

## THE GIFTS OF CHRIST Part 3 Ephesians 4:7-13

### INTRODUCTION :

**What happened :** For 3 weeks we had a stop-over because of very special circumstances

**Before the stop-over :** We were talking about the spiritual gifts of Christ based on Ephesians

**Remember :** For the past few weeks we told you that to be ready to be used by God mightily

**\*And then :** We talked about spiritual gifts

- **Romans 12 - Maintenance Gifts**
- **1 Corinthians 12 - Manifestation Gifts**
- **Ephesians 4 – Molding Gifts**

\*We talked about the Maintenance Gifts in Romans 12

*Romans 12: <sup>6</sup>We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is **prophesying**, let him use it in proportion to his faith. <sup>7</sup>If it is **servicing**, let him serve; if it is **teaching**, let him teach; <sup>8</sup>if it is **encouraging**, let him encourage; if it is **contributing** to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is **leadership**, let him govern diligently; if it is **showing mercy**, let him do it cheerfully.*

### **Two categories :**

Serving gifts : serving, encouraging (exhortation), contributing (metadidomi), leadership, mercy

Speaking gifts : prophesying (propheteia –proclamation) and teaching (didaskos – systematic teaching)

**The foundation :** Servanthood

**Glory to God :** He has given us the opportunity to practice the serving gifts in the past few weeks.

**Proof that God is our teacher in this church :** He teaches us and then He allows us to practice it.

**Quotation about learning :** ““Tell me, and I'll forget. Show me, and I'll remember. Involve me, and I'll learn.”

**Thank You Lord :** He told us in His Word regarding our gifts in Christ. He showed us how to use it through Christ. And He involved us through the power of Christ.

**Ultimately** the Holy Spirit is the perfect teacher :

**Story :** A young boy once approached his father to ask, "Dad, why does the wind blow?", to which the father responded, "I don't know, son." "Dad, where do the clouds come from?" "I'm not sure, son." "Dad, what makes a rainbow?" "No idea, son." "Dad, do you mind me asking you all these questions.?" "Not at all, son. How else are you going to learn?"

### **Read : Ephesians 4:7-13**

*<sup>7</sup>But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.<sup>8</sup>This is why it says:*

*"When he ascended on high,  
he led captives in his train*

*and gave gifts to men."<sup>9</sup>(What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? <sup>10</sup>He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) <sup>11</sup>It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up<sup>13</sup>until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

*Pray*

Review :

- I. THE INDIVIDUAL GIFTS THE LORD GAVE
- II. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GIFTS THE LORD GAVE
- III. THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE GIFTS THE LORD GAVE

- I. THE INDIVIDUAL GIFTS THE LORD GAVE
  - **Romans 12 - Maintenance Gifts**
  - **1 Corinthians 12 - Manifestation Gifts**
  - **Ephesians 4 – Molding Gifts**

### **\*The Manifestation Gifts**

*\*1 Corinthians 12 :<sup>7</sup>Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. <sup>8</sup>To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of*

*tongues. <sup>1</sup>All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.*

**Before anything else :**

This passage in the Bible has been misinterpreted, misunderstood and has been the cause of misunderstanding among Christian communities specially verse 10

**\*But let me reiterate what I shared before :**

- **In the essentials...unity** e.g. salvation through faith alone by grace alone through Christ alone. Jesus Christ died on the cross, rose again from the dead, and is now at the right hand of the Father and will soon come again. The Bible as the ultimate standard in Christian belief and Christian living and etc., God as Trinitarian God...
- **In the non-essentials... liberty** e.g. style of worship, place of worship, dietary restrictions (Romans 14) and practice of spiritual gifts
- **In all things...charity**

*\*1 Corinthians 13: <sup>1</sup>If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.*

**\*For easier categorization :**

- The revelatory gifts – prophecy, wisdom, knowledge
- The support gifts – faith, discernment
- The sign gifts – miracles, healings, languages (tongues) and interpretation of languages

**Before anything else :**

Why were these spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12 given to the early (apostolic) church?

1. **The New Testament hasn't been finished yet** during that time (revelations from God hasn't been finished yet) - that's why the early church needed men with revelatory prophecy, wisdom and knowledge
2. **The enemy (the devil) wants to either discourage or divert the attention of the early church from the truth**, that's why the early church was supported with gifts of faith or discernment

3. **Since the revelation of God was being finished during that time,** the early church were given sign gifts of miracles, healing, languages and interpretation of languages to show that their message is from God.

**Important :** It doesn't mean that if the spiritual gifts are practiced, the Holy Spirit is in control of the church...

**Perfect example :** This Corinthian church

**\*Apparently,** these church has the gifts and they're practicing it but...

*1 Corinthians 1: <sup>5</sup>For in him you have been enriched in every way—in all your speaking and in all your knowledge— <sup>6</sup>because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. <sup>7</sup>Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.*

**BUT LOOK AT...**

*1 Corinthians 3 : <sup>1</sup>Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly—mere infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup>I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. <sup>3</sup>You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men? <sup>4</sup>For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere men?*

**A word of caution for the Disciples of Christ church :**

Our Lord has been using as mightily and it clearly shows that our Lord Jesus is the one leading this church but of course the devil is not happy with this...

**Illustration :** One time, I had to drive Bexy to school and we were caught in traffic and I had to go home and pick up Mica so I can bring her to her school. My objective was just to go home but I was so obsessed with that objective that I wasn't aware already of what's happening around me. There was a school bus along North Park that was flashing its two red light and its stop sign in the driver side was still open. Every car stopped but I just kept on driving. It's a good thing there was no children crossing the street and there was no policemen around (I know Tatay Moises, who is a crossing guard will be mad at me). I wasn't aware of what's happening around me because I just want to get things done.

Just like in this church, there might be times that we just want to get things done but we still have to be aware about the people around us...that the devil would want to destroy the work of our Lord.

**\*Remember :**

*1 Peter 5: <sup>8</sup>Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*

**That's why :** We have to surrender the controls of our lives and of this church to the Holy Spirit

**\*What does a Spirit-controlled church or a Spirit-controlled life look like?**

**1. There is unity in diversity**

**Note:** I did not say...uniformity...(e.g. mormon) or conformity...(e.g. this is how we dress up and how we speak...you should do the same too). The Holy Spirit is a Spirit of unity.

**2. There is fellowship** (koinonia – a sharing of lives)

**Note :** By God's grace, the official name of this church is Disciples of Christ Fellowship - We are disciples of Christ and we will be known as His disciples because of our "fellowship"

**\*Biblical proof :** *John 13: <sup>35</sup>By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

**3. There is worship**

**Note :** Our main objective is to glorify Christ in whatever we do

*\*John 16: <sup>14</sup>He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.* (Jesus was talking about the Holy Spirit here)

**Remember :** This is our primary objective in EVERYTHING that we do.

**Emphasize :** We don't want the church to be lifted up...we want Christ to be lifted up (repeat)...We don't want the church to be known...we want Christ to be known...

**4. There is evangelism**

**Note :** This church doesn't have an evangelism ministry...why? Because evangelism must be the natural outflow of our amazement and wonder for Christ

**Example :** If you just watched a good movie, the natural outflow is we recommend it to others.

**5. There is fruit**

*\*Galatians 5: <sup>22</sup>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness and self-control.*

**Emphasize each fruit...**

**6. There is obedience to God's Word**

**Note :** The Holy Spirit will not operate apart from His Word.

**Remember :** The Bible is the basis on what to believe and how to live.

*Ephesians 6 : <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

**7. There is submission to the Head of the church, our Lord Jesus Christ**

**Illustration :** I was watching the documentary in CNN about Jim Jones...who was in control of the church...it was Jim Jones already and not Jesus.

**This is just the Introduction to the Manifestation Gifts**

**Why this long?** Just wanted to emphasize to you that it's not necessarily so that when someone is "supposedly" practicing this manifestation gifts, this people are already controlled by the Spirit.

**Two examples :**

- This woman in church always wants to be prayed over and when she is prayed over she is always "slain" and she supposedly practices gift of tongues but learned from her relatives, she conned a lot of her relatives of money.
- Another woman I know, she is really practicing tongues and then said she has gifts of healing. Then she shared to me how she heals, she says that her voice changes into little child's voice and even on the phone if somebody wants healing, she prays over them through the voice of a child.
- Of course, we know of gifted pastors who really has gift in preaching or teaching but when you look at their lives, their character doesn't reflect it.

**Again :**

**The evidence of the baptism of the Spirit is not in the gifts but in the changed lives.**

**Last story :**

Dwight L. Moody wanted to minister in a gathering in England. One of the pastors told another pastor, "Who does he think he is? Does he have a monopoly on the Holy Spirit?" The other pastor answered, "No...but the Holy Spirit has a monopoly on Dwight L Moody".

**Next week :** Lord willing, we will try to finish on the individual manifestation gifts in 1 Corinthians 12

**S.G.D.**