

The Supplemental Gifts

Session 8

(Gifts that Build Up the Church)

Introduction: (Read: I Cor. 14:12) When Paul wrote these words, he was encouraging the troubled church in Corinth to begin to change it's focus. The church was focusing on sign gifts (such as tongues, healings and miracles). These gifts edified individuals and brought attention to individuals. Paul wanted them to focus their attention on the gifts that edified the church and directed attention to Jesus. Paul wanted them to turn their focus from themselves and focus on others. (Key) The purpose of discovering and exercising your spiritual gifts is not just to make you more joyful, energized and effective; God wants the entire church to experience congregational joy, energy and effectiveness when we use our gifts for His glory.

(Read: I Cor. 12:7-11) We have come to a place in our study when we must deal with the more controversial spiritual gift. The gifts of wisdom, knowledge, faith, discernment, healings and miracles caused a lot of confusion in the church in Corinth. In the passage we just read, Paul brings out some interesting positions on these gifts.

One position holds that these gifts are a unique type called "manifestations". Some in the church believed these gifts were manifested in the lives of spirit – filled believers. Their belief in Paul's day was that if you had one or more of these gifts you had proof you were a spirit filled born again believer.

Another position is that these gifts were only needed during the founding and infancy of the church. With the completion of the New Testament church, all nine of these gifts have passed away.

The last position says that only the "sign gifts" (healings, miracles, tongues and interpretation of tongues) have ceased to exist. The gifts of wisdom, faith, knowledge and discernment are still evident in the church today. But we are not to get bogged down on the controversies of these gifts. We know from scriptures that the "sign gifts" were evident in the infant churches of the first century. Let's look at these sign gifts first:

Healings – There gifts are multidimensional. There are four different types of healing gifts:

- 1) Physical healing (Prayer Warriors)
- 2) Emotional healing (Psychologists)
- 3) Relational healing (Family Counselors)
- 4) Spiritual healing (Pastors / Family Ministers)

(Key) Usually the healings of these types involves a process that is coupled with care and prayer.

Miracles – (Key) When healing is instantaneous and takes place in a situation where human effort has been exhausted, a miracle has taken place. There are times when God does that something that goes against what doctors say. For example: A doctor states that a cancer is present one day and then the next day it is gone. When things like that happen, it's what we call a miracle. Do miracles happen today? The answer, yes!

Tongues – The gift of tongues is the ability to speak a language that the person has never learned or been taught. The church in Corinth focused too much on this gift. Some still teach that this gift is the superior gift, Paul taught that love is the most superior gift (I Cor. 12-14)

Interpretation of Tongues – This is the ability to translate the language that is spoken in tongues. It is scriptural for tongues to be interpreted. If someone stands in a church to speak in tongues, it must either be interpreted by the Pastor or another spiritual leader in the church, if there is no one to interpret, then the person who is speaking in tongues must be asked to remain silent.

Supplemental Gifts:

The Gift of Knowledge – This is the God-given ability to learn, know and communicate the precious truths of God's Word. (Read: II Peter 1:5-8) According to this passage, all Christians are to grow in spiritual knowledge. It is as if they have the mind of Christ. A person with this gift has the supernatural ability capacity to recall scripture. This person just knows what to say and do in a crisis situation. They have the unique capacity to absorb, assimilate, collate and communicate information that is valuable to the work of the church.

The Gift of Wisdom – This gift is the ability to discern the work of the Holy Spirit in the body and apply His teachings and actions to the needs of the body. (Read: I Cor. 12:8) This person has the unusual capacity to apply truth. Proverbs and parables are some of the favorite scriptures of this person. This person knows what it means to pray through a difficult situation. They will say something like this: "I have prayed through this situation and I believe God is saying this..." We know that from scriptures that Solomon prayed for wisdom and God granted it to him. As a result, Solomon became a wise man used by God. (Read: Psalm 111:10) Solomon believed this to be true in His life. Fear or reverence for the Lord is the beginning of all wisdom. Proverbs 1:7 says that "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge."