

THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS AND THE JUDGMENT



INTRODUCTION: “And I will pray the Father, and **he shall give you another Comforter,** that he may abide with you for ever; **Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive,** because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; **for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.** But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he

shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”(John 14:16,17,26)

It's the core purpose of this study to unpack the spiritual gifts, one thing that has been neglected for the most part in Christianity, and how it's related to the Judgment work. **Truth is independent of your or my opinion. Truth is also intolerant of error.** The Father of lights never forces anyone to believe His word, He simply lays the truth in front of an individual who then holds a key either to accept or reject that truth. Let's pray for the Spirit who gives gifts and guides into all truth to help us understand His words. Let's begin by looking at

God's Purpose for His Church and His protection over it.

“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and **upon this rock I will build my church;** and **the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**”(Matthew 16:18)

Christ here promised that he was going to establish a Christian Church upon himself (the Rock - 1 Corinthians 10:4), for He’s “**the chief corner stone**”(Ephesians 2:20, 1 Peter 2:6). This church, we must remember, was to have the mission of proclaiming the “**gospel of the kingdom**” to all the world and bring about the end of time (Matthew 24:14).

The statement “**the gates of hell shall not prevail against it**” shows that the gospel church is to be preserved to the very end of time. And regarding the “woman”(the church) whose husband is her “Maker”, the Lord says “**In righteousness shalt thou be established...No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper..**”(Isaiah 54:14,17)

This means that as long as the Church remains on Christ's righteousness, then no weapon formed against her can prosper. When Balaam went to curse the children of Israel, he was constrained to utter a blessing instead of a curse (Deut 23:4,5), and the reason given is that "He[God] **hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel:** the LORD his God is with him, and the shout of a king is among them."(Numbers 23:21).

Yet later on when **"the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing"**(Joshua 7:1) the small city of Ai defeated them and slew some of their men(Joshua 7:4,5) because Achan cherished sin in the midst of the church. Thus this time **the weapon formed against God's church prospered**, just like it did by the destruction of Jerusalem in AD70.

The object lesson over and over again is that as long as His church remains true to her calling, nothing can work against her, no, no more than a bullet can pierce the chest of the soldier having a bulletproof. And even if she rebels, God will still have a faithful few who will preserve his truth, for “the gates of hell” cannot prevail against it to the very end of time.

One Church, One Spirit, One Lord.

“There is **one body, and one Spirit**, even as ye are called in **one hope** of your calling; **One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God** and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”(Ephesians 4:4-6)

Notice that The Church of Christ here is represented by the body. As there are many body parts but just one body, so there are many

church members but one church. And since Christ said **“I will build my church”**, then this is the one true church (one body, not many) he referred to, **making Him the head over it (Ephesians 5:23) and the only Lord**. Thus as long as the Lord lives, truth will persevere to the very end of time. No darkness will override it. There’s One Spirit, one Hope and one true baptism (which is by immersion). Again since there’s only one true God to believe in, so there’s only one true faith.

The Spiritual Gifts.

Spiritual gifts are special abilities given by the Holy Spirit to believers, so they can serve God and build up the church. They make the church to endure and prosper in the gospel ministry, just like the wellbeing of our body is dependent on the functioning of our body parts.

So “...**unto every one of us is given** grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, **When he ascended up on high**, he led captivity captive, and **gave gifts unto men.**”(Ephesians 4:7-8) Since the spiritual gifts are nothing but “**the manifestation of the Spirit**” given, not just to some, but to “**everyone of us**” to profit all(1 Corinthians 12:7), **then the Holy Spirit is the greatest gift one can ever receive**, for all gifts come from Him.

Said Peter, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and **ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.**”(Acts 2:23)

When Christ ascended to Heaven with the multitude of captives who rose with him (Matthew 27:52,53) then it is that “**he gave gifts unto men**” , unto his people. This he did by Sending His Holy Spirit upon His Church on the day of Pentecost.

“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”(Acts 2:1-4)

The condition met by the Church for the manifestation of the Holy Spirit was that **“they were all with one accord”** and **“had all things common”**(Acts 2:44). And the purpose of the gift of tongues in particular was given for the preaching of the gospel. **“Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?”**(Acts 2:7,8). Thus these gifts

are given for the purpose of fulfilling God's will, nothing else.

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.”(Ephesians 4:11-13)

By Giving His Spirit, God divides gifts **“to every man severally as he will.”**(1 Cor 12:11), thus he makes **some apostles, others prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers e.t.c,** and the reason for this is **to equip(perfect) the saints for the work of the ministry and to edify the church till there's perfect unity and maturity.**

One Body, Many Members.

“For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.”(Romans 12:4,5)

Notice that the body parts do not all function in the same way, for **“If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling?”**(1 Cor 12:17) Thus it is that eyes are for seeing, ears for hearing, nose for smelling, hands for touching, legs for walking, e.t.c each with a specific role and time, but they all serve one body.

Similarly, the church cannot have members all with one gift or rather the same gift. None should make a claim that we all have to

have the same spiritual gifts. “**Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?**”(1 Cor 12:29,30), no they are not, just like all body parts are not eyes, or ears or legs.

Manifestly, then, the common idea in the charismatic movements that the proof that one has the Holy Spirit is if they speak in tongues is completely wrong. While some can speak in tongues, they cannot necessarily prophesy and vice versa.

“Having then **gifts differing** according to the grace that is given to us, **whether prophecy**, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; **Or ministry**, let us wait on our ministering: or **he that teacheth, on teaching**; Or **he that exhorteth, on exhortation**: he that **giveth**, let him do it with simplicity; he that

ruleth, with diligence; he that **sheweth mercy**, with cheerfulness.”(Romans 12:6-8)

All are to perform their roles diligently, **each one according to their calling**. And as some body parts work more than others, so it is with the gifts of the Spirit, yet all are important. No one can dare cut off one of their body parts because they think it serves nothing, so all church members (regardless of their calling) are to be incorporated into one body, the church, none should be excluded.

Writes the apostle, “And God hath set **some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.**”(1 Cor 12:28). Notice that,

The Apostles are listed **first in the order of**

importance. The word apostle comes from the Greek **apostolos**, meaning “**one who is sent out with authority.**” And since the Christian church was “Built on **the foundation of the apostles and prophets**, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone” (Ephesians 2:20), then **the 12 apostles themselves sit at the foundation of the church and therefore are listed first in importance.** They are the pioneers of the Christian church.

Interestingly enough, the twelve foundations of the New Jerusalem has “**the names of the twelve apostles of the lamb**”(Revelation 21:14), and if an apostle **is one directly called by God** (Galatians 1:1) then these self proclaimed apostles of today must quickly cease fooling themselves before it shall be too late. Like false prophets, many are claiming to be Christ’s apostles even though they don’t even know what it means, “**For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming**

themselves into the apostles of Christ.”(2 Cor 11:13)

The Prophets are listed **second** in the order of importance. A **prophet is someone who speaks by direct inspiration to communicate to the people the messages he has received from heaven.** Through “**visions**” and “**dreams**” God speaks to them even concerning things that haven’t already occurred.(Numbers 12:6, Amos 3:7). The gift of prophecy (the spirit of prophecy) is the eyes of the church. “**Where there is no vision, the people perish**”(Proverbs 29:18). Yet there are false Christ’s and false prophets today, showing “**great signs and wonders**; insomuch that, if it were possible” even the very elect can be deceived (Matt 24:24)

The Teachers are listed **third** in the order of importance. In the NT, the word for teacher

is **didaskalos**, literally “**one who instructs.**” A teacher is someone gifted and called by God to **explain His Word, help others understand the truth, and guide them in applying it to life.** The teacher should be “**an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures**”(Acts 18:24) “**rightly dividing the word of truth**”(2 Tim 2:15). He teaches “**sound doctrine**”(Titus 2:1).

The Bible warns, “My brethren, **let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.**”(James 3:1) Does This mean teachers are accountable to God for what and how they teach.? It most certainly does. So both those who want to teach or answer the things they don’t really understand, but are just doing it in order to be seen by others, will reap the fruits of their labor in the day of God.

The gift of miracles is listed fourth in

the order of importance. A miracle is a Spirit-given ability to **perform acts of supernatural power that go beyond natural laws**. Miracles are given for the manifestation of God's power (like Moses parting the red sea) and for the purpose to serve humanity (like all the miracles Christ did for mankind). But those who look to miracles as the only sign of Divine operation will be deceived so easily, **“for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.”**(2 Cor 11:14) **“...working...with all power and signs and lying wonders”**(2 Thess 2:9)

The gift of healing is listed next. It is a Special ability to **restore health, whether physically, emotionally, or spiritually, through prayer and the Spirit's power.**(Acts 5:15,16). Notice that Paul in 1 Corinthians 12:28 calls it **“ gifts of healing ”** (plural), implying various forms (physical cure, comfort

of the suffering, restoration of the brokenhearted). Let God's people, however, beware of the satanic healing methods that are presently overcoming the world.

Helps is another gift listed here. **Helping is a Spirit-given ability to support, assist, and serve others.** For example Dorcas (Tabitha) “**was full of good works and charitable deeds**” (Acts 9:36). The deacons in Acts 6 serving tables so the apostles could devote themselves to prayer and the Word. **One thing is true that we all have to serve humanity,** we have have to help our friends who are in need, for this is what Christ wants. **But those who truly have this gift do help in an extraordinary way for the ministry of the gospel.**

Governments are listed next. This of course is talking about leadership. As a

spiritual gift, it is a **Spirit-given ability to lead, guide, organize, and administer the affairs of the church wisely.** The Greek word (**kubernēsis**) means “**steering a ship.**” Like Titus, these leaders are instructed to “**set in order the things that are lacking**” (Titus 1:5). But there’s a secular aspect also, where certain individuals are just talented to lead.

Diversities of tongues. The word **glōssa** (Greek) **literally means language or tongue.** So, “Diversities of tongues” = different types of languages. So, **it means the Spirit-given ability to speak in languages not learned naturally.**(see Acts 2)

Evangelists. The word evangelist comes from the Greek **euaggelistes**, meaning “**bringer of good news.**” An evangelist is someone specially gifted and called by God to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, leading

people to salvation. Philip is called “**Philip the evangelist**” (Acts 21:8), he preached in Samaria and to the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8).

An evangelist is usually Someone with a traveling ministry, preaching in different towns or nations.

Pastors. The word Pastor comes from the Latin pastor = shepherd. In Greek (New Testament), the word is **poimēn**, also meaning **shepherd** (John 10:11, Eph. 4:11). So **a pastor is a spiritual shepherd who cares for God’s flock, the church.** Some are gifted with pastoring (caring for and nurturing God’s people). This is a spiritual gift and therefore shouldn’t be confused with A pastor (a gospel worker) with leadership roles in the church.

The word of wisdom (1 Cor 12:8). It A Spirit-given ability **to apply God’s truth in practical, timely, and discerning ways.** It’s

not just knowing facts, **it's knowing what to do with them.** Like Jesus whose answers silenced the accusers (Matthew 22:15-22), those who have the word of wisdom make people marvel at their wise answers. This however doesn't mean some do not need to have wisdom, for all are admonished to "get wisdom"(Proverbs 4:5,7, 7:4). **But the gift of wisdom makes those who receive it extraordinary for the glory of God.**

The word of knowledge(1 Cor 12:8).

Knowledge here is a Spirit-given insight into truth — **understanding things hidden, whether in Scripture, in people's hearts, or in circumstances.** It's a supernatural grasp of truth, not just book learning. Like wisdom, all need to have knowledge, **"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge"**(Proverbs 1:7), but when it's a spiritual gift, it's extraordinary. Knowledge

gives understanding of facts, truth, or hidden realities. Wisdom gives the right application of that knowledge. But beware of false knowledge.

The Gift of Faith (1 Cor 12:9). This is a Spirit-given ability **to trust God's power and promises in an extraordinary way, often beyond normal human confidence**. This is different from saving faith (which every believer should have, Eph. 2:8). The gift of faith is a special, Spirit-empowered confidence that God will act in a specific situation.

Discerning of Spirits (1 Cor 12:10). This is a Spirit-given ability **to distinguish between truth and error, the work of the Holy Spirit and the deception of evil spirits**. This protects the church from false teaching, counterfeit experiences, and spiritual danger.

And what more can we say about **the gift of giving, mercy, exhortation and even the interpretation of tongues?** God gives all these gifts to profit the church and the ministry.

Speech is a talent that should be diligently cultivated. It is the gift of communication, given by God to teach, encourage, comfort, warn, and witness for Christ. **It should be as a savor of life unto life.** Says the Word, **“Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”**(Col 4:6). Though it should be used only to spread truth, encourage others, and honor God, and not for gossip, complaining, or self-praise, **the voice itself should be carefully improved.** **“There are many who read or speak in so low or so rapid a manner that they cannot be readily understood.** Some have a thick, indistinct utterance; others speak in a high key, in

sharp, shrill tones, that are painful to the hearers. Texts, hymns, and the reports and other papers presented before public assemblies are sometimes read in such a way that they are not understood and often so that their force and impressiveness are destroyed.” Especially should those in public ministry aim for the perfection of their speech.

Those who can use their speech in music should do so for the sake of Christ.

Again, talking for the sake of talking, when silence would be better, is sin, for “**every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.**” (Matt 12:36,37)

Influence, too, is the power of character and example, how we lead others, knowingly or

unknowingly, toward Christ or away from Him. **The way we dress, speak, and even our smallest actions ripple out to touch lives for eternity. Our influence tells on the side of good or evil. “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”(Matt 5:16)**

Time is one of the most valuable gifts from God, **once wasted, it can never be recovered.** How we use our hours and days shows our priorities. Paul talks about “Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” (Ephesians 5:16) . How we spend time now will surely have eternal consequences.

Talents Vs Spiritual gifts.

These two words are closely related and they sometimes overlap each other. **A talent is a natural ability, skill, or aptitude, for example, musical talent, teaching talent, or leadership talent.** Thus, the fact that a talent includes all natural skills shows that **not all talents are spiritual gifts but all spiritual gifts are talents.**

Narrated the Saviour: “For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; **to every man according to his several ability;** and straightway took his journey. Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his

lord's money.”(Matthew 25:14-18)

Christ used “ talents ” symbolically to represent the responsibilities, opportunities, and abilities God gives each person. **So in the biblical sense, a talent = anything God entrusts to you (time, money, abilities, influence, spiritual gifts) to be used for His glory.** As a skill (like carpentry or art), the Lord gives so that one can find means of resources for survival as well as helping others who are in need. As Spiritual gifts (like preaching, teaching) He gives so that one can serve in the Lord’s vineyard. Again one can have the ability to teach in a secular world, and that ability can be a spiritual gift if used in God’s service by the Holy Spirit. The same is true leadership (the gifts of governments) and singing.

Since to one person Christ gave five talents, to another two and to another just one, **then none**

can dodge the fact that God doesn't give equal abilities. It says He gives “**to every man according to his several ability**”.

God alone knows what each one of us can manage. The first two servants went and multiplied their talents, that is, **they put all their natural abilities to use for themselves are for others, and their spiritual gifts were used in the Lord's vineyard.** This is the very purpose of life, brother, sister: **Aiming for excellence**

in our skills to help us in this life, and

in our spiritual gifts in preparation

for the life to come. Anything less than

this doesn't show that we are really waiting for the Master. Remember that you cannot go beyond the very standard you've set for yourself. Aim higher. If you say “I can't do this” or “I can't do that”, then you can't. He who says “I can't be like Christ” will certainly fail of getting everlasting life.

While the first two servants were commended for their faithfulness in the talents entrusted to them, the one who buried his talent was condemned by the Master. Said he **“Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed”**(Matthew 25:24). Because he was given just one talent, he falsely accused the Lord of being harsh, **wanting him to produce the same amount of results as those other two who had more talents.** The servant’s problem was not lack of resources, but lack of faithfulness. God only wanted him to do his responsibility (which was even less than other’s). And had the Lord gave him more than one talent, he would have acted the same way, for the one who’s faithful in few things will be faithful even in greater things.

Since there’s no one but Christ who is our

moral standard, do not compare yourself to anyone else. Having less skills and less spiritual gifts than your friend doesn't make you less important in the eyes of the Lord. Christ will judge everyone according to their works and according to how they used talents entrusted to them. **Laziness and envy are not to be cherished. Do not bury the talents that God has given to you.** Be profitable and not like that "unprofitable servant". If you perform your duty diligently, then you will hear the Master say to you "**Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.**"(Matthew 25:21), but if not then you will be stripped off of all the talents and be cast "**into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**" "**For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he**

hath.”(Matthew 25:29)

“And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.”(Luke 12:47,48)

The Judgment Time.

Christ has clearly stated that He will come back to reward his servants. **“And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.”(Revelation 22:12).** Then **“...he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on**

the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, **Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:** For I was an **hungred**, and ye gave me meat: I was **thirsty**, and ye gave me drink: I was a **stranger**, and ye took me in: **Naked**, and ye clothed me: I was **sick**, and ye visited me: I was **in prison**, and ye came unto me. **Then shall the righteous answer him**, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, **Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.**”(Matthew 25:33-40)

Notice that those on the right ministered to Christ by ministering to their fellow human

beings. They used all their talents in serving humanity. **They realized that anything done, any career pursued, is worthless if not done for the very purpose of serving humanity.**

They realized that to live for self is to perish, and that “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.”(James 1:27). These, having thus lived their lives for Christ, will surely enter through the portals of glory to see their Master who shall welcome them in the joy of the Blessed.

“Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and

in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, **when** saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, **Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.**”(Matthew 25:41-45)

Those on the left did exactly what the unprofitable servant who buried his talent in the earth did, **neglecting to improve their talents or just use them for their own selfish reasons.** **They never cared for the suffering and oppressed ones.** What wrong did they do according to the text? Well, we need to realize that there are **Sins of Commission: that is Doing what God has commanded us not to do (like not committing adultery or stealing).** There are also **Sins of Omission: that is Failing to do what God has commanded us to do.** It is the act of doing good that should

have been done by these people. **These people will be judged for their sins of omission, for failing to do what God asked them to do, for “to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.”(James 4:17)**

Thus, all who will be found guilty of the sins of omission **“shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.”(Matthew 25:41)**

How to discover talents and spiritual gifts

Both talents (natural abilities) and spiritual gifts (Holy Spirit – empowered abilities) come from God, but the way we discover

them can look a little different. Some talents are inborn, but others can come through learning. Here are few points on how to

discover them:

1. Notice what comes naturally: Do you sing easily, draw well, organize quickly, or explain things clearly? **If yes, it's a good indication that you are talented in those areas.**

2. Look at what you enjoy : God often aligns talents with things that bring joy and energy.

3. Experiment and learn : Trying new things may uncover hidden abilities.

4. Pay attention to feedback : What do people often compliment or ask for your help in? (“You ’re good at fixing things” or “You explain clearly.”)

And for spiritual gifts specifically,

1. Pray for Guidance: Ask God: “Lord, what gift have You given me to serve Your people?” James 1:5 says “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God.”

2. Study the Bible Lists of Gifts: 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12, Ephesians 4, 1

Peter 4 , see which resonate with you (teaching, giving, mercy, encouragement, discernment, etc.).

3. Serve in Different Ministries: Try helping in children ' s ministry, music, teaching, hospitality, evangelism, prayer groups, or acts of mercy. Often, your gift “ shows itself ” when you step out in service.

4. Look for Fruit and Joy: When using a spiritual gift, you often see lives blessed, the church strengthened, and you feel joy and God' s presence.

5. Seek Confirmation from Others: Mature believers, mentors, or church leaders often notice and confirm your spiritual gift. Example: “ You really encourage people ” gift of exhortation; “You explain Scripture so clearly” gift of teaching.

**The End of spiritual gifts,
Coveting Love.**

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.”(1 Cor 13:1-3, NKJV)

Paul here is showing that no matter how impressive or powerful a person's spiritual gifts, knowledge, or sacrifices may seem, **they are worthless in God's eyes if they are not motivated and guided by love.** Speaking in tongues, prophesying, having great faith, giving to the poor, or even dying for one's beliefs **all lose their value without genuine**

love. Love is the essential foundation of all Christian character and service, **and without it, everything else is empty.** This is very important to understand as you try to discover and improve your talents.

So what exactly is love?

“Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is **not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.**”(verse 4-7)

Notice that **Love endures injury, insult, or provocation without retaliation.** It actively shows goodness and gentleness to others. It is **not jealous of others’ success or blessings.** It **does not boast or try to draw attention to**

itself. It is not proud, arrogant, or self-important. Love **is respectful and courteous, never offensive.** Love is selfless; it puts others first rather than being selfish. Love **is not easily angered or irritated.** It **keeps no record of wrongs;** it doesn't hold grudges or dwell on others' faults. Love never takes pleasure in sin, wrongdoing, or the downfall of others. It delights in honesty, righteousness, and when truth prevails. Love **covers, protects, and patiently carries the burdens of others.** Love is trusting, it looks for the best in others. Love remains optimistic, not giving up on people. Love perseveres through trials and hardships without quitting.

Again, “**Love never fails.** But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. For **we know in part and we prophesy in part.** But when

that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.”(verse 8-10)

Notice that the reason why these gifts of the Spirit will vanish away is that, **though we have the gift of knowledge we only know in part about Christ and eternity**, and even with the gift of prophecy among us, we **only prophesy in part about Christ and eternity**. But when Christ comes to fetch his own and show them **the complete view of eternity(that is when that which is perfect is come)**, then these present gifts (that which is in part) will no longer be valid.

“When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, **I put away childish things. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am**

known.”(verse 11-12)

As the childhood knowledge become irrelevant after attaining adulthood knowledge, so our present knowledge will be nothing compared with the knowledge that we will have at the revelation of Christ.

Writes the apostle, “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and **it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.**”(1 John 3:2, Rev 22:4)

Thus, face to face at last with eternity, with no covering veil, we shall know then even as we are known.

“And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”(verse 13). Your duty, brother, sister, is to covet love in these final hours, for “ love will cover a

multitude of sins.”(1 Peter 4:8)

The Second Pentecost - The Remanifestation of the gift of tongues, healing e.t.c

It is an indisputable fact that the gift of tongues, healing, and miracles that existed during the apostolic church (at the beginning of the gospel message) have never been witnessed again in that same powerful way since that time. And if the Word is true when it says “..**this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.**”(Matthew 24:14), then to believe that this gospel work is to close with less manifestation of God’s power than at its beginning would not only be illogical but also unbiblical. The prophecy of Joel 2:28 had its partial fulfillment during the first Pentecost,

but it will have its full fulfillment in the closing work of the gospel, **for the Lord has promised that it will be the most glorious period in church history, when the third angel's messages swells into a loud cry and lightens the earth with his glory.** (Revelation 18:1)

Writes the messenger of the Lord, **“It is with an earnest longing that I look forward to the time when the events of the Day of Pentecost shall be repeated with even greater power than on that occasion.** John says, ‘I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory’ [Revelation 18:1]. **Then, as at the Pentecostal season, the people will hear the truth spoken to them, every man in his own tongue.”**(LDE 202.3)

As clear as it can be seen, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit during the first Pentecost brought

about these special gifts of healing, tongues, miracles e.t.c for the beginning of the gospel work. The church at that time was **“comparatively pure”** and the members were all with **“one accord”**(Acts 2:1) That was the condition for receiving these gifts. Obviously, then, **when later on the church fell away from the simplicity of the gospel**(2 Thess 2:3) after the death of the apostles, **these gifts of healing, tongues and miracles also ceased to this very time.** And the fact that God has promised to remanifest them during the second Pentecost, **the loud cry for the closing of the gospel work,** shows that **the church at this time has to reach the same standard as that of the apostolic church.** So it is that the SDA church will have to be sifted, and sinners shall no longer stand **“in the congregation of the righteous”**(Psalms 1:5). **“God will have a people pure and true”,** He will have **“a pure, true, sanctified ministry prepared for the latter rain”**. Then it is that these gifts will be

seen on earth again.

“The great work of the gospel is not to close with less manifestation of the power of God than marked its opening .The prophecies which were fulfilled in the outpouring of the former rain at the opening of the gospel, are again to be fulfilled in the latter rain at its close...Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from Heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. **Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers.** Satan also works with lying wonders, even bringing down fire from heaven in the sight of men. [Revelation 13:13.] **Thus the inhabitants of the earth will be brought to take their stand..** GC88 611.1, 612.1)

Manifestly, then, to reject the purification of the church is indeed to forfeit the gifts of healing, tongues and miracles. But the Lord will perform His word. **“For he will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth.”**(Romans 9:28)

Now we see clearly the purpose of living: **To use all the talents which God has given us in serving humanity, as we see the day of the Lord fast approaching.** Do not allow anything at this late hour distract you from doing God’s serving. Do not backslide. Do not let anyone take a crown from you. Then you will hear the Master say to you, **“Well done thou good and faithful servant.”** And I look forward to that day, when we shall stand face to face with eternity, and see the King in His beauty. Will you be there? Make a decision now, because very soon every case will be decided in the sanctuary above.

May the Lord help His People.

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