

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 06 Jun.....1Cor 1-3..... Promoting Church Unity
- 2) 13 Jun..... 1Cor 4..... Encouraging Church Leaders
- 3) 20 Jun.....1Cor 5-6..... Practicing Christian Morality
- 4) 27 Jun..... 1Cor 7..... What Should I Do?
- 5) 04 Jul.....1Cor 8-11..... What Can I Do?
- 6) **11 Jul..... 1Cor 12 & 14..... Spiritual Gifts Today**
- 7) 18 Jul..... 1Cor 13..... Expressing True Love
- 8) 25 Jul.....1Cor 15-16..... Believing in the Resurrection
- 9) 01 Aug2Cor 1-2.....The Integrity Factor
- 10) 08 Aug2Cor 3-5.....The Faithfulness Factor
- 11) 15 Aug2Cor 5-7..... The Reconciliation Factor
- 12) 22 Aug2Cor 7-9..... The Long Distance Factor
- 13) 29 Aug2Cor 10-13..... The Improvement Factor

INTRODUCTION

- Should the Church today be the same as we see in Acts? Is the Bible still growing? Is God still raising up true Apostles and Prophets like Paul and Agabus? Can any modern day healer, prophet, miracle-worker claim 100% success?.....NO
- How can we tell who's got a real gift and who's got a false gift, who's got a God-given talent or special skill and who's just being obedient to the Scriptures?
- How do we tell the difference between the gift of faith that some might have and the normal faith that every believer has?
- Chapters 12, 13 and 14 are actually one cohesive passage, but we will extract and tackle Chapter 13 in the next lesson
- See Table below for a common listing of gifts from Scripture

Passage	Individual Gifts	Purpose
Ephesians 4:11-13	1. Apostle	...for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the church, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God,
	2. Prophet	
	3. Pastor/Teacher	
Romans 12:4-8	4. Grace	Unity through diversity
	5. Prophecy	
	6. Ministry	
	7. Teaching	
	8. Exhortation	
	9. Giving	
1Cor 12:8-10	10. Rules	But to each one a manifestation of the Spirit has been granted for the common good
	11. Mercy	
	12. Wisdom	
	13. Knowledge	
	14. Faith	
	15. Gifts of healings	
	16. Miracles	
	17. Prophecy	
	18. Discernment	
	19. Tongues	
	20. Interpretation of Tongues	

TERMINOLOGY

- **Gift:** A gift is something received at a specific moment in time (e.g., moment of salvation, anointing or re-filling) that is fully developed and ready for immediate use at the discretion of the recipient (e.g. tongues, prophecies, etc.)
- **Talent:** A talent is a skill or capability that is developed over time.
- **Signs:** A term that groups miracles, healings, tongues, prophecies, and other phenomena.
- **Power:** Source of event or authority (e.g., God or Satan).
- **Wonder:** Attention grabber (e.g., cast our demons, Mt 7:22)

Chap 12	Comments
Chapter 12:1-11	The Holy Spirit chooses who gets what gifts when <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversities of gifts What and which gifts • Differences of administration..... Who, when & where • Diversities of operations.....How the gifts are used
12:13	Jesus Christ chooses to baptize us with the Holy Spirit into His body, the Church.....John 1:33 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only mention of Spirit baptism in the Bible (past tense); It happens once at the moment of salvation • Eph 1:13 – Also at the moment of salvation the Holy Spirit seals us
12:14-26	God chooses the talents/skills/gifts each church has <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The less visible members (e.g., janitors) are just as important as the visible members (e.g., elders, pastors) • In fact, special honor is given to the less prominent members (see how fast the church grows with dirty bathrooms and without nursery workers)
12:27-31	Priority of Gifts based not on Show but on Doctrine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apostles, prophets & teachers, who are concerned with sound doctrine, have preeminence over service-oriented gifts and wonder-working gifts. • Remember – It is sound doctrine that saves; not seeing or experiencing mighty things.....1Tim 4:16
Chap 13	Love is the more excellent way – Next Week's Lesson

TONGUES WERE NOT UNTELLIGIBLE GIBBERISH

- Who else speaks in tongues? Mormons, Witch Doctors, Middle-eastern religions and numerous other cults
- Difference between Biblical Tongues and tongues of other religions is the intelligence factor – Biblical tongues were a known human language unlearned by the speaker and by the interpreter, and were not unintelligible gibberish Acts 2:11
- The gift of tongues is addressed only in Mark, Acts and 1Cor. All total, 3 books, 7 chapters, 30 verses – of which 17 verses (~60%) are used to correct the misuse of tongues

Chap 14	Comments
14:1-11	Purpose of Church – Edification of the Body <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-5. Prophesying (intelligently conveying God's truth) to edify and establish the Church has precedence over unintelligible babbling • v6. Tongues + Interpretation = Prophesying • vv7-11. Tongues without interpretation is confusing, meaningless and should be avoided
14:12-19	Misuse of Tongues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v12. When churches give showmanship gifts priority over edification gifts, problems loom • Praying in tongues is fruitless/meaningless. At best it only edifies the one praying – but still without intel • v19. Intelligent speaking is critical for the church.
14:20-26	Purpose of Tongues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv21-22. Tongues & Interpretation of Tongues were a sign to the Jews that they missed their Messiah; • Prophesying was for believers for learning & edifying • Example. Someone spoke in German and someone else interpreted the German. If an unbelieving German Jew was present he would've acknowledged both the speaking and interpretation as accurate and would possibly have believed after hearing the truth
14:27-33	Order of Gifts within the Church <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v27. Tongues, like prophecies, were never meant to be unintelligible or chaotic. Tongues had a purpose – to convey God's message to unbelievers and to edify others when interpreted

Chap 14	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> v28. Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues were tied together. One should not be without the other to convey God’s prophetic truth and edify the body v29. Even prophecies had to be tested for validity vv32-33. Prophets were not robots, but had control over how the prophecies were conveyed – and they needed to convey God’s truth without contradiction
14:34-40	<p>Final Word on Tongues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v34. Women Keep Silence in the Church. The context is with speaking in tongues. It was OK for women to pray and prophesy in church (1Cor 11:5 & Acts 2:17). Tongues were a sign to the Jews – a male-oriented culture who would only listen to other men v35. Why was it a shame for women to speak in church? In that time period and culture women were for the most part uneducated. It would be akin to us having an uneducated kindergarten student trying to teach us calculus. It would be embarrassing or shameful for us to admit we do not have qualified men who are able and willing to teach v39. ‘...forbid not to speak with tongues.’ Tongues were still in existence then, so that was an appropriate command. Today, we need to show from scripture the ‘more excellent way’ – how to live by faith & love, not by sight and sound

BIBLICAL EVIDENCE THAT APOSTLES, PROPHETS, AND SIGNS OF APOSTLES ARE GONE

- Eph 2:20 – since the foundation of the church is already established by the Apostles and Prophets their roles are no longer needed as we build on top of that foundation. Just as in house construction, after the foundation is laid the bulldozers and cement are replaced with hammers, nails and dry wall
- Paul in Romans 15:19 (perfect) and 2 Cor 12:12 (aorist) mentions apostolic signs in the past tense
- Hebrews 2:3-4 depicts in aorist tense & in parenthetical present tense (respectively) that the Word of God had been confirmed by those who had gone before with divers signs & miracles
- Conclusion.** So, even before the Apostles left the scene, it looks like the Holy Spirit had chosen to allow the “signs” to be replaced with the confirmed Word of God

BIBLICAL EVIDENCE THE GIFTS OF TONGUES, HEALINGS AND MIRACLES ARE GONE

- Tongues were a sign for the 1st century Jews that they missed their Messiah 1Cor 14:21-22
- Initially, tongues were tied to the Apostles giving the Holy Spirit out to distinct people groups. Since we have shown Apostles do not exist today, the Holy Spirit is now received and seals at the moment of salvation for each person
- James tells those who are sick to seek prayer from Elders. There seemed to be no need to look for those with the gifts of healings and miracles. A new process was in work even before the post-Apostolic era began James 5:14-16

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER “SERVICE” GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT? ARE THEY STILL WITH US OR GONE?

- Gifts can also be used in a general sense. Since God gives gifts to all men, God providentially ensures each church is set up with the right skilled people to function as a church (e.g., Pastors, Elders, teachers, janitors and nursery workers)

- The Gifts or Talents each of us have were developed over time and not miraculously given to us at the moment of salvation in full maturity (e.g., gifts of giving, mercy, faith, discernment, teaching, ruling, wisdom, knowledge, etc.)
 - Evidence from Scripture.** Paul does not tell Timothy & Titus to select Elders and Deacons based on what gifts they have, but on their character, their spiritual maturity, the spiritual maturity of their spouses, on the lack of reproach from without, and on their ability to teach (but not on them having the gift of teaching). Plus these men were not to be novices
 - We now grow in the grace & knowledge of Jesus...2Pet 3:18
- Conclusion.** If we look at the service gifts as inherent talents developed over time and not instantaneously given to believers at the moment of salvation then these gifts exist. Else it should be discernable and provable that someone receives a new capability at the moment of salvation

FINAL CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS:

- If the gifts of 1Corinthians 12 do exist (some or all), then a Bible-believing church ought to determine which ones are active today and be exercising those gifts to fully reap God’s blessings for His church (1 Cor 1:5,7)
- If these God-given, fully mature, instantaneous gifts do not exist today, a Bible-believing church needs to show clearly from Scripture why God allowed them to pass from use and were replaced with providential talents/gifts/skills
- Romans 1:11 depicts that the bestowing of a spiritual gift establishes one in the faith. This ‘spiritual gift’ is sound doctrine according to Rom 16:25-26 & Col 2:7
- Missionaries have reported incidences of tongues and other wondrous works being experienced while reaching new people groups with the Gospel. But these wonders soon stop. At best, these incidences can be classified as godly miracles, but not as spiritual gifts that are repeatable at the discretion of the one who received the gift(s)..... 1Cor 14:32
- BUT** the early church who had little, if any, knowledge of God and His word needed gifted people who had instant and mature godly wisdom and knowledge, who could quickly discern sound doctrine from false teachings, who could effectively rule, administrate and teach, and who exhibited mercy, faith, giving, and other attributes of a healthy church
- So, what are we seeing or experiencing in charismatic-type churches today if they are not godly manifestations of the Holy Spirit?
 - Best Case,** they are well-meaning believers who do not prove all things and test the spirits by the true Word of God, so they fall victim to crowd manipulation dynamics and psychosomatic self-healings
 - Worst Case,** the demonstrated gifts are demonic works to deceive even the very elect.....Mat 24:24; Rev 13:14

RELEVANT PASSAGES IN MARK and ACTS

- Mark 16:17-20 Tongues were a sign to confirm God’s word
- Acts 2:3-6. Apostles received the Holy Spirit with tongues
- Acts 8:17. Samaria received Holy Spirit (but no tongues) in the presence of Apostles Peter and John
- Acts 10:46. Cornelius’ family receive HS & tongues (Peter)
- Acts 19:6. Ephesians receive Holy Spirit & tongues by Paul

NEXT WEEK: 1Cor 13 – Love is key to our Christian walk