

1Corinthians – Week 44

I. Review

A. Background:

- i. The prophet Joel prophesied that the Spirit would be poured onto all men. (Joel 2:28-33)
 1. According to Acts 2:14-21, this took place on the day of Pentecost.
- ii. The purpose for His advent
 1. So that He could dwell in the lives of the believer and aid him in his walk
 2. To reveal God's word (NT) through the apostles and prophets
 3. To authenticate God's message through signs and wonders
- 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.
- iv. These miraculous gifts were passed along by the apostles' hands (Acts 8:18; 19:6)

B. 1Cor. 12:1-3:

- i. Paul now turns his attention to the spirituals, that is, the various gifts and offices of the Church
- ii. Paul starts off by reminding them how they were once led astray by demonic spirit via idol worship.
- iii. He gives them a general rule to help them determine whether or not certain influences or operations are from God...
 1. No one under the control of the Holy Spirit would curse Jesus!
 2. No one living for the world would say "Jesus is Lord."

II. Continuation

A. 1Cor. 12:4-7 (ESV), *"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."*

- i. Judging by chapter 14, it seems like the Corinthians were acting as if tongues was **THEE** spiritual gift to possess!
- ii. But Paul explains that, although there is only one Holy Spirit, He gives different gifts to different people.
- iii. These different gifts, like the different services (ministries) that exist in the Church, are designed to glorify God!
- iv. One spiritual gift is not superior to another since every spiritual gift is empowered by God.
- v. And as verse 7 points out, each believer is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good of the Church...
 1. Every member of the Church is given a gift or a ministry: no one is useless or functionless.
 2. And these gifts and ministries are not designed for self-edification but to help others.
 3. Paul reveals nine miraculous gifts...

- B. 1Cor. 12:8 (ESV), “*For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit*”**
- i. Utterance of wisdom:**
 1. The miraculous ability to speak with divine insight...
 - a. In solving difficult problems
 - b. In defending the faith
 - c. In resolving conflict
 - d. In giving practical advice
 2. Stephen demonstrated the utterance of wisdom when dealing with his enemies
 - a. Acts 6:10 (ESV), “*But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking.*”
 - ii. Utterance of knowledge:**
 1. The miraculous ability to communicate information that has been divinely revealed.
 2. Paul demonstrated the utterance of knowledge when he said...
 - a. “*Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed*” – 1Cor. 15:51 (ESV)
 - b. “*For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.*” – 1Thess. 4:15 (ESV)
 - i. Note:**
 1. The word “*precede*” means “*to go before.*”
 2. In the context, Paul is saying, those who are alive will not have an advantage over those who died in Christ. In fact, the dead will rise first; they, along with those who are alive, will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord.
- C. 1Cor. 12:9 (ESV), “*to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit*”**
- i. Faith**
 1. Paul mentions a faith that is able to do miracles, like moving mountains (1Cor. 13:3)
 - ii. Gifts of healing**
 1. The ability to heal diseases
 - a. Peter and John with the crippled beggar (Acts 3)
- D. 1Cor. 12:10 (ESV), “*to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.*”**
- i. Working of miracles:**
 1. Raising the dead (Peter raises Tabitha - Acts 9:36ff)
 2. Casting out demons (Philip – Acts 8:6-7)
 - ii. Prophecy**
 1. Receiving direct revelation from God to be passed to others.
 2. An example would be the very apostles themselves, communicating the word of the Lord by way of the NT epistles.
 - iii. The ability to distinguish between spirits**
 1. The miraculous ability to determine whether a person is speaking by the Holy Spirit or by Satan.
 - a. Peter exposed Simon as one bound in iniquity (cf. Acts 8:20-23)

iv. Various kinds of tongues

1. The miraculous ability to speak foreign languages.

a. The apostles spoke in various foreign languages in Acts 2:1-13

b. By the way...

i. There are some who say that there were 120 people speaking in tongues in Acts 2.

1. They assume this because of Acts 1:15

2. But Acts 2 (which is a different day) shows that the apostles (called, “men of Galilee”—Acts 1:11; 2:7) were the ones gathered, speaking in tongues.

3. Acts 2:14 says Peter stood up with the 11, not the 119!

2. Also...

a. The passage says there are various kinds of tongues!

i. There are many who teach that “tongues” is a heavenly language.

ii. However, it is clear from this passage that “tongues,” being plural, involves many (not one) languages.

iii. Acts 2:1-13 clearly shows that tongues are human, foreign languages, not some “heavenly” singular language.

b. Some claim that the “tongues” is an angelic language that Satan cannot understand.

i. Well, Satan is an angel – doesn’t he understand angelic language?

v. The interpretation of tongues

1. The miraculous ability to translated foreign languages into the domestic language of the audience.

E. 1Cor. 12:11 (ESV), “*All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apports to each one individually as he wills.*”

i. In verse 4, Paul mentioned that God empowers the gifts. Yet, here, he says it is the Spirit that empowers the gifts.

ii. This reveals the truth that the Holy Spirit is God, yet He is a separate person of the Godhead.

iii. The Spirit has sovereignty as to who gets what gift, not men.