

Discerning The Gifts of the Holy Spirit



1 Corinthians 12:1-11

- In spite of what's going on in our world today, we are witnessing the demonstration and manifestation of the Holy Spirit's power through His Church (Body of Christ, believers). (Acts 2:16-21, 1Corinthians 2:1-5)
- Sadly, we are also witnessing both abuse and neglect of spiritual gifts in the pulpit and in the pews.
- Sadly, what we are witnessing in these last days is a bunch of manipulation and not a true manifestation of the Holy Spirit and power.
- The word "discern or discernment" mean It means to distinguish, to judge, to separate out, diligently search, to test, or examine between truth and false.
- When times are uncertain, Jesus Christ and His Word brings certainty and clarity to our lives as Kingdom believers.
- The word "clarity" means clear; easy to understand, to bring into focus, to think clearly both in thought and purpose.
- It is through the power of the Holy Spirit and God's Word that will bring certainty and clarity to our lives in these last days or end-times.
- Uncertainty is not your enemy as a believer, but the lack of clarity in the last and evil days is.
- The Word of God will help to bring God's purpose and plan into focus as true believers and stewards of God. (Psalms 119:105, 2Timothy 2:15, Hebrews 4:12)
- Purpose: To teach us the importance of Spiritual Gifts and how they can be used effectively to serve God's Kingdom purposes in the earth.
- Goal: To encourage us to use every spiritual gift that God has released in our lives through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Spiritual Principles: Stewardship, Authority, Obedience, Faith, Grace, Unconditional Love
- Objectives: 1. Statements About Gifts of the Holy Spirit. 2. What is a Spiritual Gift? 3. The Purpose of Spiritual Gifts. 4.) The Motivation behind Spiritual Gifts. 5.) The Meaning of Each Spiritual Gift. 6.) The Unity of Spiritual Gifts

- In (1Corinthians 12:1-3), Apostle Paul is addressing a great concern among these Corinthians believers who were once Gentiles (heathens, former pagan worshippers), and now Christians and followers of Jesus Christ.
1. Apostle Paul knew their ignorance of the gifts of the Holy Spirit was a great danger and threat to the Corinthian church. (vs. 1)
 - (vs. 1) – “Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant.”
- There are (3) ways a believer can be ignorant or misinformed about spiritual gifts.
 1. A believer can be ignorant that there is a such thing called spiritual gifts of the Holy Spirit.
 2. A believer can be ignorant of spiritual gifts that the Holy Spirit has given and released in their personal lives.
 3. A believer can be ignorant of what spiritual gifts are and how they function through the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - What is the danger of being ignorant of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit? (vs. 2-3)
 1. It can lead to misuse and abuse of spiritual gifts.
 2. It can lead to false worship of dumb (voiceless) idols. (vs. 2)
 - An “idol” can be a person, place or thing. It is anything that a person put before God.
 - It can cause a person to go astray from God. Instead of serving the only true and living God, they turn their hearts toward dumb idols.
 - It can lead a person to worshipping the gift rather than the giver of the Gift.
 3. It can lead to receiving false information about Jesus Christ and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. (vs. 3)
 - It can lead a person to stray away from the truth of God and the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ.

- It is the Holy Spirit that moves upon the heart of mankind to repent and believe on the name of Jesus Christ.
 - No spiritual gift and spiritual truth can be effective apart from Jesus Christ, the Word and the Holy Spirit.
 - There are many Christians who profess to know the truth about Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. It's only what they claim to know and never what they truly believe. (Matthew 7:21-23)
 - The believer must guard their heart and mind against all the misinformation that is easily accessible through all the forms of media. (1 John 4:1-3, 1 Timothy 4:1-2, 2 Peter 2:1, Proverbs 4:23)
- Statements about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.
1. The source of spiritual gift(s) is He, the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:11)
 2. Spiritual gift(s) are directly related and not separated from the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)
 3. The Holy Spirit is still working throughout history and silencing the voices of those who believe that "signs and wonders" gifts of the Holy Spirit have ceased or ended with the last apostles. (John 14:12-17, 16:5-7, 13-15, Joel 2:28-29, Acts 2:1-4, 17-18)
 4. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit were a vital and necessary part of the life and growth of the early church. (Acts 2:40-47)
 5. The manifestation of the Holy Spirit's power and Gifts was visibly witnessed through the early church. Signs and wonders followed them and were never abused by them. (Acts 4:29-31, 5:12-16)
 6. The Holy Spirit and His Gifts are still operational and functioning within the lives of Jesus Christ's true followers. (Mark 16:17, 1 Corinthians 4:7)
 7. The Holy Spirit and His gifts manifest within each believer when Jesus Christ is exalted and the gospel (good news of Jesus Christ) is being preached or proclaimed. (John 12:32)
 8. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit should always point people to Jesus Christ and glorify God. (Acts 3:1-10, 11-16)

- What are Spiritual Gifts? (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)
 - C. Peter Wagner's definition for spiritual gifts. "A spiritual gift is a special attribute given by the Holy Spirit to every member of the Body of Christ according to the grace of God."
 1. Spiritual gift(s) are a manifestation of grace and power from the Holy Spirit operating in the lives of true believers and stewards of God. (1 Peter 4:10)
 2. Human talents and abilities are not the same as a functioning spiritual gift that is operational in a believer's life.
 3. Spiritual gift(s) are impartations that are freely distributed to each believer by the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:11)
 4. Every believer has been given at least one functioning spiritual gift.

- What is the Purpose of Spiritual Gifts? There are (5) five specific reasons Spiritual gift(s) were given to each believer: (Romans 12:3-8)
 1. To glorify and honor God.
 2. To serve God's greater purpose and calling in the believer's life.
 3. To exhort, equip and edify the members of the Body of Christ.
 4. To assist us in carrying out the ministry work of God.
 5. To share them and lead others to Jesus Christ.

- What does God expect the believer to do with their spiritual gift? (1 Corinthians 12:1, 4-11, Romans 12:6-8)
 1. To learn about them.
 2. To develop and sharpen them.
 3. To share them.
 4. To use them and not abuse them.
 5. To glorify and honor Him with them.

- The Gifts of the Holy Spirit should be embraced and never neglected, unused, misused or abused. (1 Timothy 4:12-16)
 - Paul knew that young Timothy would face opposition and even some in the church would find it difficult to accept the call of God on his life. (vs. 12)

- (vs. 12) – “Let no one despise your youth...”
 - The word “despise” means to scorn, look down upon, dislike, detest, disrespect, disregard, dismiss, ignore, reject, and to minimize.
- What was Apostle Paul message to Timothy and every true believer. (1 Timothy 4:12-16)
 1. Embrace both the ministry work that God called you to and the spiritual gift that has been released in you by the Holy Spirit. (vs. 12)
 2. Be an example to other believers. (vs. 12)
 - In words or speech no matter the opposition. (Matthew 12:36-37, Colossians 4:6, Titus 2:8)
 - In conduct or behavior as a true follower of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 5:16, Philippians 1:27, 1 Peter 2:12)
 - In love or agape love which is the God kind of love. A love that is unconditional, selfless and sacrificial. (John 3:16, 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13, 1 Corinthians 13:1-8, 13, Ephesians 5:1-2)
 - In spirit or in all spiritual matters by living, obeying, and following the leading and guidance of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 8:12-14)
 - In faith or in faithfulness to Jesus Christ regardless of the opposition, trials, hardship or difficulty that comes with life. (1 Corinthians 15:58, Hebrews 10:38, 12:1-2, 2 Corinthians 5:7, Romans 1:17)
 - In purity or free from sin and moral corruption according to the life and character of Jesus Christ and His Word. (Matthew 5:8, 1 Timothy 1:5, Psalm 24:3-4, Romans 6:12-14)
 3. Do not neglect the gift that is in you. (vs. 14)
 - Apostle Paul is referring to spiritual gifts.
 - The word “neglect” means to ignore, disregard, careless, abandon, fail to give attention to, to deem unwanted, unnecessary, and unneeded.
 - There were (3) concerns that Apostle Paul had for young Timothy due to the opposition from false teachers and those within the church. (vs. 14)
 1. That he would neglect the call of God on his life.

2. That he would neglect the spiritual gift that had been released in his life by the Holy Spirit and affirmed by the elders of the church.
3. That he would neglect the instructions and teachings of God's Word.

- Neglect is a serious offense for any minister, steward, believer and disciple of Jesus Christ. Why?
 - 1) God sees them as being unfaithful and unfruitful. Every person will stand before Him and give an account of their stewardship of life.
 - 2) God can't trust them due to their lack of spiritual maturity, growth, and development that is needed to handle Kingdom matters.
 - 3) It undermines what God wants to accomplish in and through the life of every believer.
- There are (5) five things that each believer can do to avoid neglecting the call of God and spiritual gift entrusted to them. (vs. 15-16)
 - 1) Daily meditating and fully give, apply, devote, and commit to the ministry work of God and instructions of His Word.
 - 2) Daily progressing spiritually that it may become visible evidence to all in the world, both the saved and unsaved.
 - 3) Daily persevering in the faith of Jesus Christ by allowing the Word of God to guard every area of their life such as spiritual, physical and mental. (Proverbs 4:23)
 - 4) Daily continuing in the Word, prayer, worship, witnessing and sharing the gospel which is beneficial to both yourself and those who hear you.
 - 5) Daily call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you. (2 Timothy 1:3-11)