

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Being God's Gifts

I Corinthians 12:1-11 & 28-31

I Corinthians 12:1, 6-7 & 11, "Now concerning spiritual gifts... it is the same God who works all in all... The manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all... But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills."

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What were the Corinthians believers dividing over?

- *Pretty much everything... identifying different strengths as reasons to be separate*
- *Even God's different gifts of Himself... given to whomever He chooses*

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Three things about spiritual gifts:

- 1) They must be given by the owner**
- 2) Given to whom the owner chooses**
- 3) They must be received, not taken**

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Recipients don't choose their own gift

- *They are not selections on a cafeteria menu*
- *They are for God's purposes, not ours (Acts 9:10-17)*

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Vs. 6, "it is the same God who works all in all."

- *His gifts are operated by the Holy Spirit, not the recipient*
- When, where, how & with who He chooses (i.e. Cho)*

Recipients exercise the gifts as servants

- *Servants do what they are told, when they are told*
- **Matthew 10:24-25 & 20:28, John 5:19 & 20:21, Phil. 2:5-8**
- *Serving God as He directs & serving others in His behalf*

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Some tend to regard the gift more highly than the Giver

- *Promoting the gifts used, rather than God who gives them*
- *We can't represent Him by being unlike Him. Do they act like Him?*
- *What is most evident; Christ-likeness, or celebrities with God's gifts?*

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"The manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all"

- *God has gifted you with deposits of Himself*
- *Entrusting you to use them as expressions of Him*
- *What do people think of most when gifts are exercised; The gift, the servant or The Lord?*

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We must actively receive them. How shall we know?

- *Most confidently by actively living with Him each day*
- *It's natural to hear Him, when we're actively listening to Him*

Mary had chosen “the better part”

- Do we spend time with Him just to be with Him?
- He’s not a vendor

Prepare yourself by listening to what He is saying already

- **John 1:1 & II Timothy 3:16**
- You’ll recognize His voice more easily for any reason

What gifts does Paul mention that He gives? (**Vs.8-10**)

- **Wisdom, knowledge, faith, healings, miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, tongues & interpretation of tongues... without comparing among them (II Cor. 10:12)**
- Each & every one of them is an expression of His Spirit

Vs. 28, “And God has appointed these in the church: first **apostles**, second **prophets**, third **teachers**, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.”

Apostles serve in relationship, not hierarchical authority.

- **Matthew 20:25-27**, But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave”

Prophets speak to **build up, encourage & comfort** people (**Ch.14:3**)

Teachers are given greater priority and honor than miracles & healings

Ephesians 4:11-12, “And He personally gave some to be **apostles**, some **prophets**, some evangelists, some **pastors and teachers**, for equipping the saints in the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ”

Vs. 29-30, “Are all **apostles**? Are all **prophets**? Are all **teachers**? Are all workers of miracles? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?”

Vs. 31, “But earnestly desire the greater gifts (**Vs. 28**). And yet I show you a **more excellent way.**”

NEXT WEEK: Chapter 12:12-27

- How we fit together