

SERIES: LIFE IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

- A. In an age of worship services on t.v., internet, and the numerous books and materials available, why do we need a spiritual family? Is being a member of your church important? Why not just attend church. Is it old fashioned to officially become a member?
- B. All Christians are called to be part of a local church. No amount of time spent in personal prayer, fasting, Bible study, or ministry can substitute for a believer's involvement in the Church.
- Heb. 10:25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*
- C. Why do you need a spiritual family?
- 1) You need a place where you can grow
 - 2) You need a place where you can use your gifts.
 - 3) You need to belong to something bigger than yourself.

CONCERNING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1 Cor. 12:1-11 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. 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.

⁴ There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. ⁶ And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. ⁷ But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: ⁸ for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

I. THE LIVING GOD MANIFESTS HIMSELF IN THE CHURCH

- A. We must not be ignorant of spiritual gifts. We need God's Word to give us revelation (not just information) about the things we cannot see and comprehend with our natural minds.
1. We can be ignorant because before, we believed in dumb (soundless, voiceless, speechless) idols. The point is that God is alive and He manifests Himself in the life of His church.
- B. Topic: Spiritual gifts (lit.: spiritual).

- C. Pneumatikós (an adjective, derived from 4151 /pneúma, "spirit") – spiritual; relating to the realm of spirit, i.e. the invisible sphere in which the Holy Spirit imparts faith, reveals Christ, etc.
- D. There are three categories of Spiritual Gifts. The entire God-head is involved:
1. Gifts of the Spirit
 2. Ministries of Christ, the Lord
 3. Activities of God
- E. Gifts of the Spirit (1 Cor. 12:8-10 is a list of 9 gifts of the Spirit)
1. Gifts: charisma (gifts of grace, unearned).
 2. They are all spiritual, none of them are natural gifts or talents or abilities.
 3. They are manifestations (expressions) of the Holy Spirit's presence in the midst of the church.
- F. Ministries of Christ (The 5 ministries that Christ gives are described in Eph. 4:7-16)
1. Ministries: diakonion (servings [NIV: service], ministries)
*Eph.4:7-12 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore He says:
 " When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men."
⁹ (Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)
¹¹ And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ*
- G. Activities of God (Rom. 12:3-8 describes the 7 gifts that need to be used in proportion to the faith that God has dealt to each one)
1. Activities: energema (workings [NIV: working], NASB: effects, operations)
Rom. 12:3-8 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. ⁴ For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. ⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; ⁷ or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; ⁸ he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.
- H. All of these can be summarized in 3 categories: speaking, knowing, and serving.

1 Cor. 1:5-7 that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge,⁶ even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you,⁷ so that you come short in no gift (charisma), eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Gifts of the Spirit are given until Jesus Christ returns (Bible refers to it as His being revealed).

1 Pet. 4:10-11 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.¹¹ If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

II. THE EXERCISE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

- A. Spiritual gifts are to be exercised in love. (1 Cor. 13:1-13; Eph. 4:15; Rom. 12:9ff; 1 Pet. 4:8-9)

- B. Spiritual gifts are to be actively sought. Not: "If God wants to, He will give them to me."

1 Cor. 14:1 Pursue love, and desire (burn with zeal for) spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.

1. e.g. "If God wants to, He will save me." "If God wants to, He will make me grow spiritually." "If God wants to give me spiritual gifts, He will do it." It may sound somewhat spiritual, that we will let God do whatever He wants to, but it is not Biblical.

2. Usually, they will not automatically manifest. E.g. We must repent and believe to be saved. With a childlike heart of faith, receive. It is the same with spiritual gifts.

1 Cor. 12:11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills (desires).

3. We can't control how God will do it, but our responsibility is to desire and seek them.

4. Everything in God is by faith. See it in God's Word, be convinced of it, even though you can't see it. Then receive it by faith, as a child. Just about everything in the Christian life is like this. God's Word is a menu for us to taste and see that He is good!

- C. God has designed it so that as a member of the Body of Christ, you can use the gifts that God gives you to minister to those around you.