

Bible Study January 17, 2024

I Corinthians 12: 1-11

Spiritual Gifts

Paul returns to issues addressed in the Corinthians' letter to him – namely spiritual gifts – and particularly speaking in tongues. The members were once pagans, Gentiles, but now are part of the body of Christ, the people of God. One Spirit filled would never say, “Jesus is accursed!” This should assure individuals hearing others speaking in tongues are not saying blasphemous things. Also, one cannot say “Jesus is Lord” without being Spirit filled, so all, regardless of gifts, are worthy members of the body of Christ, the church.

Paul uses a reverse order of the Trinity – Spirit, Lord, and God – to remind them that all have different gifts but are equally important. Some have the gift of special faith and special wisdom from God to handle certain special events or situations. Some have special gifts of healing for certain situations. Some have gifts to work miracles and others prophecy. All gifts used in the church should be evident to all and even interpreted by one who understands another, as in speaking in tongues.

I Corinthians 12: 12-31

One Body with Many Members

The church, the Body of Christ, is made up of many members, just as the body is made up of many parts. One part needs other parts to be whole. The same is true of the church. Some are apostles, prophets, teachers, workers of miracles, gifts of healing, helpers, administrators, and those who speak in and interpret tongues. Gifts are to be used in love, the more excellent way. Spiritual gifts without love are worthless.

Charismatic – Christians who share with Pentecostals an emphasis on the gifts of the Spirit but who remain a part of a mainline church. Most do not believe that speaking in tongues “glossolalia” is a necessary evidence of Spirit baptism. The work of the Holy Spirit and spiritual gifts are seen as an everyday part of a believer’s life.

Pentecostal – emphasizes direct personal experience of God through baptism with the Holy Spirit. The name comes from the book of Acts where the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles as described in Acts 2: 1-31. Speaking in tongues and divine healing are seen as common events in day-to-day life. First seen in the

early 20th century in the holiness movement and expectation for the imminent Second Coming of Christ. As the end times appeared to be near, it was seen that God was restoring spiritual gifts and bringing about the evangelization of the world. Most historians date this movement to the Azusa Street revival in Los Angeles, California (1906-1915).

Neo-Charismatic Movement – Christians from non-traditional groups emphasizing the gifts of the Spirit, particularly healing, prophecy, speaking in tongues, spiritual warfare and financial prosperity.