

Apr 15 – Serving God's People – 1 Corinthians 12

Corinth with Acrocorinth, 1847
by Carl Anton Joseph Rottmann

Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)

FBC Woodville
Sunday School Class
Michael G. Maness
see
PreciousHeart.net/SS



1 Corinthians

chapter

from Ephesus

- | | | | |
|-------------|--|------|------------------------------|
| 1. Mar 4 | United in Christ | 1 | No Divisions – Wisdom of God |
| 2. Mar 11 | Glorifying God | 6 | Bought with a Price |
| 3. Mar 18 | Keeping Commitments | 7 | Marriage for Life in Love |
| 5. Mar 25 | Influencing for Christ | 9-10 | All Things to All People |
| 6. Apr 1 | Easter Sunday – Sunrise Easter Service | | |
| 7. Apr 8 | Remembering the Sacrifice | 11 | Examine Oneself |
| ☆ 8. Apr 15 | Serving God's People | 12 | Gifts of Same Spirit & Lord |
| 8. Apr 22 | Understanding Love | 13 | Greatest of These Is LOVE |

2 Corinthians

chapter

from Macedonia

- | | | | |
|------------|------------------------|-------|-----------------------------|
| 9. Apr 29 | Enjoying God's Comfort | 1 | Afflicted for Your Comfort |
| 10. May 6 | Displaying the Gospel | 4 | Light Shone in Our Hearts |
| 11. May 13 | Becoming New | 5-6 | In Christ – a New Creation |
| 12. May 20 | Giving Faithfully | 9 | Ministry to the Saints |
| 13. May 27 | Finding Strength | 12-13 | When Weak, then I Am Strong |



Theme

Believers receive special gifts from God for service to Him and His people.

12:1-3 **Intro – No One Cursing Christ in the Spirit**

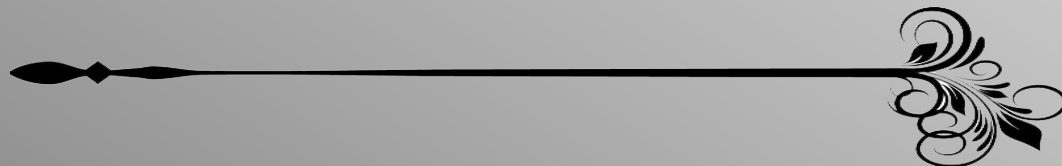
12:4-6 **Diverse – Diversity of Gifts, One Spirit**

12:7-10 **Specific – Nine Gifts for Common Good**

12:11-26 **Intentional – One Spirit ... One Body**

13:1-13 **Greatest is LOVE**

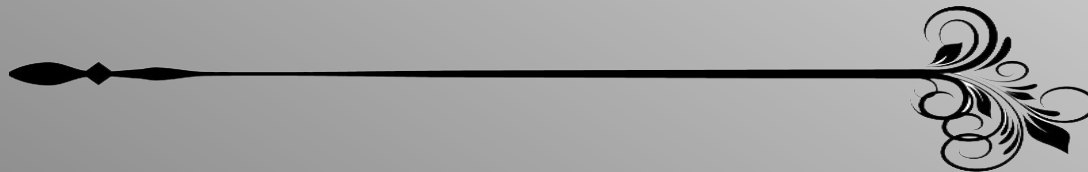
14:1-40 **Prophecy & Tongues, God of Order**



Key Verses – 1 Cor. 12:11 & 26

¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

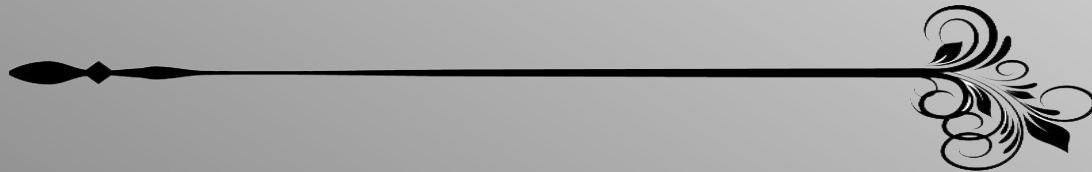
²⁶ If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.



Alternate Title

Gifts for All

All for One



Alternate Title #2

Be All

You Can Be



Outline of 1 Corinthians

You are HERE

- | | |
|--|------------|
| I. Greetings & Thanksgiving | 1:1-9 |
| II. Problems from House of Chloe | 1:10–6:20 |
| A. Disunity | 1:1–4:21 |
| B. Immorality Tolerated | 5:1–6:20 |
| III. Answers to Letter <i>FROM</i> Corinth | 7:1-16:9 |
| A. Questions about Marriage | 7:1-40 |
| B. Limitations of Christian Liberty | 8:1–11:1 |
| C. Practices of Public Worship | 11:2-16 |
| D. Lord's Supper | 11:17-34 |
| E. Exercise of Spiritual Gifts | 12:1-14:40 |
| IV. Resurrection of the Body | 15:1-58 |
| V. Conclusion | 16:5-24 |



1 Cor. Chapters 7-16 – on Letter they Wrote

1 **NOW FOR** the matters you wrote about:

We recall this once again

“**NOW FOR**” or “**Now About**” appear **7 Times**

7:1 *now for* **Husbands & Wives**

7:25 *now for* **Virgins**

8:1 *now for* **Food Sacrificed to Idols**

8:4 *now for* **Eating such Food**

chapters 9-10 more on idolatry

chapter 11 on Lord's Supper

11:1-16 – Men & Women Covering

11:17-34 – Lord's Supper

You're HERE

12:1 *now for* **Spiritual Gifts**

chapter 13 Love

chapter 14 Tongues & Prophecy

chapter 15 Resurrection

16:1 *now for* **Collections**

16:12 *now for* **Apollos**



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)

7 Items at Least

At the start ... what we do know is a tad SAD

- ✓ Spiritual Gifts were GIVEN in the N.T.
- ✓ Paul listed many ... or most *we believe*
- ✓ Paul NOT concerned with NUMBER of them

Furthermore ... Importantly ... Notably

- ✓ ALL the GIFTS were ACTIVE in Paul's day
- ✓ NOT certain how any one of them FULLY worked *THEN*
- ✓ Clearly – Corinthians were messed about *ALL*

If Paul did not care about an ACCURATE LIST – should we?

If we cannot be CERTAIN about ANY Gift's practice *THEN*

HOW Can We be CERTAIN NOW?



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Great Philosopher Hagär the Horrible With dear wife Helga ... Christmas Gifts



Kind of reminds one of Luke 11:13

how much more will your Father in heaven give
GOOD GIFTS to those who ask him!



12:1-3 Intro – No One Cursing Christ in Spirit

¹ Now about the gifts of the Spirit....

² You know that when you were pagans,
somehow or other you were influenced ...

³ Therefore I want you to know that no one
who is speaking by the Spirit of God says,

“Jesus be cursed,”

and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,”
except by the Holy Spirit.

Were there SOME who CURSED Christ?

Talk about CLARIFYING



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12:4-6 Diverse – Diversity of Gifts, One Spirit

Paul talks on diversity:

⁴ There are different kinds of **GIFTS**,
but the same **Spirit** distributes them.

⁵ There are different kinds of **SERVICE**,
but the same **Lord**.

⁶ There are different kinds of **WORKING**,
but in all of them and in everyone
it is the same **God** at work.

Some see the Trinity ... **Spirit, Lord, God**

Some explain differences in “gifts”

different

Gifts

Service

Working

Could Be
3 Distinct

*Could Be
3 Shades
of Same*



12:7-10 Specific – Nine Gifts for Common Good

Gifts, Service, Working – was Paul being rhetorical to *LIFT UP* the mystery?

Gifts, Service, Working – was Paul a trying to *EXPLAIN* the mystery?

Paul does say in 1 Timothy 3:16

¹⁶ Great indeed ... is the mystery of godliness....

Paul clarifies for us in verse 7:

⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the COMMON GOOD.

PURPOSE of Spirit's work is COMMON GOOD.



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
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Behooves us to remember **FOUR** Letters

1. Lost Letter in 1 Cor. 5:9

2. 1 Corinthians

from Ephesus

3. Lost Severe Letter in 2 Cor. 2:4, 7:8-9

4. 2 Corinthians

from Macedonia

**ALL Written during
Paul's 3rd Journey**

1 & 2 ... Ephesus

3 & 4 ... Macedonia



What is important to RECALL ...

From 2 Corinthians ... we find out

Corinth did NOT pay attention to 1 Corinthians

WHY Paul wrote his #3 Severe Lost Letter

Self-Discipline NOT their Strong Point

Most Licentious City in Very Licentious Era



Behooves us to remember ...

Corinth wrote to Paul about 7 items—**HOWEVER**

Paul **BEGAN** with info from House of Chloe

- ✓ Man sleeping with Stepmother
- ✓ Men visiting young Sex Slaves

ONE Theme in BOTH sections – **Self Discipline**
After Sex Problems above ... see needs in

- ✓ Marriage Problems
- ✓ Eating Problems
- ✓ Lord's Supper Problems – **BEING PIGS**
- ✓ Spiritual Gift Problems in Chapter 12
- ✓ Prophecy & Tongues Problems in 14



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Briefly ... if you scan chapter 14

Paul encourages **LOVE** & **GIFTS**, esp. **Prophecy**
TONGUES = no small issue today ...

Same word in **1 Cor. 14:2** used in **1 John 3:18**

**My little children, let us not love in word,
neither in TONGUE; but in deed and in truth.**

Same root used in Luke 1:64, after Zechariah
wrote, “His name is John” ... he could speak

**⁶⁴ Immediately his mouth was opened
and his TONGUE set free, and
he began to speak, praising God.**



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Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



Briefly ... if you scan chapter 14

TONGUES—same root word is used for **SPEECH**

Rom. 14:11 and Phil. 2:11

every **TONGUE** shall confess

Exact same word used in Romans 3:13

¹³ “Their throats are open graves;
their **TONGUES** practice deceit.
The poison of vipers is on their lips.”

As a **Spiritual UTTERANCE GIFT** Paul says in 14:18

¹⁸ I thank God that I speak in **TONGUES**
more than all of you.



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We should all know ... **TONGUES** in part

Refers to an Ecstatic Speech ... *unintelligible*
without a gift of interpretation ...

1000 B.C. ... A.D. 100 ... no strangers to

Ecstatic Utterances

In N.T. we have TWO kinds of TONGUES

1. Acts—speaking in unlearned foreign Languages
2. Corinthians—Languages *and* Utterances

12:10 says, **different KINDS of Tongues**

Were there several **KINDS** of TONGUES?



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1 Cor. 12 & 14 – an *unintelligible* TONGUE

1000 B.C. ... A.D. 100 ... no strangers to

Ecstatic Utterances

That is ... no strangers to **FALSE** Tongues

No strangers to Tongues by **CONTRIVANCE**

No strangers to Tongues **IDOL & DEVIL INSPIRED**

Virgil described the account of the Sibylline priestess on the Island of Delos speaking in ecstatic tongues

Ecstatic Utterances ... go to the Pagan temples



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1000 B.C. ... A.D. 100 ... no strangers to

Ecstatic Utterances

Mithra cult of the Persians

Osiris cult of the Pharaohs

**Dionysian, Eleusinian, and Orphic cults
in Macedonia, Thrace and Greece**

All Speak in Tongues

No Stranger to these in MANY religions ...

Look up Glossolalia – from Greek root used

From A.D. 100 to 1900 ... very few instances



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1000 B.C. ... A.D. 100 ... no strangers to

Ecstatic Utterances

From 1800 ... Mormons record such

From 1900 ... “holiness” movement

Charles F. Parham (1873-1929)

William Joseph Seymour (1870-1922)

Seymour's **Azusa Street Revival**, Los Angeles

April 9, 1906, until 1915 ... Healings & Tongues

Birth of Pentecostalism

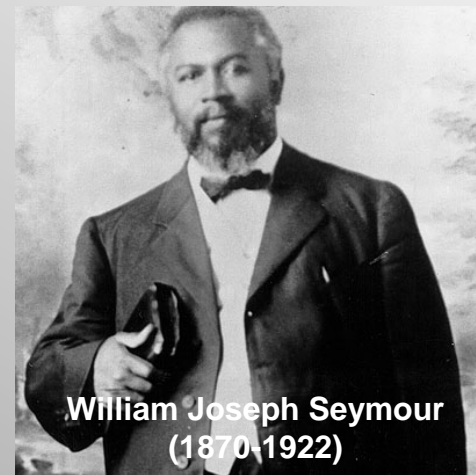
Some say 100m Speak in Tongues Today



Charles F. Parham
(1873-1929)



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
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William Joseph Seymour
(1870-1922)

1000 B.C. ... A.D. 100 ... no strangers to

Ecstatic Utterances

There is a Protestant & Catholic wave too ...

But ... for all of that ...

Of ALL of the “Gifts of the Spirit” ...

No similar focus on OTHER Gifts listed by Paul

No reason given for singling out Tongues
other than new “apostolic” movement

Though a few instances appear in Medieval Christianity

NO reason for ABSENCE for 2,000 years



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“Gifts of Spirit” – see dah **TESTS Market**

www.SpiritualGiftsTest.com **1st on Google** (4-12-18)

By Jeff Carver, B.A. & M.Div. ('16) Liberty University
pastored Vantage Life Church for 5 years ...

105 Questions ... 7 Qs for each of 15 Gifts

Carver ... figured it *ALL out* ... clearly ...

#2 No office of Apostle today ... **SO THEN**
he says Apostleship Gift is Church Planting

#3 Discernment is—amazingly—**clearly**
recognize and distinguish between the
influence of God, Satan, the w
the flesh in a given situations.”

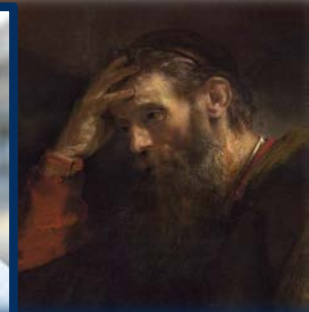
Really Now? ... Good Election Judges!



1. Administration
2. Apostleship
3. Discernment
4. Evangelism
5. Exhortation
6. Faith
7. Giving
8. Knowledge
9. Leadership
10. Mercy
11. Pastoring
12. Prophecy
13. Serving
14. Teaching
15. Wisdom

IF you TESTED Right!

By Jeff Carver, B.A. & M.Div. ('16) Liberty University
pastored Vantage Life Church for 5 years ...



Yeah ... ooops ... Tongues NOT There!

Good Baptist? ... I guess ... *he's TRYING to be!*

REALITY is he simply **MARKETED** Confusion

If you include Apostleship as a gift today ...

You must **ALSO** include Tongues!

Reality is these “LISTS” are quite **USELESS**.

Without a precise A.D. 60 definition, grouping
them like this just **ADDS complexity**

1. Administration
2. Apostleship
3. Discernment
4. Evangelism
5. Exhortation
6. Faith
7. Giving
8. Knowledge
9. Leadership
10. Mercy
11. Pastoring
12. Prophecy
13. Serving
14. Teaching
15. Wisdom

Greater Problem ... is **INTEGRITY**

Good Christians who DO sincerely believe that
Tongues Are REAL Today

WHAT IF your GOOD friend speaks in tongues?
Pray he/she respects MY belief as I respect theirs.
Yet, majority of Christians Protestant & Catholic
believe Tongues have **CEASED TODAY** ...

Most of the SBC – ONE Among *Many*

Clearly, no LOSS w/out Tongues for 99% of last 2,000 years!

Yet, I LOOSE nothing in RESPECTING my friend's belief.



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Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



Greater Problem ... is **INTEGRITY**

Also ... what of

Groaning in the Spirit?

Have ALL the “KINDS” of Tongues Ceased?

12:10, “to another speaking in different

KINDS of tongues

“**KINDS**” is from the root word “genus”
often translated as “race” or “nation”

No LOSS w/out Ecstatic Tongues for 99% of last 2,000 years!

YET we do NOT have a CERTAIN Definition of the
FULL Nature of Tongue/s for A.D. 60 or TODAY



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



“Gifts of Spirit” – check out dah **TESTS Market**

www.GiftsTest.com **2nd on Google** (4-12-18)

Claims sponsored by influential 

#2 Apostleship = Gift of Church Planting

#4 Discernment—likewise *amazing*—

“divine strength or ability to spiritually
identify falsehood, to distinguish between
right and wrong **MOTIVES** and the
SPIRITUAL FORCES* at work in situ

When I clicked to take the test ...

My Virus Protection STOPPED

Do NOT Try to Take that Test

1. Administration
2. Apostleship
3. Craftsmanship
4. Discernment
5. Evangelism
6. Exhortation
7. Faith
8. Giving
9. Healing
10. Helps
11. Hospitality



**Unless you have a First-Class
Virus Protection 😊**

20. Teaching
21. Tongues & Interpretation
22. Word of Wisdom

* All Caps mine

“Gifts of Spirit” – “Tests Market” is *HUGE*

Sit right down ... Results in a couple of minutes

United Methodist Church has one:

www.UMC.org/what-we-believe/spiritual-gifts-online-assessment

SBC publishes FREE one by Lifeway no less

[www.Lifeway.com/lwc/files/lwcF MYCS 030526 Spiritual Gifts Survey.pdf](http://www.Lifeway.com/lwc/files/lwcF_MYCS_030526_Spiritual_Gifts_Survey.pdf)

Lifeway – 80 statements to rank 1-5 ... *tada*

Lifeway sells **100+ books** on Spiritual Gifts

Amazon.com sells many *MORE* ...

Google “Spiritual Gifts Tests” yielded

587,000 results (0.54 seconds)

(4-12-18)

Lifeway List

1. Leadership
2. Administration
3. Teaching
4. Knowledge
5. Wisdom
6. Prophecy
7. Discernment
8. Exhortation
9. Shepherding
10. Faith
11. Evangelism
12. Apostleship
13. Service/Helps
14. Mercy
15. Giving
16. Hospitality



“Gifts of Spirit” ... shameful **“Tests Market”**

Tests for “Gifts”

Sit right down ... take **Test – Survey – Inventory**

Results in just a couple of minutes

Voila ... Tada ... Shazam ...

Find YOUR “gifts” from the Spirit of God

TESTS are Total Baloney

as far as I am concerned

Of course, no test needed for “tongues”

Yet, tests have been done to show “tongues”

Ecstatic Utterances Can Be LEARNED



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)

**Several
YouTube
Videos Teaching**



Why bother with the shameful “**Tests Market**”

Tests for “Gifts”—*bah, humbug*

Much LESS important ... or *unimportant* to

Identify the Gifts

Much MORE Important that WE

Yield to Spirit’s Work

Working toward Oneness

In Love



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



Briefly ... if you scan chapter 14

Tongues—is a *Gift* in the N.T. ... Paul had it

Corinth struggling w Spiritual SPEAKING Gift

14:2, For anyone who speaks in a tongue
does not speak to people but to God.

Indeed, no one understands them;
they utter mysteries by the Spirit

Throughout chapter 14 ... Paul emphasizes prophecy

CLEARLY they struggle with Self Control

CLEARLY there is ABUSE and NONSENSE

CLEARLY several in Corinth SPEAK NOT in the Spirit



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Compare briefly 1 Cor. 12 & Rom. 12

Both places ... Paul says **in Christ** we are **One BODY**

Romans 12:6–8

1. Prophecy
2. Serving
3. Teaching
4. Exhortation
5. Giving
6. Leadership
7. Mercy

1 Cor. 12:8–10

1. Word of Wisdom
2. Word of Knowledge
3. Faith
4. Gifts of Healings
5. Miracles
6. Prophecy
7. Distinguishing Spirits
8. Tongues
9. Tongue Interpretation

1 Cor. 12:28

1. Apostle
2. Prophet
3. Teacher
4. Miracles
5. Kinds Healings
6. Helps
7. Administration
8. Tongues

Eph. 4:11

1. Apostle
2. Prophet
3. Evangelist
4. Pastor
5. Teacher

Eph. 4:12

“to equip his people for works of service, so that the BODY of Christ may be built up”

Rom. 12:6, “We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.”



Experts Agree—Paul NOT Comprehensive in 1 Cor. 12 or Rom. 12
Experts Agree—Have an *IDEA*, but Not CERTAIN on Definitions

Romans 12:6–8

1. Prophecy
2. Serving
3. Teaching
4. Exhortation
5. Giving
6. Leadership
7. Mercy

1 Cor. 12:8–10

1. Word of Wisdom
2. Word of Knowledge
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1. Apostle
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4. Pastor
5. Teacher

Eph. 4:12

“to equip his people
for works of service, so
that the BODY of Christ
may be built up”

1 Cor. 12:27, ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ,
and each one of you is a part of it.



12:7-10 Specific – Nine Gifts for Common Good

Paul clarifies for us in verse 7:

⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of
the Spirit is given for the **COMMON GOOD**.

God to each of us some portion of **NINE “gifts”**

Experts concur – **NOT** a Comprehensive List

⁸ To one there is given through the
Spirit a **MESSAGE OF WISDOM**,
to another a **MESSAGE OF KNOWLEDGE**
by means of the same Spirit,

Nothing like being **CLEAR ...**



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Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)

You best
believe

Corinth
Wondered too



Message of Wisdom –

Logos = Message = Word ... *Sophia* = Wisdom

Philo *SOPHY* = Love of Wisdom

Spirit gives ... “Word of Wisdom”

Message of Knowledge –

Logos = Message = Word ... *Gnosis* = Knowledge

Spirit gives ... “Word of Knowledge”

How in heaven do those compare to **Prophecy?**

worse yet ... **WHAT is Spirit-given Word of WISDOM?**

worse yet ... **WHAT is Spirit-given KNOWLEDGE?**



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Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



What is WISDOM?

O.T. informs a lot: see Proverbs ... Ecclesiastes

See Jesus grew in “WISDOM & stature”

1 Cor. 1, world's wisdom vs. WISDOM of God

What is KNOWLEDGE?

Listen to Paul in Romans 11:33

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches of the

WISDOM and KNOWLEDGE of God!

How unsearchable his judgments, and
his paths beyond tracing out!



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



What is WISDOM & KNOWLEDGE?

Wisdom – practical side of Godly **INSIGHT**

Knowledge – theoretical side of Godly **INSIGHT**

- ✓ **INSIGHT** into the Kingdom of God
- ✓ **INSIGHT** into God's Work and Love
- ✓ **INSIGHT** into Holiness ...

Yet ... **we CANNOT say PRECISELY**

We cannot certainly define ... other than

**1 Corinthians itself is Spirit-given
Wisdom & Knowledge**



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12:7-10 **Specific** – Nine Gifts for Common Good

And so forth

⁹ to another **FAITH** by the same Spirit,
to another **GIFTS** of **HEALINGS** by that one Spirit,
¹⁰ to another **MIRACLES**,
to another **PROPHECY**,
to another **DISTINGUISHING** between **SPIRITS**,
to another ... different **KINDS** of **TONGUES**, and
to still another the **INTERPRETATION** of **TONGUES**.

Nine ... yet *representative* ... not **ALL**



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



FAITH by the same Spirit,

What is the “Gift of Faith” here?

Many believe it is a miraculous faith

- ✓ A FAITH that moves mountains
- ✓ A FAITH making one capable to great feats

I tend to be more modest ...

- ✓ Gift of FAITH is a Resolute Confidence in Risen Christ
- ✓ Kind of Supreme Confidence on one's Salvation
- ✓ King of Absolute Assurance of one's Divine Born Again

Yet ... FAITH here ... still a bit of Mystery



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GIFTS of **HEALINGS** by that one Spirit, and **MIRACLES**

Pretty obvious what these are ... yet, ARE they?

- Are they CLEAR to the Corinthians?
- Are they CLEAR to us TODAY?

NOT in use TODAY as Paul “Healed!”

Clearly—NOT used for 2,000 years as Paul did in Ephesus

For all we can discern—NOT used by Corinthian Christians

These were **NOT** ... dare I say ... **NOT**

Any Part of 1st Century Corinth



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



to another **PROPHECY**

While *foretelling* is part ... most say

Most forward a “*forthtelling*” ... or *something*

But ... experts CANNOT agree ... *not CERTAIN*

Still ... Paul urged the Corinthians to SEEK it

One could say **PROPHECY was NOT big in Corinth**

Paul has to plead ... nearly beg ... to forward Prophecy

Given the Lost Stern Letter mentioned in 2 Corinthians

1 Corinthians was NOT followed ... we can say

Prophecy was NOT a Concern in Corinth

Corinth could NOT even distinguish proper Tongues!



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Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



DISTINGUISHING between **SPIRITS**,

Talk about a tough one ...

- 1 John 4:1 ... “Test the spirits ... of God”?
- 1 Cor. 14:29 ... let others “weigh carefully”?

Distinguishing between true/false prophecies?

Once again, the experts **SUGGEST** the above ...

Yet there is a conspicuous MYSTERY ...

Paul **KNOWS** ... and **SEVERAL** Apostles cast out demons

Yet, it is likewise **conspicuous** that Corinth

Had No Clue about This Gift



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



different **KINDS** of **TONGUES** and **INTERPRETATION** of **TONGUES**

TONGUES infatuated the Corinthian Christians

Implied a kind of heavenly language ... yes

Also speaking in foreign language (vs. 21)

Paul notes in 14:23 something most odd:

if the whole church comes together and

**EVERYONE SPEAKS IN TONGUES ... unbelievers come in,
will they not say that you are out of your mind?**

Not so if all were prophesying ... yet, catch the drift

Tongues WAS Corinth Christianity



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



different **KINDS** of **TONGUES** and **INTERPRETATION** of **TONGUES**

What else does Paul say ... *trying to be nice*

14:32, “spirits of prophets are subject to
the control of prophets”

Then 14:33, “For God is not a God of disorder
but of peace—as in **ALL** the congregations
of the Lord's people.”

You **KNOW** what that means ... so clearly means

MANY Corinthian Christians were ***NOT in the SPIRIT***
While Speaking in Tongues



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



12:11-26 Intentional – One Spirit ... One Body

Paul journeys with them into **ONENESS of BODY**

¹¹ All these are the work of **ONE** and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to **EACH ONE**, just as he determines.

¹² Just as a **BODY**, though **ONE**, has many parts, but all its many parts form **ONE BODY**, so it is with Christ....

Verse 15ff ... Foot should not deny itself ...

Verse 16ff ... Eye should not deny itself ...

²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, but **ONE BODY**.



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



12:11-26 Intentional – One Spirit ... One Body

Paul pleads with them for **ONENESS of BODY**

²⁴ ... But God has put the **BODY** together ...

²⁵ et cetera ... et cetera ... et cetera ...

²⁶ If **ONE** part suffers,
 EVERY part suffers with it;
 if **ONE** part is honored,
 EVERY part rejoices...

²⁷ Now you are the **BODY** of Christ,
 and each **ONE** of you is a **PART** of it.

Working **TOGETHER** ... what a novel idea



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What do we make of Spiritual Gifts today?

There are no Apostles today ... *Baptist View*
Gifts ... like Apostleship ... Miracles
Tongues ... and so forth ... were for the
Forming of the Church



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GIFTS in N.T. not seen IDENTICALLY for 2,000 years

- ✓ We CANNOT even fully define their A.D. 60 meaning
- ✓ Worse, we CANNOT define with Forensic Clarity TODAY

Though vestives, remnants of the gifts are working TODAY,

Paul steers ALL to the Greatest Work—LOVE



One Spirit ... One Body

Then Paul closes ...

³¹ Now eagerly desire the greater gifts.

Yet I will show you the **MOST EXCELLENT WAY.**

Oh ... would that Corinthians Christian knew
that most splendid chapter 13

OPENS HEAVEN

Oh, the pitiful, abysmal state they were in that Paul had felt
need to follow 13 with chapter 14's straining.

WHERE ARE WE TODAY?



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



There is no question today ... we all know
several Christian groups **SPEAK** in Tongues

They **KNOW** exactly what it is ... *yet notice*

- ✓ No *reason* for absence for 2,000 years
- ✓ No *clarity* for ANY Gift then or today
- ✓ Paul noted *abuse* 2,000 years ago
- ✓ **PLUS** – 2,000 years ago, several were **DOING**
it while clearly **NOT** in the *Spirit*

Yet ... there is a higher road ... a better way

Love in Chapter 13



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



What is BOTH odd or dealt with in clarity

That is ... what is **CLEAR** and **ODD** at same time

We clearly do NOT know the FULL nature of

- 1. Message of Wisdom**
- 2. Message of Knowledge**
- 3. Gift of Faith**
- 4. Gift of Miracles – *not TODAY***

If we don't know with CLARITY those FOUR
where ARE we?

Let Me Give a Hint



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



We have inclinations ... but no certainty

Obviously, the GIFTS of the Spirit come

- ✓ **To All whom God Gives His Spirit**
- ✓ **Gifts are the Spirit's Work ... into Oneness**
- ✓ **Worldly or high Education Not Involved**
- ✓ **Prayer can yield some portion of a Gift**

Is it possible that TONGUES could be, from time to time

That Late Night Prayer?

**when we groan ... yet cannot
FIND the WORDS?**



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



We have inclinations ... but no certainty
Yet can ONE KIND of TONGUES be the SPIRIT
HELPING us as in Romans 8:28

In the same way, the
Spirit helps us in our weakness.
We do not know what we ought to pray for,
but the Spirit himself intercedes for us
through wordless groans.

a mother CRYING in the night a PRAYER for her
soldier son in Iraq?



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



What is the gift ... **FAITH** ...

- ✓ Can you see Daniel in the Lions Den?
- ✓ Can see the Martyrs of old
- ✓ Man, Woman would NOT deny Christ though *FLAMES* licked their FEET!

What is the gift ... **MIRACLES** ...

- ✓ Father / Mother LOVES their son in PRISON
- ✓ Despite Betrayal & Crime LOVE Prevailing

LOVE is a Miracle



What is the gift ... manifestation of

- ✓ **Message/Word of Wisdom**
- ✓ **Message/Word of Knowledge**

Impossible for us to precisely define for A.D. 60

Yet also, intuitively, we see some *natural light*

- ✓ **Wise Man ... vs. the Fool**
- ✓ **Knowledge ... vs. the Careless**

Yet, I'm convinced there are MANY ways in which

God REVEALS Wisdom & Knowledge



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
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We've seen dozens over the decades ...

In 2011, Trace Adkins, released 2011
his Album **"Proud to Be Here"**

Written by Casey Beathard / Ed Hill / Monty Criswell



Adkins sings the story ...

Father with Daughter ... **JUST FISHIN'**

Yet ... oh my ... there is a **Word of WISDOM**

... there is a **Word of KNOWLEDGE** ...

insight that **TRANSCENDS** College Education

No BOOK knowledge can SURPASS this exquisite jewel



Trace Adkins ... 2011 ... *Just Fishin'*

I'm lost in her there

holdin' that pink rod and reel

She's doin' almost everything but sittin'

Still Talkin' 'bout her ballet shoes

and training wheels ... And her kittens

And she thinks we're just fishin'

I say, "Daddy loves you, baby" one more time

She says, "I know. I think I've got a bite"



Trace Adkins ... 2011 ... *Just Fishin'*

And all this laughin', cryin, smilin'
dyin' here inside's

Is what I call, livin'

And she thinks we're just fishin'
on the riverside

Throwin' back what we could fry
Drownin' worms and killin' time ...

She ain't even thinkin' 'bout
What's really goin' on right now

But I guarantee this memory's a big'in

And she thinks we're just fishin'



To some ... Message of **WISDOM**

... Message of **KNOWLEDGE**

... another **FAITH** by the same Spirit,

... **HEALINGS**

... **MIRACLES**

... **PROPHECY**

... **DISTINGUISHING** between **SPIRITS**

... different **KINDS** of **TONGUES**

Not ALL ... Nor ALL Clear

But ALL to the Glory of God

All for LOVE

