

I CORINTHIANS 12:1-11

REVIEW...

- I CORINTHIANS 7 - THE 1ST QUESTION - MARRIAGE...
- I CORINTHIANS 8-10 - THE 2ND QUESTION - IDOLS...
- I CORINTHIANS 11 - THE 3RD QUESTION - RULES FOR A WORSHIP SERVICE...
 - Showing reverence in a church service...
 - Men are not to have their head covered / women are to have their head covered...
 - The purpose was to show the 'order' God had established within the church...
 - To show reverence and respect for the Lord
 - Consider one another in communion...
 - Rather than 'looking out for number one' - in the 'love' feasts...
 - Paul commanded the believers to focus on the reason for communion - remembering...
 - If people were hungry - they could eat at home before they came to church!

THE 4TH QUESTION - THE 'GIFTS' OF THE HOLY SPIRIT... (4 THINGS)

- 1ST - DO NOT BE IGNORANT... vs. 1-3
 - The 4th question the church asked Paul was concerning Spiritual gifts...
 - Apparently there was quite a bit of confusion about this subject...
 - There are still a number of various opinions on this subject within the church today...
 - Paul will spend Chapters 12-14 dealing with this one subject to clarify...
 - No matter what your opinion - or denomination - the key to understanding the gifts...
 - Chapter 13 - Love - Paul will define for us the greatest of all the Gifts is the Love of God!
 - Do not be ignorant concerning the 'Spirituals'... vs. 1
 - Times have not changed much - most of us are still ignorant today about this subject...
 - The word 'Spirituals' - *pneumatikos* - from root word - *pneuma* - wind or spirit...
 - *Pneumatikos* can mean - 'one who is filled with and controlled by the Spirit'
 - Notice the word 'gifts' is in italics - it's not in the original text...
 - Paul is not just saying he does not want us to be ignorant about the 'gifts of the Spirit'
 - He does not want us to be ignorant about being filled with the Spirit!
 - In other words we are the 'spirituals' - those who are empowered by the Spirit!
 - It is about the Spirit controlling our lives - giving us the ability to live for Jesus!
 - Before we were saved (*Gentiles*)... vs. 2
 - Before we knew Jesus we were 'carried away' by our dumb (*mute*) idols...
 - In other words before we knew Jesus we had no direction - no purpose...
 - Every new idea - we blindly followed after - not knowing where we were going...
 - If someone said we should go to Manila - we went / or to a Disco - we went...
 - No thought of consequence - no plan - just following the world without question
 - But when the Spirit controls us...
 - The Holy Spirit gives us the power to live our lives for Jesus!
 - How do you get the Power of the Spirit - just ask...
 - Matthew 7:7 - "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find..."

- Jesus commands us to keep asking - seeking - knocking (*Present/Active/Imperative*)
- Not just once – but over and over and over again for - asking for the Holy Spirit
- **Luke 11:13** - "Your heavenly Father [will] give the Holy Spirit to those who ask..."
- We need to be daily filling up on the Holy Spirit to live for Jesus!
- The result of being filled with the Spirit...
 - **II Corinthians 4:7** – “We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.”
 - If we are full of ourselves - we will not be able to effectively serve the Lord...
 - If we are living a life where we feel constant defeat to sin in our lives...
 - If we are lost and confused - don't know what God wants from our lives...
 - We need to be emptied - and filled up with Jesus - full of the Holy Spirit...
 - Then we will have the power of God to live our lives for Jesus!
- The test to find out if a person is filled with the Spirit of God... vs. 3
 - No one who is full of the Spirit of God - can curse Jesus - despise the Lord...
 - No one who is not full of the Spirit of God - can call Jesus Lord!
- **2ND - MANY GIFTS - ONE LORD - ONE PURPOSE... vs. 4-7**
 - When we are full of the Holy Spirit - we are given ‘gifts’ from the Spirit of God...
 - Paul uses three categories to describe these gifts and how they are to be used...
 - 1st - There are a variety of gifts - but the same Spirit...
 - These are the supernatural gifts that God gives to believes in the church...
 - The word gifts is - *Charisma* - where we get the name *Charismatic*...
 - It comes from the root word - *Charis* - meaning gift or grace...
 - The idea being the ‘gifts’ are not earned - they cannot be purchased - **Acts 8:20...**
 - God freely gives the ‘gifts’ from the Spirit to us - as we are full of the Spirit!
 - 2nd - There are different ministries - but the same Lord *Jesus*...
 - Speaking of where the gifts of the Spirit are to be used...
 - The gifts can be used in a church service - they can be used in your home...
 - The point is the gifts of the Spirit can be used in many different places...
 - 3rd - There are a varying activities - but the same God *the Father*...
 - Speaking of when the gifts of the Spirit are to be used...
 - In the same way the gifts can be used in a worship service - or a prayer meeting...
 - They can be used when you share Jesus to a friend - or to trust God in hard times...
 - The point is the gifts of the Spirit can be used in many different activities
 - Given for the benefit all... vs. 7
 - The same God who energizes/powers the universe (*works all in all*)...
 - Also gives us the gifts of the Spirit for one purpose - for the benefit of all...
 - The gifts of the Spirit are not to be used for persona gain of glory...
 - They are meant to build up the body of Christ - spread the message of the Gospel!
 - Are the gifts still for in use for today...
 - There are those who say no - that the gifts of the Spirit were only for the 1st church...
 - Because the Word of God was not complete - God gave the gifts to validate the church...
 - **I Corinthians 13:9-10** - they argue that which is ‘perfect’ is God’s Word...
 - And now that we have the perfect Word (*NT*) - we no longer have need for the gifts...

- But according to **Acts 2:38-39** - the gift of the Spirit is for every generation!
- **3RD - LIST OF GIFTS... vs. 8-10**
 - There are 23 gifts listed in the New Testament - 14 in other passages...
 - **Romans 12:4-8** - Prophecy/Ministry/Teaching/Exhortation/Giving/Leading/Mercy...
 - **I Corinthians 12:28** - Helping /Administration...
 - **Ephesians 4:11** - Apostles / Prophets /Evangelist / Pastors / Teachers...
 - **I Corinthians 7:7** - Singleness / Marriage...
 - **I Peter 4:9-10** - Hospitality...
 - Nine gifts of the Spirit listed here... vs. 8-10...
 - 1st - Gift of Wisdom - Godly understanding...
 - Wisdom is not learned - it is a gift of the Spirit - like King Solomon...
 - Knowing the best choices to make in life - have Godly understanding...
 - **If you don't think you have wisdom - all you need to do is ask for it!**
 - **James 1:5** - "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him."
 - 2nd - Knowledge: *gnosis* - to know, to understand, to comprehend...
 - We all know things by experience - I would know what you had for dinner by asking
 - The gift of knowledge is the ability to understand something supernaturally...
 - **A friend came looking for me when - rough day - knew something was wrong**
 - **To know without something without anyone telling you - God reveals it to you!**
 - **Letting others know - God knows what's going on - and us there for them!**
 - 3rd - Faith - belief, conviction (*not speaking of saving faith*)
 - All of us have a measure of faith - **Romans 12:3** - faith to believe in Jesus...
 - But there is also a gift of faith - the confidence God can do the impossible...
 - **Smith Wigglesworth was a preacher about 50 years ago - had amazing faith...**
 - **Asked to pray for a dead man - picked him up 3 times - had the faith God could heal!**
 - **Matthew 17:20** - "I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."
 - **The gift of faith - the confidence that with God we can move mountains!**
 - 4th - Healing - to cure, to make whole, remedy, both gifts & healings are 'plural'
 - From cancer to the common cold - God uses us to heal those who are sick!
 - But no one person has the gift of healing anytime they desire...
 - If they did there would be no reason for hospitals - the 'healer' could do it all...
 - **But if God let one person - heal the sick at will...**
 - **They'd get a lot of attention - people would begin to follow them rather than God...**
 - **The gift of healing is used on a case-by-case basis - step out to find out...**
 - **Pray for someone - God might give you the gift of healing - and touch them!**
 - 5th - Miracles: *dunamis* - power, might
 - God gives to some the gift of power - power to do mighty works for God...
 - **Romans 15:19** - "I have won them over by the miracles done through me as signs from God—all by the power of God's Spirit. In this way, I have fully presented the Good News of Christ..."
 - **Two missionaries in India came into a Hindu village to share the Gospel - dead tree...**

- The purpose of the power is to confirm the message of the Gospel...
- 6th - Prophecy: to speak forth...
 - First and foremost preaching the Word - it can also be predicting a future event...
 - All of the Prophets of the OT - came to call a rebellious Israel back to the Lord...
 - The purpose of prophecy is to call God's people to repentance - return to God...
- 7th - Discerning of Spirits - wind, breath, spirit
 - The gift to see beyond the obvious - uncover the true heart / motive behind actions...
 - I John 4:1 - "Don't believe every spirit, but test the spirits..."
 - How important this gift is today - with so many false teachers - cults...
 - II Corinthians 11:13-15 - Satan can transform himself into an angel of light...
 - We need the discernment of God - to know what is truly from God!
- 8th - Tongues: unknown language...
 - The gift to be able to worship/pray in a language that is unknown to you...
 - It can be a modern language - French / German - or a dead language - Aztec...
 - It can even be the language of angels - I Corinthians 13:1
 - It is the only gift not meant to build up the church - it is for the individual...
 - It is meant to allow your spirit to pray - when you don't know what to say!
 - Praying in the spirit - building up our spirit - without our mind getting in the way
 - In Acts 2 - At the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit came upon the church...
 - In this instance God used tongues as an evangelism tool to reach many nations...
 - Acts 2:8 - "We hear them speaking the languages of the lands we were born!"
 - Jews from all over the world were in Jerusalem for the feast of Pentecost...
 - They each heard the disciples praising God in their own native language!
 - Proper use of the gift - I Corinthians 14:27-33
 - Paul gives strict guidelines on the use of the gift within a church service...
 - If you walked into a church and everyone was speaking in other languages...
 - You would think they were all crazy - and likely quickly leave!
- 9th - Interpretation of Tongues...
 - Paul will give specific instructions for this gift in I Corinthians 14
 - There must always be an interpretation of tongues in a public setting...
 - That way there is no confusion - everyone understands what is being said!
- 4TH - WHO GETS THE GIFTS...
 - The Holy Spirit gives to each one - as He wills...
 - I Peter 4:10 - "As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."
 - All believers who are filled with the Spirit have at least one gift...
 - We do not decide what gifts we receive - the Holy Spirit gives them to us...
 - We are not defined by our gift - 'I am a prophet' or 'I am a healer'...
 - The Holy Spirit can give us any or all of the gifts as the need arise!
 - How do I know what Gifts God has given...
 - Your gift will become evident as you as it naturally flows from you...
 - You will see it by the fruit in your life - others will recognize that gift...
 - If you think you're a leader - turn around and see if anyone is following...

- If a teacher start teaching - see if anyone comes to listens...
- **I Timothy 4:14** - "Do not neglect the gift that is in you..."