

Follow The Way of Love And Eagerly Desire Spiritual Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:1, 7-11, 31 “Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant. 7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8 To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits (discernment), to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines. 31 But eagerly desire the greater gifts. And now I will show you the most excellent way.”

1.) Desire of gifts vs. the Godly character of love.

“A gift is something, as it were, put into our hands, that can be used by us; a grace is some change effected in our very natures, which makes us unquestionably better men and women.”

—R. Tuck, *Pulpit Comm. Vol. 19*

1 Corinthians 13:1 “If I speak in the tongues of men and angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

2.) love of Christ and others must compel us in our desire for spiritual gifts.

1 Corinthians 14:1 “Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy.”

Follow: διώκω *dīōkō* **dee-o'-ko** to pursue, press on: figuratively of one who runs in a race swiftly to reach the goal. —Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries

Desire: ζηλόω *zēlōō* **dzay-lo'-o** to burn with zeal, to desire earnestly, pursue.

—Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries

The manifestations of the Holy Spirit's gifts should result in the strengthening, encouragement, and comfort of others. The gift that you bring should be presented in a fitting and orderly manner to ensure that the people are built up and edified.

1 Corinthians 14:12 . . . Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that **build up the church**.

1 Corinthians 14:40 But everything should be done in a **fitting and orderly** way.

1 Corinthians 14:26 What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done **for the strengthening of the church**.

Pursue love always pressing forward for the good of others and be zealous in your earnest pursuit of spiritual gifts for together, selfless love and spiritual gifts, will effectively build the church.

3.) The Holy Spirit desires to manifest His gifts.

* “the shining forth (lit.) of the indwelling Spirit.”

Manifest: φανερωσις phanerōsis *fan-er'-o-sis* to make manifest or visible of known what has been hidden or unknown, to manifest, whether by words, or deeds, or in any other way. Taken from *Phaino* {fah'-ee-no} to bring forth into the light, cause to shine, shed light.

—Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries

a.) the purpose: strengthening, encouragement, comfort and edification, “for the common good” 1 Cor 12:7. * “An abiding and inspiring reminder of His presence and power.” 1 Cor. 14:3-5, 12, 26, 31,

4.) The gifts of the Holy Spirit

a.) three vocal gifts, the power to speak: tongues, interpretation and prophecy. 1 Cor. 14:5, 13, 22, 27-28 tongues and interpretation limited to three.

Prophecy is to proclaim the mind of God by inspiration and prompting of the Holy Spirit and not just from one's own thoughts. It is supernatural speak in a known language. To a large degree prophecy has been lost to the church because of fear of error, fanaticism or false inspiration. Ex. 7:1-2 “... Thou shalt speak all that I command thee...” Jer. 20:9; Acts 2:17; 1 Cor. 14:1, 39

b.) three power gifts, the power to do: healing, miracles and faith.

gifts of healing not by medical knowledge, but by supernatural power. Matt. 8:1-4 Jesus heals the leper; Acts 3:1-8 Peter and John heal the cripple, 5:12-16; James 5:12,17

miracles, an extraordinary event taken to manifest a supernatural work of God. Acts 5:15 people healed by the passing of Paul's shadow, 8:5-8 Philip in Samaria; 9:40 Peter raises Dorcus from the dead, 20:10 Paul raises Eutycus from the dead, Acts 19:11-12 God did extraordinary miracles through Paul.

faith, to confidently believe without doubt as we act or speak in Jesus' name it shall come to pass. Matt. 17:20, 21:21; Mark 11:22-24; Luke 17:6. This gift of faith is not to be confused with saving faith (Eph. 2:8; Heb. 11:6).

c.) three knowing gifts, the power to know: wisdom, knowledge and discernment.

Knowing what to say and how to say it. Acts 6:1-7 the choosing of deacons; 2 Peter 3:15 Paul wrote with the wisdom that God gave; 1 Cor. 7:12, 25, 40 Paul makes a distinction between what he thinks and the wisdom of God; Luke 12:12 the Holy spirit will teach you in what you should say; Matt. 22:21 render to Caesar that which belongs to Caesar.

Supernatural revelation of facts, past or present which were not learned through the efforts of the natural mind. Acts 5:1-9 Ananias and Sapphira; Matt. 9:2-6 Jesus and the scribes; John 4:17-19 personal history of the Samaritan women.

The gift of discernment is a defense against deception. It must not be confused with keen insight into human nature. * “A gift of natural insight can be invaluable to the business man, or the politician. Then how much more such a gift of spiritual insight to the believer in the spiritual realm...” John 1:47-50 Jesus discerns Nathaniel; Acts 16:16-18 Paul discerns the slave girl and the spirit of divination; Acts 8:23 Peter discerns Simon the sorcerer.

5.) All things done decently and in order.

INSPIRATION NEVER ROBS US OF SELF-CONTROL!

“Spiritual gifts rightly exercised have a divine purpose of distinct blessing both for the unbeliever and the church of God. Their orderly exercise is essential to this end.” 1 Cor. 14:26, 29b, 32, 33, 40 —*Concerning Spiritual Gifts*, Donald Gee

Conclusion: “There must have been a wonderfully comforting, but sometimes also a terribly searching light in those early Christian assemblies as the Master used the gifts of the Spirit under His own loving, yet faithful, control. A wealth of insight is contained in just one verse where Paul says, on this subject, “Thus the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.” 1 Cor. 14:25. **Such could be the result of spiritual gifts in the church!**”

—*Concerning Spiritual Gifts*, Donald Gee