, which did not involve true faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Our selfishness led us to religion, but not to the Lord.

Vs 3 A saved person would never use Jesus' name as a curse word or a swear word. It's possible that someone in Corinth actually called Jesus "**accursed**" and they had a question about that.

A saved person says, "**Jesus is THE Lord,**" by the Holy Ghost. That means He's God. All the "*Jesus is Lord*" churches lack the definite article, "**the,**" and basically deny the deity of Jesus Christ. Even the Devil will say "Jesus Christ is Lord" (Phil 2:11). Satan is the one responsible for the new bible translations removing or altering verses on the deity of Christ. Jesus is not one of many gods. He is the one and ONLY God Almighty. Every area of our Christian life must be subject to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Vs 4 There are diversities (a variety) of gifts. There is only one Spirit who distributes those gifts. You don't get all the gifts. You don't get to choose the gift. Spiritual gifts are given in ADDITION to your natural talents and abilities. They are not selected based upon abilities you already possess. These are supernatural gifts which enable you to do something you would not normally be able to do; possibly something you've never done before.

5-6 There are “**diversities of administrations**” and “**diversities of operations.**” So why do pastors from Independent Baptist Churches verbally condemn other churches (usually through gossip) because they don’t do things exactly like they do it? The Holy Spirit uses different means to reach the lost and operate in the various churches and ministries according as He sees fit, but it’s still under His control and leadership.

Vs 7 What is the purpose of the gift that the Holy Spirit gave you? “**To profit withal**” (to benefit everybody). It isn’t so that you can have fun with the gift and brag about it. Your gift is not given for your profit, but for the profit of others. The believers at Corinth were selfish and it caused many kinds of problems. Using a spiritual gift for your own selfish purposes will also cause problems. Use your gift to be a blessing to others and you will enjoy your Christian life more. If no one benefits from your use of your gift, then you’re using it improperly or you’re faking it.

8-10 The thing to notice in these verses, for now, is that everybody doesn’t get every gift. Also, there isn’t a particular gift mentioned that everybody gets. If someone tells you that you **MUST** have a certain gift, they’re lying, or they’re deceived.

Vs 11 All the various spiritual gifts—given by ONE Holy Spirit—are divided (distributed) by Him “**As HE will.**” He decides what to give you. If you’re envious of someone else’s gift, and you try to pretend you’ve got that gift or you get mad and leave the church, it’s not going to benefit the church. If it’s “**as He will,**” it’s important that you aim to be in His will!

The word “**severally**” indicates that you will receive more than one gift over time, and your gift may change as your situations change. If you’re yielded to let the Lord have His way in your life, then, as you exercise your gifts to the benefit of others, you will be blessed in your life.
