"Now Concerning"-

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

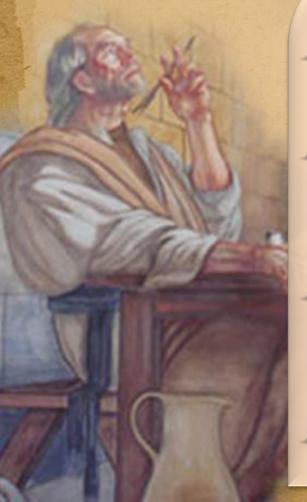
"Spiritual Gifts And Unity"

1 Corinthians 12:1-31

Miraculous Gifts In Corinth 12:1-14:40



- 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)

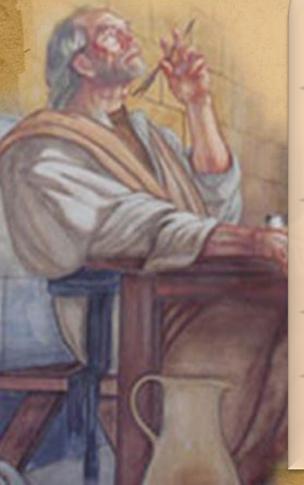
Miraculous Gifts In Corinth



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)

¹Now 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.

Miraculous Gifts In Corinth

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)

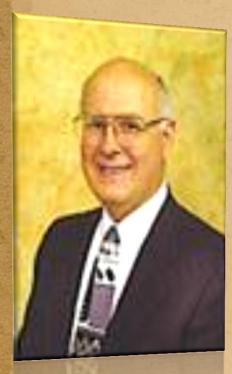
MIRACULOUS GIFTS IN CORINTH THE SOURCE OF REVELATION & SPIRITUAL GIFTS: 12:1-3

1 Corinthians 12:2
(NKJV)

2 You 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 ecstacy 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) ³Therefore 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

- → '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) ⁵There 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) ⁵There 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: 12:7-11

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

Miraculous Gifts In Corinth The Gifts Enumerated: 12:7-11

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, ² fulfill 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. ⁴ Let 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!

Miraculous Gifts In Corinth

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Prepared August 13,14, 2011

Preached August 14, 2011

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