

Studies in 1 Corinthians

Lesson XXXIV: A Closer Look at Miraculous Sign Gifts

TEXT: 1 Cor. 12:7-17; 28-31 (NASV)

12:7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. **8** For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; **9** to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, **10** and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. **11** but one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

28 And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues. **29** All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not workers of miracles, are they? **30** All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they? **31** But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way.

13:8 Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away. **9** For we know in part and we prophesy in part; **10** but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away.

11 When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.

12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.

Questions for Thought & Discussion

1. Some commentators have divided the list of gifts in chapter 12 in half: (a) the permanent edifying gifts (12:8-10) and (b) the temporary sign gifts (12:9-10, 28, 30)

How much do we know about the spiritual gifts listed in chapter 12? What remains a mystery?

- ◆ **The Word of Wisdom** (12:8; cf. Mark 13:11; James 1:5)
- ◆ **The Word of Knowledge** (12:8; cf. 1 Cor. 7:10; 14:6 Philippians 1:9; Colossians 1:9)
- ◆ **Faith** (12:9; cf. Matthew 17:20; 21:21)
- ◆ **Healing** (12:9; cf. Acts 5:12-16)
- ◆ **The Effecting of Miracles** (12:10; cf. Mark 16:18)
- ◆ **Prophecy** (12:10; cf. 1 Cor. 14:3; Revelation 1:10)
- ◆ **The Distinguishing of Spirits** (12:11; cf. 1 John 4:1; Acts 5:1-5)
- ◆ **Various Kinds of Tongues** (12:11; cf. Acts 2:4-11)
- ◆ **The Interpretation of Tongues** (12:11; cf. 1 Cor. 14:5)

2. Were the miraculous sign gifts meant to be perpetual manifestations in the church of Christ or temporary ones? (13:8-12; cf. 2 Corinthians 12:12; Hebrews 2:3-5)