

1Corinthians – Week 43

I. The Miraculous Gifts of the Spirit

A. Background:

i. The advent of the Holy Spirit (baptism of the Holy Spirit)

1. Prior to Jesus' death and resurrection, the Spirit had not indwelt anyone (John 7:38-39), except the Old Testament prophets like Ezekiel (cf. Ezek. 2:2).
2. The prophet Joel prophesied that the Spirit would be poured onto all men. (Joel 2:28-33)
 - a. According to Acts 2:14-21, this took place on the day of Pentecost.
 - b. After Jesus died and rose, the Holy Spirit was poured out and indwelt anyone who repented and was baptized (Acts 2:38).

ii. The purpose for His advent

1. So that He could dwell in the lives of the believer
2. Each believer's body becomes a temple of the Holy Spirit (1Cor. 6:19-20).
 - a. His indwelling guarantees their eternal life (Eph. 1:13-14)
 - b. He helps them to put to death the misdeeds of the body (Rom. 8:13)
 - c. He helps them in their weaknesses & in their prayer life (Rom. 8:26).
3. To reveal God's word through the apostles:
 - a. To remind them of the things Jesus taught them (John 14:26)
 - b. To guide them into all truth and declare to them the things that are to come (John 16:13).
 - c. Most of the NT books were written by the apostles (i.e., Matthew, John, Romans & Revelation).
4. To reveal God's word through NT prophets
 - a. Joel 2:28 says that men and women will be able to prophecy as a result of the outpouring of the Spirit.
 - b. Some of the NT writings were written by prophets like Luke (author of Luke and Acts) and Jude.
 - c. There were some prophets like Agabus who predicted a famine and warned Paul of what was to happen to him in Jerusalem (Acts 11:27-28; 21:10-11).
5. To authenticate God's message through signs and wonders
 - a. Joel 2:30 speaks of wonders (signs) being done through the Holy Spirit
 - b. Mark 16:17-20 speaks of various wonders such as the ability to speak in new tongues and heal the sick.
 - i. These signs were to confirm the spoken words of God (Mark 16:20)
 - ii. Hebrews 2:4, again, teaches that the signs were given to confirm the authenticity of God's message.
 - c. Examples:
 - i. In Acts 2, the apostles, through the Holy Spirit, were able to speak in tongues, causing a large crowd to gather. The signs confirmed the message being preached by Peter. About 3000 believed and were baptized that day.

- ii. In Acts 8, Phillip, the evangelist, through the Holy Spirit, healed many who were sick, causing people to pay attention to the message he preached. Many men and women believed and were baptized that day.
- iii. There are nine miraculous gifts of the Spirit (vv. 8-10)
 - 1. Wisdom, knowledge, faith, gifts of healing, working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, kinds of tongues, and the interpretation of tongues.
 - a. Since Jeremiah 10:23 says that it is not within man to direct his own steps, God gave to some spiritual gifts like wisdom and knowledge to edify the church.
 - b. Men needed to hear the right message and to understand the message being preached so God gave to some the ability to prophecy (domestic language), discern the spirits (the ability to judge whether or not truth is being spoken) and the interpretation of tongues (translate from foreign into domestic).
 - c. As mentioned earlier, the miraculous signs confirmed the words spoken as being inspired of God (faith – 1Cor. 13:2b; healing – Acts 3:1-11; miracles – Acts 13:11; tongues – Acts 2:1-5).
- iv. These miraculous gifts were passed along by the apostles' hands
 - 1. Acts 8
 - a. In verse 5, it says that *“Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ.”*
 - b. In verse 12, it says *“But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.”*
 - i. According to what we have already learned they received the indwelling of the Spirit (cf. Acts 2:38; 5:32), but not the miraculous gifts of the Spirit...
 - c. In verses 14-16, it goes on to say, *“Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, ¹⁵who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, ¹⁶for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.”*
 - 1. There is a difference in indwelling and *“fallen on.”* We know from Acts 2:38 and 5:32 that they had already received the indwelling of the Spirit.
 - d. In verse 17-18, it says *“Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money”*
 - 1. Why didn't Philip lay his hands upon them to impart the Holy Spirit? Evidently only the apostles had this power.
 - 2. Verse 18 says, *“when Simon saw...”*
 - 3. What did he see? Can you see the Holy Spirit? No! But you can see manifestations of the Spirit, such as speaking in a tongue or prophesying.
 - 2. Apparently, Paul, as an apostle, passed on the gifts to the Corinthians while he was with them.

- a. But since there was lack of understanding regarding the purpose and use of these gifts, Paul turns his attention to this important topic...
- B. 1Cor. 12:1-3 (ESV), *“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. ²You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. ³Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says ‘Jesus is accursed!’ and no one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except in the Holy Spirit.”*
- i. It is interesting to note that the term “*gifts*” is not in the original Greek.
 1. “Spiritual gifts” is literally “the spirituals” (Gr. *pneumatikos*).
 2. *Pneumatikos* is a broader term than *charismata* (gifts), though it includes them because chapter 12 is about spiritual gifts and degrees of offices alike.
 - ii. Before Paul preached to them, they were being led by demonic spirits.
 1. In chapter 10:20, Paul previously said that demons are behind the worship of idols.
 2. According to history, ancient idol worshippers would speak ecstatic utterances, claiming to be under the influence of such deities.
 3. Even in Acts 16:16, we read of a slave girl who had a spirit of divination (fortune-telling).
 - iii. Paul gives them a general rule to help them determine whether or not a certain influence or operation is from God...
 1. He tells them to pay attention to what you are hearing!
 - a. No one motivated by the Holy Spirit would curse Jesus!
 - b. Those living under the influence of the world will never say “Jesus is Lord.”
 2. What a person says about Jesus is paramount!
 - a. In those days, the Gnostics were going around teaching a different Jesus (cf. 1John 4:1-3), that is, one that did not come in the flesh.
 - b. Some, in the Corinthian church, were teaching falsely about the resurrection, saying, there is no resurrection of the dead (cf. 1Cor. 15:12)
 3. Also, today many say “Jesus is Lord” with their lips, yet they do not accept His teachings on certain topics such as the essentialness of baptism, holiness, etc.
 - a. In Luke 6:46, Jesus said why call me Lord and not do what I say?
 - b. The ultimate criterion of the Spirit's activity is the exaltation of Jesus as Lord in word and practice!