

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Part 4

The Purpose of Spiritual Gifts

Eph. 4:1-11

INTRODUCTION

- I. SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE FOR GIVEN FOR THE PROFIT OF THE BODY. 1st Co. 12:7, 25
 - A. The Body of Christ is liken to a human body. 1st Co. 12:27
 1. Believers are a body belonging to Christ. 1st Co. 12:27
 2. Believers are “members out from a part”(of the Body of Christ).
 - B. God has tempered the body with different operations for several reasons. 1st Co. 12:25
 1. To the profit (sumphero -- benefit) of the Body. 1st Co. 12:7
 2. In order that there be no skisms (schisma -- *a rent, division, dissension*) in the body. 1st Co. 12:25
 3. That the members might have the same care on behalf of one another. 1st Co. 12:25 cf. Phil. 2:20 (exemplified in Timothy’s use of his gift)
- II. SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE GIVEN FOR THE MINISTRY OF THE SAINTS. 1st Pet. 4:10
 - A. “Minister” is the word diakonos (pres. act. part. -- “be ministering it”)
 1. “One to another” eis eautous -- to/towards yourselves (reflexive pronoun). cf. vs.8 (of charity among selves)
 2. “As every man hath received”
 - a) The word “as” is from the Greek adverb kathos which emphasizes “*according as; in proportion as, in the degree that.*” -- Joseph Thayer cf. John 15:4 (abiding of believer compared to branch on tree)
 - b) “Received” is from lambano (aor. act. ind. -- used of accepting something that has been offered). cf. Rom. 4:11 (of Abraham receiving sign of circumcision); 1st Co. 11:23 (of Paul receiving account of events in the upper room); 1st Co. 12:7 (believer given gift)
 - c) “The gift” is charisma -- the result of an act of grace. Rom. 6:23 (eternal life); Rom. 1:1; 2 Tim. 1:6 (of spiritual gifts)
 - B. The ministry of the believer with the gift is liken to “good stewards”
 1. “As” is a simile that notes something that is similar to but not the same as.
 2. “Good stewards”
 - a) A steward was one who served under a master as the executor of his household dispensing to the household their necessities in the time that they needed them. cf. Lk. 16:1-8

- b) Stewardship today is only seen in similarity. cf. Tit. 1:7 (a bishop seen as)
- c) “Good” is the Greek word kalos -- an adjective describing the beautiful outward appearance seen in good works produced by a believer. cf. Rom. 12:17 (done for all men to see); Gal. 6:9
- 3. “Manifold grace of God” -- “manifold” notes the *many various ways*. cf. Eph. 3:10

III. SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE GIVEN FOR THE GLORIFYING OF GOD. 1st Pet. 4:11

- A. “Glorify” is a term used in the New Testament for expressing the worth expressed to God through activities
 - 1. The Greek word for “glory” is “doxa” which is from “dokeo” which means *that which appears or seems*. Matt. 6:8 (displayed in the kingdoms of the world)
 - a) “Doxa” is *the expression of an opinion based upon physical or spiritual manifestation of power signifying the worth of its possessor*. -- K.D.J. cf. Matt. 6:29 (reflected in the splendor of King Solomon); Lk. 9:31 (of the Lord when He revealed Himself); Matt. 24:30 (of the second coming of Christ)
 - b) The verb “glorify” (Pres. Pass. Subj. of doxa) regards the expression of appreciation of glory as seen in activity. cf. Gal. 1:24 (of God as seen in Paul); Acts 11:18 (result of the conversion of the Gentiles); 2 Thess. 3:1 (of the Word-- subjunctive)
 - 2. The goal is that God would be glorified “in all things” -- all things pertaining to the use of spiritual gifts.
 - 3. “Jesus Christ” is seen as the agent who makes glorification possible.
 - a) The word “through” is the Greek preposition “dia” which is used in other places to point out that the resurrected Son is the agent Who makes all things possible with the Father. Heb. 13:21 (He is the instrument through Whom the believer can do well-pleasing things through the Father); Rom. 7:25 (He is the means of thanksgiving)
- B. The Father is the object of glory in the believer’s use of his spiritual gifts.
 - 1. The phrase “God” (the God) is used in 1st Peter of the Father. 1st Pet. 1:3
 - 2. The phrase “that God” is used to indicate the purpose behind the proper use of spiritual gifts.

CONCLUSION