



"NOW CONCERNING"—

*Reply To Their Letter –
Liberty In Christ – 7:1-16:4*

“Spiritual Gifts And Unity”

1 Corinthians 12:1-31

MIRACULOUS GIFTS IN CORINTH

12:1-14:40

ANSWERING QUESTIONS

- ◆ First question pertained to marriage – (Chapter 7)
- ◆ The second question dealt with eating meat offered to idols – (Chapters 8-10)
- ◆ Chapters 11:2-16:4 deal with a variety of topics, first the issues of “headship” & “Lord’s Supper” – 11:2-34
- ◆ Next – Spiritual Gifts – 12:1-14:40



MIRACULOUS GIFTS IN CORINTH

THE PROBLEM AT CORINTH

- ✦ They seemed ignorant of the purpose and proper use of the various gifts.
- ✦ They were exercising such gifts in a very unloving and prideful way.
- ✦ Those who didn't possess such gifts or the more flamboyant among the various gifts, were looked down upon (12:21-25).
- ✦ The "ungifted" members were thinking that they were unneeded. (12:14-20)



MIRACULOUS GIFTS IN CORINTH

THE PROBLEM AT CORINTH

- ✦ A spirit of competition had apparently developed in the assembly over who would be allowed to speak. (14:26-33)
- ✦ They had lost sight of the main purpose of such gifts, i.e. the edification of the whole body and not merely the individual who possessed them. (12:7; 13:5; 14:3-5)



MIRACULOUS GIFTS IN CORINTH

CHAPTER 12

- ◆ The Source of Revelation & Spiritual Gifts: 12:1-3
- ◆ The Unity Behind The Various Gifts: 12:4-6
- ◆ The Gifts Enumerated: 12:7-11
- ◆ An Appeal For Unity/The Body And It's Members: 12:12-31



MIRACULOUS GIFTS IN CORINTH

1 Corinthians 12:1-31 (NKJV)

¹ Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant: ² You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led. ³

Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.

MIRACULOUS GIFTS IN CORINTH

1 Corinthians 12:1-31 (NKJV)

⁴ There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. ⁶ And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. ⁷ But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit *of all*: ⁸ for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,

MIRACULOUS GIFTS IN CORINTH

1 Corinthians 12:1-31 (NKJV)

⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another *different* kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

MIRACULOUS GIFTS IN CORINTH

1 Corinthians 12:1-31 (NKJV)

¹² For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. ¹³ For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free--and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. ¹⁴ For in fact the body is not one member but many.

MIRACULOUS GIFTS IN CORINTH

1 Corinthians 12:1-31 (NKJV)

¹⁵ If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where *would be* the hearing? If the whole *were* hearing, where *would be* the smelling?

MIRACULOUS GIFTS IN CORINTH

1 Corinthians 12:1-31 (NKJV)

¹⁸ But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.

¹⁹ And if they *were* all one member, where *would* the body *be*? ²⁰ But now indeed *there are* many members, yet one body. ²¹ And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

MIRACULOUS GIFTS IN CORINTH

1 Corinthians 12:1-31 (NKJV)

²² No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. ²³ And those *members* of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable *parts* have greater modesty, ²⁴ but our presentable *parts* have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that *part* which lacks it,

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1 Corinthians 12:1-31 (NKJV)

²⁵ that there should be no schism in the body, but *that* the members should have the same care for one another. ²⁶ And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with *it*; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with *it*. ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

MIRACULOUS GIFTS IN CORINTH

1 Corinthians 12:1-31 (NKJV)

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. ²⁹ *Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles?*

MIRACULOUS GIFTS IN CORINTH

1 Corinthians 12:1-31 (NKJV)

30 Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?

31 But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

MIRACULOUS GIFTS IN CORINTH

THE SOURCE OF REVELATION & SPIRITUAL GIFTS: 12:1-3



**1 Corinthians 12:1-2
(NKJV)**

**¹Now concerning
spiritual gifts,
brethren, I do not
want you to be
ignorant: . . .**

- ✦ The word "gift" is not in the passage—it is an ellipsis. It appears in verse 4, though, so it is supplied by the contexts. -
- ✦ “I do not want you to be ignorant:” Those who had such gifts, could be ignorant of their proper use.
- ✦ The possession of a spiritual gift, didn't necessarily make one more "spiritual" or "knowledgeable

MIRACULOUS GIFTS IN CORINTH

THE SOURCE OF REVELATION & SPIRITUAL GIFTS: 12:1-3



**1 Corinthians 12:1-2
(NKJV)**

**¹Now concerning
spiritual gifts,
brethren, I do not
want you to be
ignorant: . . .**

- ◆ **Attitude and proper use of the gifts were very important. -**
 - ❖ The same truth applies to those who possess the Bible –
 - ❖ Does knowledge automatically make one spiritual? (1 Cor. 8:1)
 - ❖ Does in-depth knowledge insure that one will use the Bible correctly? (2 Tim 2:15)

MIRACULOUS GIFTS IN CORINTH

THE SOURCE OF REVELATION & SPIRITUAL GIFTS: 12:1-3



**1 Corinthians 12:2
(NKJV)**

**²You know that you
were Gentiles,
carried away to
these dumb idols,
however you were
led.**

- ✦ A large portion of the Corinthian Church had come from a pagan background. (6:9-10)
- ✦ Contrasting the idol to their gifts: the idol is mute, but the Holy Spirit gave them their gifts and revelation.
- ✦ God often ridicules / mocks these man made "gods" in the O.T. - (Psalm 115:4-7; Isaiah 46:7; Jeremiah 10:5; Hab. 2:18-20)

MIRACULOUS GIFTS IN CORINTH



Mike Willis
Truth Commentary
(pp. 412-413)

'Several commentators are of the opinion that the Corinthian problem was caused by the pagan influences in Corinth. The idolatrous religions in Corinth are reported to have experienced ecstatic utterances as well . . . No doubt the pagan converts tended to look upon the miraculous spiritual gifts in terms of their past experiences . . . The Corinthian who was used to seeing a pagan priest in ecstasy undoubtedly tended to view the miraculous spiritual gifts ... in the same way ...

MIRACULOUS GIFTS IN CORINTH

THE SOURCE OF REVELATION & SPIRITUAL GIFTS: 12:1-3

**1 Corinthians 12:3
(NKJV)**

**3 Therefore I make
known to you that
no one speaking by
the Spirit of God
calls Jesus accursed,
and no one can say
that Jesus is Lord
except by the Holy
Spirit.**

- ✦ 'No man, however cultured and admired, can be rightfully called spiritual or godly who speaks evil of Jesus Christ.' (Erdman p. 121)
- ✦ “No one, miraculously (as in this context) or otherwise, magnified the Lordship of Jesus without getting his material, ultimately, from the Spirit.” (McGuiggan p. 167)
- ✦ Not a guarantee of inspiration – (Mat 7:21-23; Luke 6:46)

MIRACULOUS GIFTS IN CORINTH

THE UNITED SOURCE FOR THEIR SPIRITUAL GIFTS: 12:4-6



**1 Corinthians 12:4
(NKJV)**

**4 There are
diversities of gifts,
but the same
Spirit.**

- ✦ The Spirit didn't confer the same gift on all believers.
- ✦ Since all the gifts proceed from the same Spirit, none of the gifts should be depreciated.
- ✦ The gifts are given, hence there is no room to boast.
- ✦ A diversity of gifts was needed for the NT Church.

MIRACULOUS GIFTS IN CORINTH

THE UNITED SOURCE FOR THEIR SPIRITUAL GIFTS: 12:4-6

**1 Corinthians 12:5-6
(NKJV)**

5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.

6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.

- ✦ The unity of the Godhead - v.4-6; it is the Spirit giving the gifts, but the Godhead is united in what the Spirit is doing. Unity of will is not unity of function.
- ✦ Rather than being divided by the gifts, they ought to recognize their unity in the Spirit. (Eph. 4:1-6)
- ✦ The men they were esteeming were not doing this by their own power, but through God (cf 1:28-31).

MIRACULOUS GIFTS IN CORINTH

THE UNITED SOURCE FOR THEIR SPIRITUAL GIFTS: 12:4-6

**1 Corinthians 12:5-6
(NKJV)**

**5 There are
differences of
ministries, but the
same Lord.**

**6 And there are
diversities of
activities, but it is
the same God who
works all in all.**

- ✦ 'The Godhead acts in concert to bring these gifts so you can be sure the gifts aren't intended to divide the assembly.' (McGuiggan p. 167)
- ✦ The Corinthians were focusing on the gifts, even particular gifts above others, rather than focusing on the God who gave them - the gifts had become "an end" in themselves. It appears they were worshipping the gifts, instead of their source.

MIRACULOUS GIFTS IN CORINTH

THE GIFTS ENUMERATED: 12:7-II



**1 Corinthians 12:7
(NKJV)**

**7 But the
manifestation of
the Spirit is given
to each one for the
profit of all:**

The Purpose of Miraculous Gifts

- ◆ **To Confirm the word** – Mark 16:17-29; Acts 14:3; Hebrews 2:4
- ◆ **To Confirm Messengers** – Acts 2;
- ◆ **To Confirm God’s Willingness To Accept The Gentiles** - Acts 10
- ◆ **To Facilitate The Preaching of The Gospel** – Acts 2;
- ◆ **To Edify The Church** – in the absence of the completed revelation of God’s word - 1 Cor 12:7; 14:4,13,27; 13:8-13

“Spiritual Gifts And Unity At Corinth” – (12:1-31)

MIRACULOUS GIFTS IN CORINTH

THE GIFTS ENUMERATED: 12:7-II

INTELLECTUAL

The Word Of
Wisdom

The Word Of
Knowledge

Faith

EXHIBITION

Gifts Of
Healings

Working Of
Miracles,

Prophecy,

Discerning Of
Spirits,

LANGUAGE

Different Kinds
Of Tongues,

Interpretation
Of Tongues.

[11] But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

MIRACULOUS GIFTS IN CORINTH

AN APPEAL FOR UNITY/THE BODY AND IT'S MEMBERS: 12:12-31



- ◆ The Spirit did not give the gifts to facilitate the divisions at Corinth, but to supply unity!
- ◆ The body is one but many members
 - All the varying parts of the body compose a unified whole and work together, despite their various functions (v.7). Cf. Rom 12:3-8
- ◆ To be baptized by the Spirit is to realize by the Spirit that we ought to be baptized (1 Cor 1:17; Acts 18:8).

MIRACULOUS GIFTS IN CORINTH

AN APPEAL FOR UNITY/THE BODY

AND IT'S MEMBERS: 12:12-31



**1 Corinthians 12:18
(NKJV)**

**¹⁸ But now God has
set the members,
each one of them,
in the body just as
He pleased.**

- ✦ The foot is not the hand – is the foot needed? - 15
- ✦ The ear is not the eye – is the ear needed? - 16,17
- ✦ The eye cannot boast and say it does not need the hand – 21
- ✦ The body NEEDS each member – there should be no schism – 19-25
- ✦ Appreciation and concern by each member for every other member – 26,27

MIRACULOUS GIFTS IN CORINTH

AN APPEAL FOR UNITY/THE BODY AND IT'S MEMBERS: 12:12-31

**1 Corinthians 12:28
(NKJV)**

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.

- ✦ God is responsible for the diversity of gifts and areas of service in the church. (12:11,18,24)
- ✦ 'The very order of recounting these gifts may have been a rebuke to the Corinthians for disrespect to the apostle and for their almost childish delight in the spectacular gift of tongues.' (Erdman p. 129)
- ✦ Every Christian did not possess miraculous gifts – 29-31

MIRACULOUS GIFTS IN CORINTH

AN APPEAL FOR UNITY/THE BODY

AND IT'S MEMBERS: 12:12-31



1 Corinthians 12:31
(NKJV)

**31 But earnestly
desire the best gifts.
And yet I show you
a more excellent
way.**

- ✦ They were to desire to serve the church in the most effective way possible.
- ✦ Possession of the gifts didn't necessarily make you a better Christian (*it made some worse.*)
- ✦ The “more excellent way”, is the way of love discussed in the next chapter.
 - ❖ *The value of love over spiritual gifts -*
 - ❖ *The duration of love will outlast the gifts.*

MIRACULOUS GIFTS IN CORINTH

THE IMPORTANCE OF UNITY & HARMONY FOR US

Romans 12:3-8 (NKJV)

³ For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of *himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. ⁴ For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

MIRACULOUS GIFTS IN CORINTH

THE IMPORTANCE OF UNITY & HARMONY FOR US

Romans 12:3-8 (NKJV)

⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them*: if prophecy, *let us prophesy* in proportion to our faith; ⁷ or ministry, *let us use it* in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; ⁸ he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

MIRACULOUS GIFTS IN CORINTH

THE IMPORTANCE OF UNITY & HARMONY FOR US

Philippians 2:1-4 (NKJV)

¹Therefore if *there is* any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, ²fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind. ³*Let nothing be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. ⁴Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

MIRACULOUS GIFTS IN CORINTH

THE IMPORTANCE OF UNITY & HARMONY FOR US



- ◆ We do not have miraculous gifts – but we do have the scriptures. (2 Tim 3:16,17)
- ◆ We have differing abilities - use them – increase them – but use them to promote the growth and unity of the church!

“Spiritual Gifts And Unity At Corinth” – (12:1-31)

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Charts by Don McClain

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West 65th Street church of Christ

P.O. Box 190062

Little Rock AR 72219

501-568-1062

Prepared using PPT 2010 –

Email – donmcclain@sbcglobal.net

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Ephesians 4:7-16 (NKJV)

⁷ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore He says: "*When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.*" ⁹ (Now this, "*He ascended*"--what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?

Ephesians 4:7-16 (NKJV)

¹⁰ He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) ¹¹ And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

Ephesians 4:7-16 (NKJV)

¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

Ephesians 4:7-16 (NKJV)

¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ-- ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.