



## 1 Corinthians 12:8-11 Pt 2\_Some Definitions and Prayers

July 6, 2014

### Text: 1 Corinthians 12:8-11

Here is what we said last week:

- CRCC, as an official position, believes that Spiritual Gifts continue, are regulated by Scripture and that the Holy Spirit chooses what gifts are given to whom, as He wills.
- We understand that within any local church, beliefs can differ among members, but we state this so we have a foundation from which to cover the next few chapters instead of giving various positions over and over. (Please see last week's message for some varying views and some exhortation concerning the grace we pray that we all operate in as we discuss gifts. ☺)
- We also said that we would look to 1 Cor 12:11 as a guiding verse and we believe each church is governed by a Sovereign God, who apportions to each one individually as He wills.
- We believe there is nothing in Scripture that prevents the Holy Spirit from giving what gifts He wants to whom He wants when He wants; to be used according to the pattern He's laid out in the New Testament. He remains Sovereign.
- We hurt when gifts are faked, when people are manipulated and hurt, when people say God says things He never said, and when churches descend into chaos. But we believe that when everything is tested by the Word of God and there is a strong eldership, there IS a way God's precious gifts can be used "for building up." (1 Cor 14:26)
- **By and large, we don't think Christians should divide over the issue of gifts, and certainly those with varying views are loved and appreciated within CRCC. We just pray those that disagree with other Christians (within the pale of orthodoxy) do not consign those believers to hell. ☺**

### Through the Text...some Definitions

"...given through the Spirit" (v8)

- Let us remember that it is the Spirit who gives gifts according to His own **will**.
- Let us also be mindful that this isn't the only list of gifts in the Bible. As an example...
- *Rom 12:4-11 ESV* For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, (5) so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. (6) Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if **prophecy**, in proportion to our faith; (7) if **service**, in our serving; the one who **teaches**, in his teaching; (8) the one who **exhorts**, in his exhortation; the one who **contributes**, in generosity; the one who **leads**, with zeal; the one who does **acts of mercy**, with cheerfulness. (9) Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. (10) Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. (11) Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. (See also Eph 4:11-16; 1 Cor 12:28-31)
- The New Testament church is an exciting place! ☺
- Let's establish again that having a "gift" 1) Doesn't mean you flow in it all the time, 2) Doesn't mean you are infallible, and 3) Doesn't mean you'll always have it. Remember, God is **sovereign**.
- Let me also say that when defining gifts, *we are extrapolating*, or "**guessing** with wisdom." LOL. In other words, the gifts aren't defined with precise detail all the time. We are using the whole of Scripture to attempt to define them. Please do not take our attempts as total gospel in this area; just prayerfully consider them as you consider your own service to the Body of Christ.

- As a general standard for gift definitions and biblical balance, I've used the small questionnaire booklet, *Spiritual Gifts* by Dan Reiland (from John Maxwell's Leadership group) for about 10-12 years: <http://www.injoy.com/store/products/Spiritual-Gift-Test-%252d-Dan-Reiland.html>. It costs \$4.99 and is worth taking the time. You don't have to agree with it 100% for it to bless you. 😊😊

*"...the utterance of wisdom" (v8)*

- "The gift of wisdom is the distinctive ability to discern the mind of Christ and apply scriptural truth to a specific situation in order to make the right choices and help others move in the right direction."
- Wisdom defined includes the fear of the LORD, and is the right **application** of knowledge.
- Pro 9:10 ESV The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.
- *Ecc 7:12 ESV For the protection of wisdom is like the protection of money, and the advantage of knowledge is that wisdom preserves the life of him who has it.*
- "Knowledge is what is gathered over time through study of the Scriptures. It can be said that wisdom, in turn, reveals itself by acting upon that knowledge." –Gotquestions.org

*"...the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit" (v8)*

- "The gift of knowledge is the distinctive ability to seek out, gather, organize, and clarify facts and ideas on a number of diverse subjects." I'll also add here that it is a gift that helps others KNOW what God has said in Scripture or what God desires concerning a situation; and many times will seem revelatory if the recipient's situation is far from God's standard.
- So an utterance of knowledge then brings God's Word and Will to bear on a situation. This gift could be as simple as knowing and being able to lovingly remind others of verses that apply to what they are going through.
- It could also be the ability to consolidate data and facts biblically to help others see the big **picture** of what God wants.
- *Col 1:9 ESV And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,*
- Of note, good pastors bring knowledge and understanding to others...
- *Jer 3:15 ESV "And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.*

*"...to another faith" (v9)*

- "The gift of faith is the distinctive ability to believe God with confidence for things unseen, spiritual growth and the will of God."
- People who walk in this just, against all odds sometimes, **believe** God. 😊 When others are struggling, this person's faith just goes and goes...and they are so needed! They tend to be encouragers as well, exhorting others that God cannot and will not fail and that His will WILL be done!
- *Rom 4:18-22 ESV In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be." (19) He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. (20) No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, (21)*

*fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. (22) That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness."*

*"...to another gifts of healing by the same Spirit" (v9)*

- "The gift of healing is the distinctive ability to be used as a human intermediary through whom God's supernatural power is applied to a person's physical or emotional need."
- There are so many instances of healing in the Bible, it's hard to pick one to discuss!
- So we'll just say this: this person's gift, according to the will of the Spirit, is used by God to bring glory to Himself when a sick person is made well. It doesn't seem to be normative these days, but some people are "pressed" to pray for healing more than others.
- We believe God still heals, can use **anyone**, and likely uses some more than others in this area.

*"...to another the working of miracles" (v10)*

- "The gift of miracles is the distinctive ability to perform supernatural acts as an instrument of God which alter the expect course of nature."
- From Moses in Egypt to Joshua's stopping of the sun (Josh 10:13) to Elijah's drought (1 Kings 17-18) to the miracles of Christ and on through the apostles, God is a miracle working God!
- This person, however rare these days, is used by the Spirit to "move mountains;" to shift normal outcomes to abnormal, the natural to the supernatural.
- Sometimes I wonder if this gift is more present than we think, connected to faith and leadership (another gift), but because they are spectacular, we miss it. Anywho, folks who can believe God like this are needed in the hour; America needs a few miracles in family, manhood, economics and morality! We need a miracle revival! ;)

*"...to another prophecy" (v10)*

- "The gift of prophecy is the distinctive ability to boldly declare the truth of god, regardless of the consequences, calling people to righteous living." (Forth-telling, although God isn't limited and can cause a person to "fore-tell" as well)
- Paul clearly admonished the Corinthians to desire to prophesy. (1 Cor 14:1)
- We believe New Testament prophecy is not limited to "personal words" for individuals, but is often very similar to Old Testament prophecy:
  1. Calling people to repent and obey God
  2. Recognizing and preparing God's people for future national calamities and judgment as well as the coming of the Lord. (And truly, it doesn't take a prophet to see judgment coming...)
- Old Testament prophets preached repentance and obedience, AND they foresaw national judgment based on the sin that existed in the land. (This is why "personal words" and oracles were given against kings; their behavior affected the entire land.) In other words, prophecy was "strategic" in nature.

*"...to another the ability to distinguish between spirits" (v10)*

- "The gift of discernment is the distinctive ability to perceive whether a person's actions originate from Godly, satanic, or merely human sources."
- *Act 16:16-18 ESV* As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. (17) She followed Paul and us, crying out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." (18) And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out

*of her." And it came out that very hour.*

- These folks are critical. In fact I depend upon them; many pastors do. They keep households and churches from errors and help keep all of us humble and prayerful and seeking God for the right motives.
- The care here is to make sure they are operating in true discernment instead of **criticism**. Like any gift, one can become cocky and begin to lean on oneself.
- Oh how the church needs loving discernment!

*"...to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues" (v10)*

- "The gift of tongues is the distinctive ability to speak (or interpret) in a language which you never learned and communicate a divinely anointed message from God to unbelievers."
- Paul lays this out clearly in 1 Cor 14, and we'll cover in more detail.
- Bottom line though, those with this gift either 1) Builds up themselves (1 Cor 14:4), or 2) Combined with interpretation is a sign for unbelievers. (1 Cor 14:22)

**Let us close with these verses from next week's Text:**

*1Co 12:12-14 ESV For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. (13) For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--and all were made to drink of one Spirit. (14) For the body does not consist of one member but of many.*

*1Co 12:28-31 ESV And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. (29) Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? (30) Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? (31) But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.*

**How desperately each church needs EVERY member of the Body and their gifts!** Not all will have each gift, but TOGETHER we complement one another for the glory of Christ! Here are some other abilities, skills, and gifts God gives to His people, some of which we've mentioned...

Helps

Leadership

Hospitality

Administration

Music

Craftsmanship

Generosity

Teaching

Missionary/Apostolic

Pastoring/Shepherding

Evangelist

Intercession

**All are needed! NOW! ☺ May this church walk in this beauty oh LORD!**

Amen.