



THE EPISTLE OF
First Corinthians

BILLYE BRIM BIBLE INSTITUTE

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DR. LARRY OLLISON

Dr. Larry Ollison is the founder and senior pastor of Walk on the Water Faith Church in Osage Beach, Missouri, and the founder of Larry Ollison Ministries. He has dedicated over 50 years to spreading the Word of God through various media, including radio, television, the Internet, and daily devotionals.

He majored in theology at Southwest Baptist University and furthered his theological education with a Master of Arts in Theology, a PhD, and a ThD from Life Christian University. For many years he traveled extensively speaking at Full Gospel Business Men's meetings and conventions.

In addition to his pastoral duties, Dr. Ollison is a prolific author. His books (including *The Power of Grace*, *Finding Hope When Things Look Hopeless*, *Breaking the Cycle of Offense*, *Life is in the Blood*, *The Paradise of God*, *A Place Called Heaven*, and *Hidden Mysteries and the Bible*) have been well received and are frequently featured in radio and TV interviews, podcasts, and magazine publications.

Dr. Ollison's leadership extends beyond his local church. He is the chairman of Prophecy Watchers, Inc., dean of 3BI (Billye Brim Bible Institute), and the Missouri State Director of Christians United for Israel (CUFI). He also serves as a trustee on the boards of several international ministries. His commitment to unity in the Body of Christ and supporting Israel and the Jewish people is evident in his various roles.

Dr. Ollison is the host of LarryOllisonRadio.com, the author of *The Cutting Edge* daily devotional, and produces weekly live streaming broadcasts. These platforms allow him to share the message of faith with thousands of listeners and readers each day.

Dr. Ollison and his wife, Loretta, have two children, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. His commitment to his family and faith community underscores his dedication to living out the principles he teaches.

Dr. Ollison's legacy is marked by his unwavering commitment to the Word of God and his passion for teaching others to live victorious Christian lives. His ministry has touched countless lives, helping individuals grow in their faith and experience the transformative power of God's love. Through his books, teachings, and leadership, Dr. Ollison continues to inspire and equip believers to walk in the fullness of God's promises.

The Epistle of First Corinthians

The content for this course is based on Dr. Larry Ollison's book *Unlocking the Mysteries of the Holy Spirit*.

The Holy Spirit may seem like a mystery to many Christians and an abstract religious idea to others. But if you're born again, He's the very Spirit of God living inside of you and supernaturally connecting you to heaven!

Dr. Larry Ollison, dean of Billye Brim Bible Institute and instructor for this course, explains this third person of the Trinity is not spooky, weird, or an actual ghost. He's not even a something—but a Someone you can know personally and intimately.

In *Unlocking the Mysteries of the Holy Spirit*, Dr. Larry shares simply and scripturally that the Holy Spirit is your life-long guide to victory. He never leaves you alone, He equips you with wisdom, grace, and power to face any circumstance, and He knows more about your future than you know about your past.

Dr. Ollison outlines—

- The personality of the Holy Spirit—His likes and dislikes
- His assignment on the earth today
- How the gifts of the Spirit operate and how we cooperate

The syllabus contained in this course manual is provided courtesy of Dr. Ollison. Students enrolled in this course have permission to download a PDF of this course manual. In addition, you may also purchase a spiral-bound syllabus [see link below].

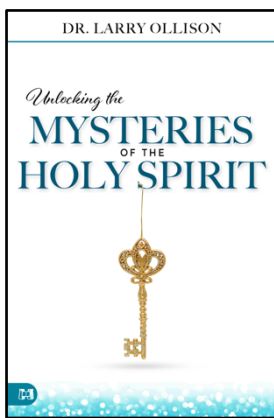
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Unlocking the Mysteries of the Holy Spirit



Syllabus (spiral-bound)—

<https://billyebirim.org/product/unlocking-the-mysteries-of-the-holy-spirit-syllabus/>



For a fuller treatment of the topic, the student may wish to purchase the book on which the syllabus is based. The **paperback** version is available for purchase from the Billye Brim Ministries online bookstore. The **hardcover** and the **large print paperback** versions are available for purchase from wowbooks.org.

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The Epistle of First Corinthians Syllabus

Published by:

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Session 1

Introduction & 1 Corinthians 1

Authorship

- It has never been seriously challenged that the author of the letters to the Corinthian church was anyone other than Paul the apostle. It follows his theology, language, and writing style. The letter of 1 Corinthians is unquestionably written by Paul the apostle.

The Church at Corinth

- The church at Corinth was established in AD 50-51. During Paul's second missionary journey (Acts 18:1-17), he spent eighteen months there. After his departure, he continued to oversee the church and exercise care through correspondence.
- During his three year ministry at the church in Ephesus, he received disturbing reports from the church at Corinth, which prompted his first letter to the Corinthians which was eventually lost (1 Corinthians 5:9).
- First Corinthians is the second known letter of four from Paul to the church in Corinth, as evidenced by Paul's mention of his previous letter. The other two are what is called the Second Epistle to the Corinthians.
- The book called the Third Epistle to the Corinthians is generally not believed by scholars to have been written by Paul and therefore it is not canonized (although the text of Third Corinthians claims it was written by Paul).
- Two delegations were sent from Corinth, with the second delegation taking a letter that asked him specific questions. Timothy was immediately sent to correct the conditions, after which Paul wrote the church of Corinth a letter that we now know as First Corinthians. Paul was hopeful the letter would reach Corinth before Timothy would arrive.

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- The letter we know as First Corinthians can be dated AD 56 during his third missionary journey.

The Culture of Corinth

- Known for idolatry, divisive philosophies.
- One of the most important commercial cities and it controlled the shipping between the east and the west.
- It was well known for its temple prostitutes, and secular and public sensuality. A popular proverb of the day was “to Corinthianize” which meant to practice prostitution.
- In Corinth the chief pagan deity was Aphrodite (Venus). Over 1,000 prostitutes served in the temple that was dedicated to her worship. Many other beliefs associated with paganism were accepted within the city of Corinth.

Paul’s Response

- The letter that Paul sent to the Corinthians specifically responded to eight individual, specific problems:
 1. A sectarian spirit
 2. Sexual immorality
 3. Marriage and divorce
 4. Eating food offered to idols
 5. Wearing of head coverings
 6. The Lord’s Supper
 7. Spiritual gifts
 8. Resurrection of the body

Session 1



Paul's Second Missionary Journey



Paul's Third Missionary Journey

Two Main Emphases of the Letter

1. Paul strongly emphasizes the lordship of Jesus and Him being the foundation of the church. Paul makes reference to the Lord Jesus ten times in the first ten verses to establish this at the beginning of his letter.
 2. The work of the Holy Spirit through the gifts and their administration are clearly explained in detail. The church is encouraged to serve each other with a balanced employment of the gifts of the Spirit.
- Understanding how Paul responds
 - Paul's structure is important. When we look at how Paul pulled his thoughts together, it makes it clear exactly what he was saying. Paul used two literary devices that we are all familiar with because they're part of our everyday lives. However, most of us won't recognize their technical names—**particularization** and **chiasm**. In 1 Corinthians 14:26-40, Paul blended these two literary devices.
 - In **particularization**, a writer makes a general statement and then illustrates it with several specific examples. A **chiasm** is a pattern in which the writer makes a point, then makes two or more other points: Idea A, Idea B, Idea C, Idea D, then backpedals through the points in reverse order: Idea D, Idea C, Idea B, Idea A.
 - Paul spoke in a style where he raised a question and then gave the answer. He gave the opposing question. If he received a letter like he said he did, he probably wrote a quote out of the letter and then responded to it.
 - Christian scholars have struggled to determine exactly where Paul was quoting others' words. An important indication that he was quoting another's opinion was his use of a tiny Greek word: η . The closest equivalent to η in English would be "What?" or "Nonsense!" or "No way!" Paul used this small Greek word forty-nine times in 1 Corinthians.

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- Examples of this are:
 - 1 Corinthians 1:13—η (No way!) Were you baptized into the name of Paul?
 - 1 Corinthians 6:2—η (What?) Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?
 - 1 Corinthians 6:9—η (Nonsense!) Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God?
 - 1 Corinthians 6:16—η (No way!) Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body?
 - 1 Corinthians 6:19—η (What?) Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?
 - 1 Corinthians 7:16—Or η (What?) how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?
 - 1 Corinthians 9:6—Or η (Nonsense!) is it only I and Barnabas who must work for a living?
 - 1 Corinthians 9:7—η (No way!) Who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk?
 - 1 Corinthians 9:8—η (What?) Doesn't the Law say the same thing?
 - 1 Corinthians 9:10—η (No way!) Surely he says this for us, doesn't he?
 - 1 Corinthians 10:22—η (Nonsense!) Are we trying to arouse the Lord's jealousy?
 - 1 Corinthians 11:22—Or η (What?) do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing?
 - 1 Corinthians 14:36a—η) (Nonsense!) Did the word of God originate with you?
 - 1 Corinthians 14:36b—Or η (What?) are you the only people it has reached?

1 Corinthians 1

- Greeting and introduction to the church at Corinth

Session 1

1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother,

- Who was Sosthenes?

- Sosthenes was the chief ruler of the synagogue at Corinth who was beaten by the mob when the Roman ruler Gallio refused to judge Paul. It is possible that he may have been converted to Christianity and became one of Paul's fellow workers. He is a co-author of Paul's letter to the church at Corinth.
- In tradition, he is listed among the seventy disciples of Luke 10:1.

2 To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Spiritual Gifts at Corinth

4 I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus,

5 that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge,

6 even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you,

7 so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,

8 who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sectarianism Is Sin

10 Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

11 For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you.

- Who was Chloe?
 - The name Chloe means “a tender shoot.” Most researchers believe she was a Christian woman who was a resident of either Corinth or Ephesus who had written Paul the apostle about some of her household (who were probably slaves) about the dissensions that were taking place at the church in Corinth. Nothing else scripturally or historically is known about her.

12 Now I say this, that each of you says, “I am of Paul,” or “I am of Apollos,” or “I am of Cephas,” or “I am of Christ.”

- Who was Apollos?
 - According to the book of Acts, Apollos was an influential teacher and leader. Luke, who wrote the book of Acts, describes him as a Jew from Alexandria, Egypt who journeyed to Ephesus (Acts 18:24).
- Who was Cephas
 - Cephas was one of Jesus' twelve disciples. Jesus referred to him as the founder of the church. Cephas is Arabic for “rock” and is the name that was given to St. Peter. Cephas, the apostle Peter, and Simon Peter are one and the same person. (John 1:42)

13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

14 I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius,

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- Who was Crispus?
 - He was a ruler of the synagogue in Corinth, who was a believer and baptized by Paul.
- Who was Gaius?
 - Gaius is mentioned in three different New Testament books—Acts, Romans, and 1 Corinthians. He was from Corinth and a close friend of Paul. He was baptized by Paul, along with his household. He traveled with Paul to Macedonia and was seized in the riot at Ephesus. He was a generous supporter of the gospel. The Corinthian church met at his house, which was next door to the synagogue, when Christians could no longer worship in the synagogue. (Acts 18:7; Romans 16:23).

15 lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name.

16 Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other.

- Who was Stephanas?
 - Probably no family in the early church did more for the apostle Paul and the local church than the family of Stephanas. However, they received very little appreciation due to the Corinthians prejudice against non-Corinthians in the church. Historically, Paul appealed to the believers in the church at Corinth to give them the recognition that they were due.

17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.

Christ the Power and Wisdom of God

- 1 Corinthians 2:4 *“And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.”*

Session 1

18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

19 For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent."

- (Verse 19) This is a quote from **Isaiah 29:14** that says: "...For the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hidden."

20 Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

22 For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom;

23 but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness,

24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Glory Only in the Lord

- In the next few verses, Paul is hinting at what he so strongly proclaims later in this letter that as believers we walk by faith in believing God's Word rather than looking unto the wisdom of the world.

26 For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.

Session 1

27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;

28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are,

29 that no flesh should glory in His presence.

30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—

- What is righteousness?
 - Righteousness is the condition that a believer becomes that puts him in right standing with God. It is a gift given through Jesus Christ to those who believe. Righteousness is not something we have; it is something we are.
- What is sanctification?
 - Sanctification is holiness. The English word “sanctify” and the English word “holy” are both translated from the same Greek root word “hagios.” This is a condition that increases as we become more obedient to God’s Word. We are made righteous (God’s gift to us), and become holy (our gift to God).
- What is redemption?
 - Jesus is the redeemer of those who believe in His name. He paid the price we could not pay and redeemed us from the curse. Without His redemption we are dead in our sins (Galatians 3:13).

31 that, as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.”

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Session 2 1 Corinthians 2, 3, & 4

1 Corinthians 2

Christ Crucified

1 And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God.

2 For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

- James 2:17 *“Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”*
- Luke 6:46 *“But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?”*

3 I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling.

4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Spiritual Wisdom

6 However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.

7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory,

8 which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

9 But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”

Session 2

- Paul is referencing **Isaiah 64:4** when he wrote this.

10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

- That lines up with what Jesus said in John 14:26 where He said: *“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”*

11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

13 These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

- Why does the world not understand the Word of God?

14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

15 But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one.

16 For “who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

- Paul is referencing this in his letter as a foundational truth based upon **Isaiah 40:13**.
-

1 Corinthians 3

Sectarianism Is Carnal

- In simple terms we can understand, Paul is saying this in the next few verses: We who are spiritual must walk by the Spirit and not bring divisions of envy and strife by acting as those who are not spiritual in the world.
- To align yourself with a minister or teacher and place them equal to or above Christ reveals your carnality and immaturity. Paul is teaching the church at Corinth that we are workers together in God's field. One cultivates, one plants, one waters, and one harvests, but we are workers together. We are God's building and the foundation of that building is Jesus Christ.
- In verses 5–17, Paul shares that anything built on any other foundation will fail. He emphasizes that we are God's temple and that the Spirit of God dwells in us and strongly infers that as the temple of God is holy, we as His temple, must walk in that holiness.

1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ.

2 I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able;

3 for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?

4 For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not carnal?

Watering, Working, Warning

5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one?

6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.

7 So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.

8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building.

10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.

11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,

*13 each one's work will become clear; for the **Day** will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.*

- There has been some controversy over why the word “Day” is capitalized in this verse.
 - It is overwhelmingly agreed by many theologians (and myself) that Paul is referring to the “Day” as being the judgment seat of Christ. Two different times, in two different letters, to two different churches, Paul says that he, along with other believers, will stand at the judgment seat of Christ and give an account for what was done in the body.

Session 2

- Note: This is not to be confused with the great white throne judgment (the judgment of the unrighteous dead) that takes place at the end of the 1,000 year millennial reign of Christ on earth.

14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.

15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

- Note: This lets us know that all who will stand at the judgment seat of Christ are saved. The purpose of this judgment is a rewards judgment that prepares the Bride for the marriage supper of the Lamb, which is to follow.

16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

Avoid Worldly Wisdom

18 Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise.

- The greatest deception is self-deception. Deception can come from many sources but once the seed of deception has been planted, it must be destroyed. Otherwise, when pondered, self-deception develops and grows.

19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their own craftiness";

20 and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile."

Session 2

- Paul gleans this truth from **Psalm 94:11** where it says: *“The Lord knows the thoughts of man, that they are futile.”*
- It’s interesting to note that Paul quotes only from the Hebrew Bible which we refer to as the Old Testament. Why is this? It’s because when he says all Scripture is inspired by God, he is referring to the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms. Once again, why? Because the New Testament had not been written yet.

21 Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours:

22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come—all are yours.

23 And you are Christ’s, and Christ is God’s.

- Colossians 1:16 *“For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.”*
- Romans 8:17 *“And if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.”*

1 Corinthians 4

Stewards of the Mysteries of God

1 Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

Session 2

3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself.

4 For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord.

5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.

- “The clear inference is that God will bring to light the secret motives of love, faithfulness, righteousness, kindness, etc.—not only evil motives, but the pure motives of believers. When the Lord judges his godly lovers, their secret devotion and sacrifices will all be brought into the light and God will praise them for their faithful love. The reward of eternity will be that God affirms them. The word for ‘praise’ can actually be translated, ‘thanks from God.’ Can you imagine the day coming when God praises His faithful servants?” (Verse five footnote from The Passion Translation)
- In the following verses, Paul, through reason and satire, with humility and tenderness, tells the Corinthians to abandon their pride and walk in humility.

Fools for Christ's Sake

6 Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other.

7 For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?

Session 2

- Paul is using satire:

8 You are already full! You are already rich! You have reigned as kings without us—and indeed I could wish you did reign, that we also might reign with you!

9 For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men.

10 We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored!

11 To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless.

12 And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure;

13 being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now.

Paul's Paternal Care

- Why did Paul admonish them with instruction, satire, and love?

14 I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you.

15 For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

16 Therefore I urge you, imitate me.

17 For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.

18 Now some are puffed up, as though I were not coming to you.

Session 2

19 But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord wills, and I will know, not the word of those who are puffed up, but the power.

20 For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power.

21 What do you want? Shall I come to you with a rod, or in love and a spirit of gentleness?

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Session 3 1 Corinthians 5, 6, & 7

1 Corinthians 5

Immorality Defiles the Church

- Basic social decency is required of Christians.
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:22 *“Abstain from every form of evil.”*
- God has not changed. What He likes, He still likes; and abominations proclaimed by Him in the past are still abominations.
 - Leviticus 18:8 *“The nakedness of your father’s wife you shall not uncover; it is your father’s nakedness.”*

1 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—that a man has his father’s wife!

2 And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you.

3 For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed.

4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,

- Instructions on how to deal with this situation:

5 deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

6 Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

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- To allow this behavior in the church will actually cause the abomination to increase.
 - Proverbs 13:20 *“He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed.”*

7 Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Immorality Must Be Judged

9 I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people.

10 Yet I certainly did not mean with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.

11 But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person.

- How do we balance this instruction with the instruction given by Jesus that says, *“Judge not, lest you be judged”*? (Matthew 7:1).
 - There is a difference between judging someone in order to condemn them and reviewing someone’s actions in order to determine how to biblically associate with them. The only way to fulfill Paul’s rule of conduct to a person’s lifestyle is to review, evaluate, and determine their actions. The subsequent judgment response is for the reconciliation of the sinner and not their ultimate condemnation.

12 For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside?

13 But those who are outside God judges. Therefore “put away from yourselves the evil person.”

1 Corinthians 6

Do Not Sue the Brethren

- The Christians living in Corinth were taking each other before pagan courts with motives of greed. Paul encouraged them to settle their disputes among themselves using the fruit of the Spirit as their guide.
 - Galatians 5:22-23 *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”*

1 Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints?

2 Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

- **The church will judge angels.**
 - What angels will the church judge?
 - The fallen angels that followed Lucifer have already been judged.
 - The sons of God (Watchers) of Genesis 6 have not been judged but are reserved for judgment. These are probably the angels that will be judged by the church as they are the only ones in Scripture that have not been judged.
 - 2 Peter 2:4 *“For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;”*

3 Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?

4 If then you have judgments concerning things pertaining to this life, do you appoint those who are least esteemed by the church to judge?

5 I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you, not even one, who will be able to judge between his brethren?

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6 But brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers!

7 Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather let yourselves be cheated?

8 No, you yourselves do wrong and cheat, and you do these things to your brethren!

9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,

10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

Glorify God in Body and Spirit

- Paul continues in his quest to rid the church in Corinth of sexual immorality. He stresses that for a part of the body of Christ to engage in prostitution (which was common in the pagan temples of Corinth) was to defile the body of Christ. He affirms that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit and we do not own our own bodies, but our Lord does because He paid the price for them. We are His body.

12 All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

- In the following verses, Paul admonishes the church at Corinth that God did not create their bodies for sexual immorality.

13 Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

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14 And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.

15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not!

16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.”

17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

18 Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.

- The body of a believer is the temple of the Holy Spirit and was bought with a price. Therefore, Paul commands the Corinthian church to glorify God, not only spiritually, but physically.

19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.

1 Corinthians 7

Principles of Marriage

- Paul is obviously answering a question that was sent to him in a letter. In rabbinical style of teaching, he first quotes what was written to him and then follows with an answer.

1 Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman.

- “Do not touch a woman” was a euphemism of the day of Paul’s writing that meant “sexual intercourse.” Down to and including verse five, Paul

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gives instructions on sex in marriage. Then in verse six he gives his opinion clearly stating that it's not a commandment for his personal abstinence but goes on to state that if abstinence cannot be controlled, then marriage is better than to "burn with passion."

- Many New Testament characters did things that were good, but it was not necessarily a command for the entire church. (Acts 2:44-47)

2 Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband.

3 Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband.

4 The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.

5 Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

6 But I say this as a concession, not as a commandment.

7 For I wish that all men were even as I myself. But each one has his own gift from God, one in this manner and another in that.

8 But I say to the unmarried and to the widows: It is good for them if they remain even as I am;

9 but if they cannot exercise self-control, let them marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

Keep Your Marriage Vows

10 Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from her husband.

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11 But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband. And a husband is not to divorce his wife.

12 But to the rest I, not the Lord, say: If any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, let him not divorce her.

13 And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him.

14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy.

15 But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases. But God has called us to peace.

16 For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?

- Paul renounces divorce among two believing Christians. However, when married to an unbeliever, he says to stay in the relationship and the believing spouse will not be judged by their spouses' unbelief. But if the unbelieving spouse leaves, the believing spouse is free from the responsibility of keeping the marriage intact. Paul is silent on the subject of remarriage in this situation. Possibly the answer is simply to be led by the Holy Spirit in a future relationship.

Live as You Are Called

- In verses 17–24, Paul emphasizes that the physical, social, and secular aspects (outward things that are seen) are not as relevant as keeping the commandments of God. Your status in society and your former identity (Jew/Gentile) is only secondary to your spiritual condition.
- To be overly concerned and focused only on one's outward position (slave/free—Jew/Gentile) distracts from spiritual things.

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17 But as God has distributed to each one, as the Lord has called each one, so let him walk. And so I ordain in all the churches.

18 Was anyone called while circumcised? Let him not become uncircumcised. Was anyone called while uncircumcised? Let him not be circumcised.

19 Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but keeping the commandments of God is what matters.

20 Let each one remain in the same calling in which he was called.

21 Were you called while a slave? Do not be concerned about it; but if you can be made free, rather use it.

22 For he who is called in the Lord while a slave is the Lord's freedman. Likewise he who is called while free is Christ's slave.

23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men.

24 Brethren, let each one remain with God in that state in which he was called.

To the Unmarried and Widows

*25 Now concerning virgins: **I have no commandment from the Lord; yet I give judgment** as one whom the Lord in His mercy has made trustworthy.*

- Note: Paul explicitly proclaims that what follows in the subsequent verses is not a commandment from the Lord, but his personal advise for the church at Corinth concerning their situation socially and spiritually. A person should use caution in following his advise for your own personal answer. As clearly stated in the New Covenant, we are to be led by the Holy Spirit in all of our life decisions. By ignoring the lusts of the flesh and being led by the Holy Spirit, the proper decisions will be made.

26 I suppose therefore that this is good because of the present distress—that it is good for a man to remain as he is:

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27 Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be loosed. Are you loosed from a wife? Do not seek a wife.

28 But even if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. Nevertheless such will have trouble in the flesh, but I would spare you.

29 But this I say, brethren, the time is short, so that from now on even those who have wives should be as though they had none,

30 those who weep as though they did not weep, those who rejoice as though they did not rejoice, those who buy as though they did not possess,

31 and those who use this world as not misusing it. For the form of this world is passing away.

32 But I want you to be without care. He who is unmarried cares for the things of the Lord—how he may please the Lord.

33 But he who is married cares about the things of the world—how he may please his wife.

34 There is a difference between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman cares about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit. But she who is married cares about the things of the world—how she may please her husband.

35 And this I say for your own profit, not that I may put a leash on you, but for what is proper, and that you may serve the Lord without distraction.

36 But if any man thinks he is behaving improperly toward his virgin, if she is past the flower of youth, and thus it must be, let him do what he wishes. He does not sin; let them marry.

37 Nevertheless he who stands steadfast in his heart, having no necessity, but has power over his own will, and has so determined in his heart that he will keep his virgin, does well.

38 So then he who gives her in marriage does well, but he who does not give her in

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marriage does better.

39 A wife is bound by law as long as her husband lives; but if her husband dies, she is at liberty to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.

*40 But she is happier if she remains as she is, **according to my judgment**—and I think I also have the Spirit of God.*

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Session 4 1 Corinthians 8 & 9

1 Corinthians 8

Be Sensitive to Conscience

- Sacrificing food to the gods was a routine pagan ritual in Paul's day, and much confusion and division in the church resulted from the practice.
- The theme of chapter eight is Paul's guidance to the mature Christians at Corinth to walk in humility and understanding with believers who may not be as mature and to those who are young in the faith. He emphasizes that strict social rules applied with harshness can be offensive and that the mature Christians should have this understanding. The end result Paul desires is for the mature in Christ to not be offensive, and to not do something that would purposefully offend another believer.

1 Now concerning things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies.

2 And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know.

3 But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him.

4 Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is no other God but one.

5 For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords),

6 yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.

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7 However, there is not in everyone that knowledge; for some, with consciousness of the idol, until now eat it as a thing offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled.

8 But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse.

9 But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak.

10 For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols?

11 And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?

12 But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.

13 Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

- Recommended reading: *Breaking the Cycle of Offense* (by Dr. Larry Ollison; foreword by Dr. Billye Brim)

1 Corinthians 9

A Pattern of Self-Denial

1 Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord?

- The following is most likely the answer to the statement in verse one. In verses 2–6 Paul proclaims that as an apostle he is not restricted from freedom that is available to all in the body of Christ. Even though he is without a wife, he has the right to have one as do some of the other

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apostles including Cephas (Peter). Through the summation of Paul's writings, he indicates that his spiritual lifestyle may be duplicated and not necessarily his personal life choices (marriage/non-marriage) (1 Corinthians 4:16).

2 If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

3 My defense to those who examine me is this:

4 Do we have no right to eat and drink?

5 Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas?

6 Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working?

- In verses 7–14 Paul declares that a minister is worthy of support. A soldier going into war has his weapons supplied and he quotes Moses as saying an ox doing the work should not be muzzled. In verse eleven, he makes the bold statement of saying, “If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things?

7 Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock?

8 Do I say these things as a mere man? Or does not the law say the same also?

9 For it is written in the law of Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain.” Is it oxen God is concerned about?

10 Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope.

11 If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things?

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12 If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ.

13 Do you not know that those who minister the holy things eat of the things of the temple, and those who serve at the altar partake of the offerings of the altar?

14 Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel.

15 But I have used none of these things, nor have I written these things that it should be done so to me; for it would be better for me to die than that anyone should make my boasting void.

16 For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!

17 For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship.

18 What is my reward then? That when I preach the gospel, I may present the gospel of Christ without charge, that I may not abuse my authority in the gospel.

- Here Paul simply states that he does not charge for the gospel to those who are receiving it because those who are supporting him are the foundation for his funding of the physical necessities of life.

Serving All Men

- In the following verses, Paul reflects that in his ministry he understands the cultural diversity, and adapts to that diversity in order to not be offensive and to win the lost. This is solidified in his statement in verse 22 where he said, *“To the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.”*
- This further establishes Paul’s theme of not being offensive, as offenses will cause people to not listen and receive the gospel message.

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19 For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more;

20 and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law;

21 to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law;

22 to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

23 Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.

Striving for a Crown

- In verses 24–27, Paul emphasizes that he lives his life under not only a spiritual discipline, but also a discipline of his body so that a lack of discipline is not displayed that would distract someone from receiving what he preached.

24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.

25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air.

27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

- Note: It has been stated by well-meaning Christians that their physical discipline did not matter, that only their spiritual condition was important. While it is true that man looks at the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart (1 Samuel 16:7), Paul clearly states that man

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looks at both and that any act of undiscipline—spiritually or physically—should be avoided so there will be no distraction from the gospel message.

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1 Corinthians 10 & 11

1 Corinthians 10

Old Testament Examples

1 Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea,

2 all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,

3 all ate the same spiritual food,

4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.

5 But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

6 Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.

7 And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.”

8 Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell;

9 nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents;

10 nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer.

11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

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- The previous verses are examples of how sin was generally dealt with under the Old Covenant. Then Paul states to the Corinthian church in verse 13 that whatever the temptation that comes upon a New Covenant believer, God will supply the grace to escape the snare of sin.

12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

Flee from Idolatry

- In verses 14–22, Paul explicitly says that the church of Corinth (applicable to all believers) should abstain from idolatry, demons, or anything associated with them. He concludes by saying that one cannot drink of the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons because this would provoke the Lord to jealousy, which is not a good thing!

14 Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

15 I speak as to wise men; judge for yourselves what I say.

16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

17 For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread.

18 Observe Israel after the flesh: Are not those who eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar?

19 What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything?

20 Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons.

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21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons.

22 Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than He?

All to the Glory of God

- In verses 23–33, Paul emphasizes once again that a believer is not to be offensive, and should be led by the Holy Spirit who will guide them in the correct decisions of social conduct. Then in verse 31, he says that whatever you eat or drink, and everything that you do should all be for the glory of the Lord.

23 All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify.

24 Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being.

25 Eat whatever is sold in the meat market, asking no questions for conscience' sake;

26 for "the earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness."

27 If any of those who do not believe invites you to dinner, and you desire to go, eat whatever is set before you, asking no question for conscience' sake.

28 But if anyone says to you, "This was offered to idols," do not eat it for the sake of the one who told you, and for conscience' sake; for "the earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness."

29 "Conscience," I say, not your own, but that of the other. For why is my liberty judged by another man's conscience?

30 But if I partake with thanks, why am I evil spoken of for the food over which I give thanks?

31 Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

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- Verse 32 carries a basic biblical principle that unless it is understood, a person cannot rightly divide the Word of God, nor have understanding of future prophetic events. This biblical principle is this: Today there are three groups of people on the earth—the Jews, the Gentiles, and the church.

32 Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God,

33 just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.

- **Three Groups of People**

- From the time Adam was taken out of the Garden until the time of Abraham, there was only one group of people on the earth—the Gentiles. Out of the Gentiles, God called Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and through Jacob (later named Israel), a second group of people was established by God. They were His chosen people, the Hebrews (Jews).
- From the time of Abraham until the time of Jesus, there were two groups of people on the earth. One group was God’s chosen people, His holy nation. The second group was everyone else. During this time in history, everyone on the earth was either a Jew or a Gentile.
- When Jesus was crucified and resurrected, He immediately placed His blood on the mercy seat in heaven and took His place as the head of a “new” group. Everyone who believed in Him became a part of this new group. They were the church. After receiving Jesus, no longer were they Jew or Gentile, but they became a part of His body, a new creation. Paul referred to this in 1 Corinthians 10:32 when he instructed his followers to give no offense, either to the Jews, the Greeks (Gentiles), or to the church of God.
- As we stated earlier, all scripture is profitable for us as the church, but not every scripture is specifically to the church. To take a scripture that’s written to Gentiles and apply it to the church only brings confusion. Or to take scriptures that are written specifically to the Jews and try to apply it to the church will cause error in one’s understanding.

- Without understanding that there are three groups of people on the earth today—the Jews, the Gentiles, and the church—and without understanding that all three of the groups are addressed in the Bible, it is impossible to rightly divide the whole Word of God. In other words, the future of the Gentiles, the Jews, and the church does not follow the same path into eternity. In determining your personal future, you must know to which group you belong.
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1 Corinthians 11

Worship and the Lord's Supper

1 Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.

Head Coverings

- For a more detailed review of the subject of women and the church, refer to Dr. Billye Brim's 3BI class, "Women and the Word of God."

2 Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things and keep the traditions just as I delivered them to you.

3 But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

4 Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonors his head.

5 But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head, for that is one and the same as if her head were shaved.

6 For if a woman is not covered, let her also be shorn. But if it is shameful for a woman to be shorn or shaved, let her be covered.

7 For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man.

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8 For man is not from woman, but woman from man.

9 Nor was man created for the woman, but woman for the man.

10 For this reason the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.

11 Nevertheless, neither is man independent of woman, nor woman independent of man, in the Lord.

12 For as woman came from man, even so man also comes through woman; but all things are from God.

13 Judge among yourselves. Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered?

14 Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him?

15 But if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her; for her hair is given to her for a covering.

16 But if anyone seems to be contentious, we have no such custom, nor do the churches of God.

Conduct at the Lord's Supper

17 Now in giving these instructions I do not praise you, since you come together not for the better but for the worse.

18 For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it.

19 For there must also be factions among you, that those who are approved may be recognized among you.

20 Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper.

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21 For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others; and one is hungry and another is drunk.

22 What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise you.

Institution of the Lord's Supper

23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;

24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

Examine Yourself

27 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

- Verse 27 speaks of in the partaking of the Lord's supper, it should not be done in an unworthy manner. This has been misinterpreted many times that there was a level of worthiness to the person partaking the Lord's supper, when in fact this is referring to the atmosphere and conduct during this reverent time.
- The consequence of this is that protection from sickness and death is withheld from those who are so doing. We are not to judge others but to judge ourselves in this regard.

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28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

30 For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.

31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.

32 But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

33 Therefore, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another.

- The Lord's Supper is not a time to fill the stomach because of hunger, but to refresh our remembrance of what the Lord has done. Eating for sustenance should be done with other believers publicly or at home but not during the time of the Lord's table.

34 But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment. And the rest I will set in order when I come.

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Session 6
1 Corinthians 12
Gifts of Word of Knowledge & Word of Wisdom

1 Corinthians 12:1, 4-11

1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant...

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,

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.

● **Varieties of Gifts**

These gifts are given individually and the purpose of the manifestation is for the common good of everyone involved.

- 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 (NASB) “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons.”

Session 6

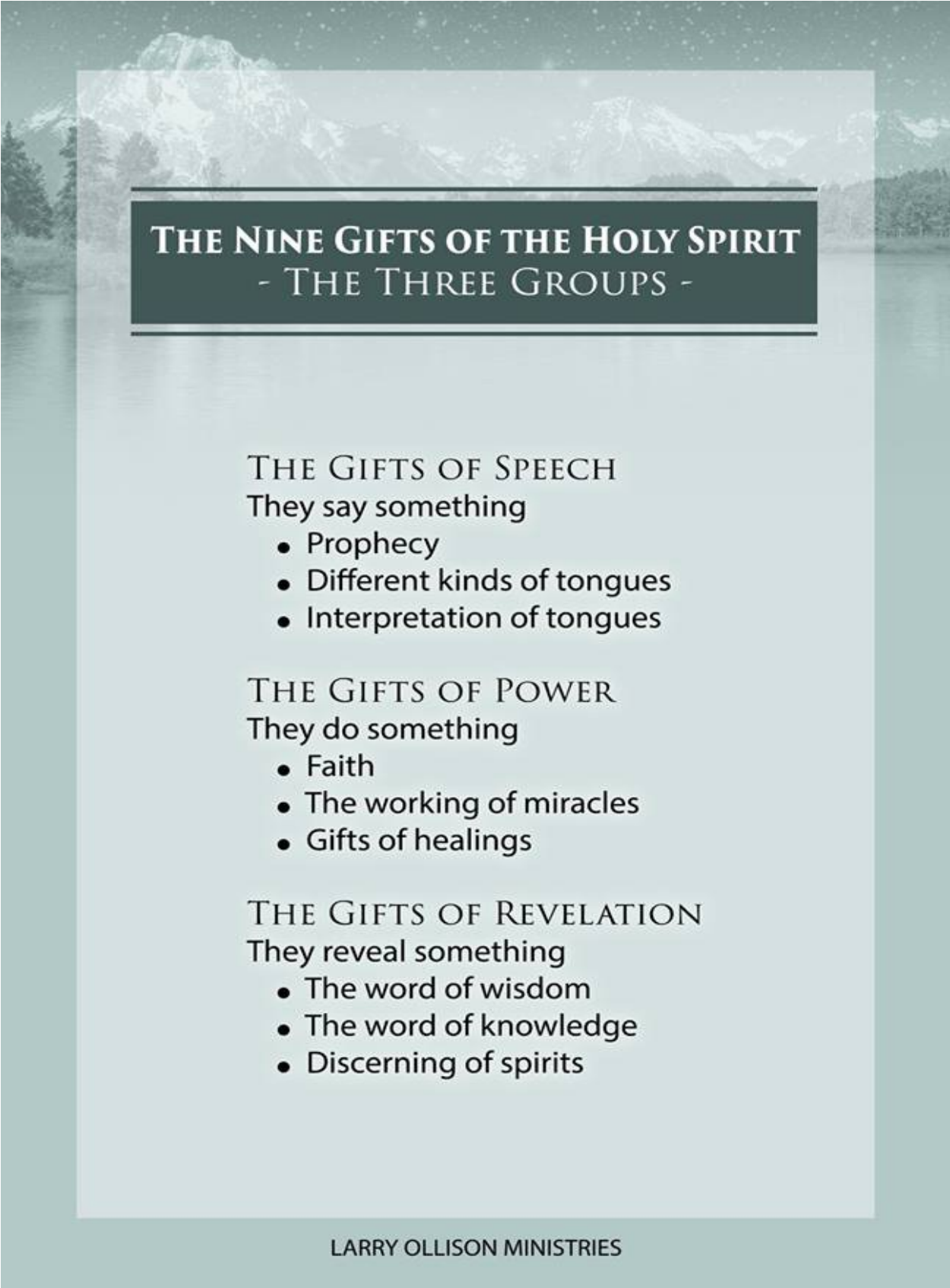
- Here is a listing of the nine gifts in the order they occur in the Bible:
 1. The word of wisdom
 2. The word of knowledge
 3. Faith
 4. Gifts of healings
 5. The working of miracles
 6. Prophecy
 7. Discerning of spirits
 8. Different kinds of tongues
 9. The interpretation of tongues
- The Holy Spirit, who works all of these gifts, distributes each gift individually to whom He desires as He will.
 - 1 Corinthians 12:11 *“But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.”*
- Many times a gift is used in conjunction with and blends with other gifts, but they will always work together for the same purpose.
- Here is a basic definition of each of the nine gifts:
 1. The Gift of the Word of Wisdom
 - This is the supernatural revelation by the Holy Spirit concerning the divine purpose and will of God.
 2. The Gift of the Word of Knowledge
 - This gift is the supernatural revelation by the Holy Spirit concerning knowledge from the mind of God.
 3. The Gift of Faith
 - The gift of faith is the supernatural endowment by the Holy Spirit when God increases the faith of a specific believer for a specific purpose and miraculously fulfills that purpose.
 4. The Gifts of Healings
 - These gifts are to deliver the sick and afflicted and to destroy the works of the devil in the human body.
 5. The Gift of the Working of Miracles

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- The gift of the working of miracles is the supernatural suspension of the course of nature and physics to manifest the impossible in the realm of the physical through the Spirit of God.
- 6. The Gift of Prophecy
 - The gift of prophecy is a supernatural utterance of things of God in a known language.
- 7. The Gift of the Discerning of Spirits
 - Discerning of spirits is the ability to see into the spirit world and understand the source and purpose of a spirit.
- 8. The Gift of Different Kinds of Tongues
 - This is the supernatural utterance by the Holy Spirit in languages never learned by the speaker or understood by the mind of the speaker, and not necessarily understood by the hearer.
- 9. The Gift of the Interpretation of Tongues
 - This gift is the supernatural explanation by the Holy Spirit of the meaning of an utterance in an unknown tongue that is in an understandable language to the hearer.

The Three Groups of Supernatural Gifts

- The purpose of all the gifts is to edify and build up the body of Christ.
 - 1 Corinthians 14:12 *“Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel.”*
- The gifts of the Spirit can be divided into three basic groups or categories which will help in the understanding of these gifts.
 1. The Gifts of Speech (They say something)
 - Prophecy
 - Different Kinds of Tongues
 - Interpretation of Tongues
 2. The Gifts of Power (They do something)
 - The Gift of Faith
 - The Working of Miracles
 - The Gifts of Healings



THE NINE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - THE THREE GROUPS -

THE GIFTS OF SPEECH

They say something

- Prophecy
- Different kinds of tongues
- Interpretation of tongues

THE GIFTS OF POWER

They do something

- Faith
- The working of miracles
- Gifts of healings

THE GIFTS OF REVELATION

They reveal something

- The word of wisdom
- The word of knowledge
- Discerning of spirits

3. The Gifts of Revelation (They reveal something)

- The Word of Wisdom
- The Word of Knowledge
- Discerning of Spirits

The Parallel Flow

- Generally speaking, there is a parallel flow of the nine spiritual gifts.
 - The phrase *parallel flow* is not used in the Bible, but the concept is woven throughout the instructions to the New Testament church.
 - In the same way that the word *trinity* and the word *rapture* are not found in the Bible but their concepts are clearly shown, so it is with the parallel flow of the gifts.
- Natural gifts vs. gifts of the Spirit
 - Wisdom is obtained by asking God (James 1:5).
 - The word of wisdom is a gift of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:8).
 - Knowledge is obtained by study of the Word (2 Timothy 2:15).
 - The word of knowledge is a gift of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:8).
 - Faith is obtained by hearing the Word (Romans 10:17).
 - The gift of faith is a gift of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:9).
 - Praying in the spirit is a result of your desire to pray God's will in tongues (1 Corinthians 14:2).
 - The gift of different kinds of tongues is a gift of the Holy Spirit that is distributed as He wills (1 Corinthians 12:10-11).
- The parallel flow of tongues is different from the other gifts.
 - Speaking in tongues signifies the filling of the Holy Spirit Himself.
 - The natural flow of healings, miracles, knowledge, and faith are available to **all** believers.
 - Praying in the spirit and all types of tongues both occur only after a person has asked and received the filling of the Holy Spirit.

THE PARALLEL FLOW OF THE SPIRIT

THE GIFTING FLOW

Received by the will of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)

THE GIFT OF THE WORD OF WISDOM

THE GIFT OF THE WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

THE GIFT OF FAITH

THE GIFTS OF HEALINGS

THE GIFT OF THE WORKING OF MIRACLES

THE GIFT OF PROPHECY

THE GIFT OF DISCERNING OF SPIRITS

THE GIFT OF DIFFERENT KINDS OF TONGUES

THE GIFT OF INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

NATURAL FLOW

Activated by your own will

WISDOM

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. (James 1:5)

KNOWLEDGE

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)

FAITH

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:17)

HEALING

Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. (James 5:14-15)

MIRACLES

Whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive. (Matthew 21:22)

PROPHECY

Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. (Acts 8:5)

DISCERNING OF GOOD AND EVIL

...Those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. (Hebrews 5:14)

PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT

For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. (1 Corinthians 14:2)

REVELATION OF THE WRITTEN WORD

These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. (1 Corinthians 2:13)

Decently and in Order

- Because God is a God of order in all of His creation, the distribution of the gifts of the Holy Spirit will also follow order.
 - 1 Corinthians 14:40 *“Let all things be done decently and in order.”*
 - Confusion and chaos will never be the result of the proper administration of the gifts.
 - The Holy Spirit will not interrupt Himself.
 - If the source of a prophetic word and the source of a message in tongues are both truly authentic, then they would be giftings from the same Spirit.
 - There should never be competition with the gifts, and if there is, it is not of God.
 - 1 Corinthians 14:27,30 *“If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret...But if anything is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent.”*
 - As we are led by the Spirit, the gifts will flow properly and in accordance with order.
-

First Gift—The Gift of the Word of Wisdom

1 Corinthians 12:7-8

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...

Definition

- The gift of the word of wisdom is the supernatural revelation by the Holy Spirit concerning the divine purpose and will of God.
 - This gift is wisdom from God imparted by the Holy Spirit that is beyond natural human comprehension.
 - It is speaking wisdom from the Spirit of God into someone’s life without the speaker knowing what is going to be said to the person receiving the word.

The Parallel Flow of Wisdom

- Wisdom from God for everyday life is always available to every born-again believer. All he must do is ask in faith and receive it.
 - James 1:5 *“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God who gives to all liberally without reproach, and it will be given to him.”*
 - This wisdom can be used in natural affairs and in ministry affairs and it is available for the asking.
- The Bible also tells us of a supernatural anointing of wisdom called the word of wisdom (1 Corinthians 12:8).
 - The word of wisdom is only available to a believer who has been filled with the Holy Spirit and only distributed as the Spirit wills.

Understanding the Difference

- There is natural wisdom and the gift of the word of wisdom.
- A word is not a complete sentence, but only a portion of a sentence.
 - God does not reveal all of His knowledge or wisdom, but only a portion or a word.
 - It is the gift of the word of wisdom and not the gift of wisdom.
 - God imparts the word of wisdom necessary for our benefit.
- The word of wisdom and the word of knowledge are often gifts that operate together.
 - The word of knowledge deals with present or past facts or events.
 - The word of wisdom points toward the future.

A New Testament Example (Acts 8:1-19)

- After Saul’s conversion experience on the road to Damascus, Ananias (a disciple) received a word of knowledge and a word of wisdom for Saul.
 - Ananias had a vision with instruction from the Lord: *“Arise and go to the Street called Strait, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight”* (vv.11-12).

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- Ananias went to the house and did what the Lord had instructed him to do.
 - He laid hands on Saul and told him the Lord Jesus had sent him so he would receive his sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - Immediately something like scales fell from the eyes of Saul and at that very moment he received his sight.
- This account reveals the word of wisdom and the word of knowledge in operation.
 - Ananias was told the exact street and location of the house where he would find Saul.
 - He was told Saul had been praying and had received a vision of a man called Ananias laying hands on him and being healed.
 - The only way Ananias could have known of these events would be by revelation of the Holy Spirit.
 - This was the word of knowledge in operation.
 - Ananias was told in his vision what to say to Saul about being a chosen vessel to bear the name of the Lord before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.
 - That had not yet happened, but was something that would happen.
 - This revelation was the word of wisdom in operation.
 - The word of knowledge is supernatural revelation of the present or past.
 - The word of wisdom brings revelation of future events.

The Word of Wisdom Imparted to the Church

- John 16:13 *“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.”*
 - In this verse, Jesus prophesied the manifestation of the word of wisdom would be imparted to the church by the Holy Spirit.
 - The Holy Spirit knows your need and has the wisdom for that need to be met. As we yield to His Spirit, He will impart the word of wisdom that, when followed, will bring deliverance.
-

Second Gift—The Gift of the Word of Knowledge

1 Corinthians 12:7,8

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all

8 ... to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit ...

Definition

- The gift of the word of knowledge is the supernatural revelation by the Holy Spirit concerning knowledge from the mind of God.
 - With this gift, a portion of knowledge from God is imparted to a Spirit-filled believer for the purpose of revealing a truth or fact that would otherwise be unknown.

The Parallel Flow of Knowledge

- We cannot confuse the attained knowledge and intellect of man with the word of knowledge.
 - The study of God's Word by a believer can bring great revelation by the Holy Spirit; however, this is not the gift of the word of knowledge.
 - The word of knowledge is a supernatural gift and reveals a truth or a fact that cannot be obtained by any earthly study, but can only be revealed by the Holy Spirit at His direction.

Operating in the Word of Knowledge (Acts 5:1-11)

- A New Testament example of the word of knowledge:
 - Ananias and Sapphira sold some land and kept part of the money for themselves. Ananias took the remaining balance to give to the church, then lied to Peter and the apostles about the amount.
 - Peter said, "*Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God*" (vv. 3-4).
 - When Ananias heard these words he fell down dead. Later, his wife came in and the same thing happened to her (vv. 7-10).

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- How did Peter know they had kept some of the money? Peter was operating in the gift of the word of knowledge.

The Visions of Cornelius and Peter (Acts 10:1-23)

- In Caesarea there was a Gentile named Cornelius, who was a centurion in the Italian regiment of the Roman army.
 - One day while praying about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, he had a clear vision where he saw an angel of God come to him and call him by name.
 - The angel told him to send men to Joppa and find Peter, even telling him where he would be found. *"He will tell you what you must do"* (vv. 4-6).
 - Cornelius did as the angel instructed.
 - The next day as the men were drawing near the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray. There Peter fell into a trance where he saw heaven open up. He had the same vision three times. God told him, *"What God has cleansed, you must not call common"* (vv. 9-16).
 - As Peter was on the roof contemplating the vision, the Holy Spirit told him that there were three men seeking him and that He had sent them (vv. 17-20).
 - After meeting the men that Cornelius had sent to him, Peter left with them the next day and took some of his brethren from Joppa to meet Cornelius.

Knowing the Unknown

- This story of Peter's vision from the Lord and his obedience in going to the house of the Gentile, Cornelius, is a perfect example of the word of knowledge in operation.
 - The Holy Spirit informed him that three men were waiting for him at the entrance to his house.
 - This is a word of knowledge that would be impossible to know with the natural mind, but was revealed by the Holy Spirit.
 - He was told that the Holy Spirit had sent them.
 - This was a revelation of something that had already taken place.

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- Many times the usage of the word of wisdom and the word of knowledge is so intertwined that they appear to work as one.
 - Working together, they reveal an unknown truth and give divine wisdom.
 - But in the end, the Holy Spirit distributes and administers them in such a way that everyone receives benefit.

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Session 7
1 Corinthians 12
Gifts of Faith, Healings, Working of Miracles

Third Gift—The Gift of Faith

1 Corinthians 12:7,9

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all

9 ... to another faith by the same Spirit...

Definition

- The gift of faith is the supernatural endowment by the Holy Spirit when God increases the faith of a specific believer for a specific purpose and miraculously fulfills that purpose.
 - The gift of faith is the greatest of the three power gifts.
 - Faith is required for everything that happens in the life of a believer.

The Parallel Flow of Faith

- The natural flow of faith is faith that is available to every believer.
 - It comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God (Romans 10:17).
 - Everything we receive from God, we receive by faith. A perfect example is salvation.
 - Ephesians 2:8 *“For by grace we have been saved through faith.”*
 - God provides eternal life through His power (grace) and man has to only believe (have faith).
 - Not only is it impossible to please Him without faith (Hebrews 11:6), but it is impossible to receive from Him without faith.
- Sometimes faith for the miraculous is beyond the realm of natural faith.
 - The Holy Spirit imparts the gift of faith so that the believer believes beyond their natural ability to believe, and the end result is miraculous deliverance.

How Natural Faith Grows

- Natural faith can be measured.

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- Little faith (Matthew 8:26)
- Great faith (Matthew 8:10)
- Increased faith (Luke 17:5)
- According to the Bible, without faith we are lost, sick, in lack, in sin, unpleasing to God, defeated, and have a gospel that doesn't work.
 - Faith is available to every believer by hearing the Word of God.
 - As we meditate on the Word, the Holy Spirit brings revelation, then the Word becomes *rhema*. With this revelation of the Word, faith grows.
- *Logos & Rhema*
 - The Greek language has two words that are both translated into English as *word*. We can only tell by looking at the Greek text whether the word is translated from *logos* or *rhema*.
 - *Logos* in its simplest form could be translated *written word*.
 - *Rhema* means *spoken or revealed word*.
 - The Greek word used in Romans 10:17 is *rhema*.
 - This means that faith does not come by simply reading the written word, but when the written Word of God is revealed in your heart by the Holy Spirit.

The Gift of Faith

- The supernatural flow of faith is called the gift of faith.
 - It is limited to the will and distribution of the Holy Spirit.
 - The gift of faith cannot be measured.
 - It is so powerful that doubt and unbelief do not exist in any degree.
 - There is a full knowledge and understanding that the will of God and purpose of God will be fulfilled.
 - For every distribution of the gift of faith there is a purpose.

Faith is Always Present

- When the supernatural miraculous power of God is in manifestation, faith is always present:
 - Sometimes in the person working the miracle.
 - Sometimes in the person receiving the miracle.

- “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1).
-

Fourth Gift—The Gifts of Healings

1 Corinthians 12:7,9

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all

9 ... to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit...

Definition

- These gifts of healings are to deliver the sick and afflicted and to destroy the works of the devil in the human body.
 - Before He ascended, Jesus commissioned all who would believe in Him to heal the sick. One of the gifts He gave through the Holy Spirit is healing of the physical body.

The Parallel Flow of Healing

- Jesus has equipped the church with multiple ways to be healed.
 - In the course of nature, healing is a process that takes time.
 - The healing that comes by the Holy Spirit is supernatural and is not restricted to a recovery process.
- God has provided a gift for the church that can be administered and received several different ways. Each of these ways is a gift of healing and collectively they are the gifts of healings.

Call for the Elders

- God has also made provision for all Christians to be healed at any time.
 - (James 5:14-15) *“Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up.”*
 - This scripture is not talking about the gifts of healings. This is the conscious action of a sick person submitting to the eldership of the church. The responsibility of the prayer of faith is upon the elder.

Fifth Gift—The Gift of the Working of Miracles

1 Corinthians 12:7,10

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all

10 ... to another the working of miracles ...

Definition

- The gift of the working of miracles is the supernatural suspension of the course of nature and physics to manifest the impossible in the realm of the physical through the Spirit of God.
- Three great men of God describe the gift of the working of miracles.
 - Kenneth E. Hagin: “A miracle is a supernatural intervention into the ordinary course of nature. It’s a temporary suspension of the accustomed order through the Spirit of God.”¹
 - Lester Sumrall: “In the gift of the working of miracles, God is entrusting us with a strength, with an energy that we do not normally have. It is the power of the Spirit of God surging through us, through our hands, our feet, our minds, causing us to do something that is not normal or natural to our behavior.”²
 - Howard Carter: “We might say that it is the supernatural demonstration of the power of God by which the laws of nature are altered, suspended, or controlled.”³

The Power Behind a Miracle

- A miracle is an instantaneous and divine energizing of power.
 - In the church, the gift of the working of miracles enables a believer to accomplish something through the Spirit which, according to the laws of nature and physics, is impossible.

¹Kenneth E. Hagin, *The Holy Spirit and His Gifts*, (Tulsa: Rhema Bible Church, 1991), 126.

²Lester Sumrall, *The Gifts and Ministries of the Holy Spirit*, (New Kensington: Whitaker House, 1982), 105.

³Howard Carter, *Questions & Answers On Spiritual Gifts*, (Tulsa: Harrison House, Inc., 1976), 82.

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- The Greek word for “working” is *energêmata* which is where we get the English word “energy.”
- The English word for “of miracles” is the Greek word *dynameôn*, which is the same root word Jesus used in Acts 1:8, “*But you shall receive power (dynamis) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.*”
- The Holy Spirit is the miracle working power of God on earth.

The Parallel Flow

- When we talk about the gifts of the Spirit, there is a natural flow and there is a supernatural flow.
- When it comes to miracles, there are miracles that take place in your life because you pray in faith, ask, and receive.
- There is a power available to Christians that is distributed by God as He wills and is outside the normal course of nature. It is the gift of the working of miracles.

Miraculous Deliverance

- Acts 12:1-20 gives the account of the arrest of Peter (to please the unbelieving Jews) and his miraculous deliverance.
 - This was the gift of the working of miracles in operation.
 - While Peter was in prison, the church was praying.
 - An angel of the Lord came and stood by him.
 - The chains miraculously fell off of Peter’s hands.
 - The angel told him to get dressed and put on his sandals.
 - The huge iron gate outside the prison opened by itself without any physical assistance.
 - God miraculously did what Peter couldn’t do, but required him to do what he could do.

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Session 8
1 Corinthians 12
Gifts of Prophecy and Discerning of Spirits

Sixth Gift—The Gift of Prophecy

1 Corinthians 12:7,10

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all

10 ... to another prophecy ...

Definition:

- The gift of prophecy is the supernatural utterance of the things of God in a known language.
 - God imparts knowledge, wisdom, understanding, and instruction to an individual, group, to the church, or to a nation.
 - This prophetic word from the heart of God is supernaturally delivered through a person that the Holy Spirit has chosen to speak through.
 - The words will be pure life and reveal the heart and will of God for the hearer.
 - This gift is the most prominent of the three gifts of speech. It takes the other two gifts (tongues and interpretation of tongues) to equal it (1 Corinthians 14:5).
 - Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would reveal things to come. Many times this revelation comes through the gift of prophecy.
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 (NASB) *“Do not quench the Spirit; do not despise prophetic utterances. But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good.”*

The Parallel Flow

- The natural flow of prophecy: an individual teaches from the written Word of God and speaks God’s known written will.
 - All believers can prophesy and should be saying what God says.
- The supernatural gift called the gift of prophecy is a supernatural utterance when the Holy Spirit guides the one prophesying with words

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that do not come from the speaker's mind. They are not learned or studied, but they are words by the Spirit of God that are given to edify the church.

The Office of a Prophet

- It is bestowed upon the person God chooses who submits and receives this office.
- A person who sits in the office of a prophet is himself a gift to the church.
 - Ephesians 4:11-12 *“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”*
- If someone speaks the Word of God (which is the natural flow of prophecy), it doesn't mean they are called of God as a prophet.
 - Philip had four daughters who prophesied. (See Acts 21:9.)
- Agabus was called “a certain prophet” (Acts 21:10-11).
- The office of a prophet is a position and not the same thing as the gift of prophecy.
 - Prophesying alone does not make someone a prophet. A prophet prophesies, but everyone who prophesies is not a prophet.

Desire the Gift of Prophecy

- The gift of prophecy is a direct message from the heart of God to man.
 - When the prophetic word is heard and applied, it will always bring edification, exhortation, comfort and the end result will always be deliverance, restoration, and healing.
 - The message will always be bathed in love and exalt the name of Jesus.
 - It will bring peace and assurance to the hearer.
 - We should take the advice of Paul and desire prophecy.

Seventh Gift—The Gift of the Discerning of Spirits

1 Corinthians 12:7,10

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all

10 ... to another discerning of spirits ...

Definition

- Discerning of spirits is the ability to see into the spirit world and understand the source and purpose of a spirit.
- Charles Capps said it helps to understand what something is by also looking at what it is not.
 - Discerning of spirits is not discerning of devils or discerning of evil spirits.
 - Supernatural manifestations can come from two sources—from a good God or from a bad devil.
 - One version of the Bible calls this gift “the distinguishing of spirits” (1 Corinthians 12:10 NASB).
 - It is not a type of spiritual mind reading or psychological insight.
 - It is not the power to discern the faults of others or to judge them.
 - There is not a gift of discernment and there is not a gift of judging.
- The gifts are not given to make you look good.
 - If the gift in operation glorifies the person receiving it more than it glorifies God, it probably is not from God.
- The gift of discerning of spirits is the ability to see into the realm of the spirit world and know the spiritual source of a physical manifestation.

The Parallel Flow

- Many times it is obvious that the spirit behind a project or an event is not of God.
 - In these cases, we are to use the authority we have been given by the Word of God. To use our authority is our choice.
 - Many years ago, I saw a storefront with a neon light that said “Palm Reading Here.” I used my authority as a believer to curse that demonic

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business and two weeks later there was a “For Lease” sign on that shop door.

- This was a miracle, but it was a natural result of a believer using his authority.
- The gift of discerning of spirits is given by the Holy Spirit. To operate in the gift is submission to the will of the Spirit.

The Anointing Stirs Up Demonic Spirits

- Sometimes people are sent by the enemy to disrupt and to distract from what the Holy Spirit desires to accomplish.
 - This happened in Paul’s ministry in Acts 16. A young female slave who had a demonic spirit followed Paul and Silas around proclaiming, *“These men are servants of the Most High God who are telling men how to be saved”* (v.17).
 - After many days of this, Paul became greatly annoyed because it was disruptive and a hindrance to what Paul was trying to do.
 - Paul spoke to the spirit that was possessing the young girl and he said, *“I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her”* (v.18). And within the hour the spirit was gone.
 - Their anointing to bring deliverance not only drew the sick and diseased who wanted deliverance, but also drew demonic spirits whose purpose was to hinder their ministry.
- In the same way that the gifts of the Spirit did not pass away with the first century church, neither has the attempt of the enemy to disrupt a move of God.

You Can’t Cast Out the Flesh

- Demonic manifestations and evil activities of the flesh sometimes appear the same, so it is very important to know if the root problem is demonic or flesh.
 - You can command devils away from a person.
 - If the deeds of the flesh have developed into a learned behavior, then casting out spirits that aren’t even there will not obtain any results.

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- A person throwing a temper fit and causing disruption can either be under the control of a demonic spirit, or that behavior has become a part of their lifestyle and they have learned that by throwing a fit, they can control other people.
 - If you will not quench the Spirit, the Holy Spirit will usually impart the gift of discerning of spirits and your ability to minister will be increased.
- All Christians have been given the commission to minister the gospel to the world. While we are instructed in the Scriptures how to take authority over the power of the enemy, the gift of discerning of spirits will assist us by clearly exposing the spirit world.
 - 1 John 4:6 NLT *“But we belong to God, and those who know God listen to us. If they do not belong to God, they do not listen to us. That is how we know if someone has the Spirit of truth or the spirit of deception.”*

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Session 9
1 Corinthians 12
Gifts of Different Kinds of Tongues
and Interpretation of Tongues

Eighth Gift—The Gift of Different Kinds of Tongues

1 Corinthians 12:7,10

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all

10 ... to another different kinds of tongues ...

Definition

- Different kinds of tongues is the supernatural utterance by the Holy Spirit in languages never learned by the speaker or understood by the mind of the speaker, and not necessarily understood by the hearer.

The Parallel Flow

- Operating in the gift of “different kinds of tongues” may sound the same as praying in tongues (praying in the spirit), but is actually quite different.
 - You can pray in the spirit (in tongues) anytime you want and there does not need to be an interpretation.
 - Praying in the spirit is something you decide to do.
 - The gift of different kinds of tongues is given by the Holy Spirit as He desires. The gift of tongues requires interpretation of tongues (another gift) in order to benefit all.
 - Operating in the gift of tongues is something the Holy Spirit decides you are going to do and you yield to His will and His gift.
- Both kinds of tongues are only available after a Christian has received the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

How They Are Different

- The most controversial and misunderstood gift of the nine gifts has been the gift of different kinds of tongues.

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- Much of the misunderstanding and confusion comes from not understanding the difference between praying in tongues (praying in the spirit) and the gift of different kinds of tongues.
 - Some denominations teach against the gifts of the Spirit because of this misunderstanding of the difference and call it the “error of tongues.”
 - Scripturally, these two types of New Testament tongues have different objectives and different administration.
-
- The phrase *the gift of tongues*, is directly referring to the gift of different kinds of tongues.
 - The gift of tongues is given by the Holy Spirit to a Christian who has made themselves available through spiritual and physical submission.
 - The Holy Spirit speaks through the individual who is the recipient of the gift.
 - The recipient cannot activate this gift at will because the Holy Spirit distributes this gift when and to whom He desires.
 - 1 Corinthians 12:11 *But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.*
-
- The gift of tongues should always be followed with the gift of interpretation and the interpretation is directed to an individual or group.
 - The Holy Spirit decides who will receive the gift of interpretation.
-
- Praying in tongues, or praying in the spirit, is initiated by the one praying and by their own will.
 - One who prays in the spirit is not speaking a message to an individual or group, but rather is speaking to God (1 Corinthians 14:2).
 - While praying in the spirit to God, the individual praying does not have an understanding of what he is praying for.
 - However, the Spirit assists in the prayer, and prays the will of God and when the will of God is prayed, the prayer is answered even though the individual praying does not know what he is praying for (1 John 5:14-15).

The Gift of Different Kinds of Tongues

- Of all the nine spiritual gifts, the gift of tongues is the most publicized, exalted, and ridiculed.
 - On the Day of Pentecost when the 120 left the upper room and began speaking in the gift of tongues under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, the manifestation was so bizarre that there was no middle ground.
 - People either received the word that was spoken and were baptized, or they ridiculed, pointing their fingers at the believers and saying, “These people are drunk!” (Acts 2:13).
 - Today a choice must be made: 1) receive the supernatural manifestation of God speaking to us, or 2) reject it as foolishness.

Diversities of Operation

- Sometimes the gift of tongues and interpretation in operation results in the recipient hearing the words in his own language.
 - Illustration: Story of the American missionary in China, by praying in the spirit, gave turn-by-turn directions to his Chinese taxi driver in the driver’s native tongue (Pages 207-208 in “Unlocking the Mysteries of the Holy Spirit”)
- This same thing that happened on the Day of Pentecost.
 - The Galileans in the upper room spilled into the streets speaking in tongues and everyone there heard them speaking the wonders of God in their own language.
 - Likewise, the tongues spoken by the missionary in China were interpreted by the Holy Spirit in the ear of the taxi driver.

Varieties of Effects

- While the missionary may have started praying in the spirit, the Holy Spirit took over and distributed the gift of tongues to the missionary.
 - Without knowing it, he was giving the taxi driver directions on how to take him to a very important meeting. The missionary thought he was praying in the spirit, but it was actually the gift of tongues speaking through him to the cab driver.
 - By praying in the spirit, the missionary was setting the atmosphere for the Holy Spirit to administer the gift of tongues.

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- We must remember that the full title of this gift of the Holy Spirit is *different kinds of tongues*.
 - Just before Paul listed the nine gifts, he said there are varieties of gifts, varieties of ministries, and there are varieties of effects.
 - Its title alone lets us know that it may manifest itself in many different ways.
 - As we yield to Him, that gift will be for the common good of everyone involved.
 - 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 (NASB) *“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”*

The Gift Always Requires Interpretation

- The gift of tongues always requires another gift to be present—the gift of interpretation of tongues.
 - Without an interpretation, there would be no purpose. The gift of interpretation of tongues is designed to work with the gift of tongues.
 - Paul said that when a person speaks in tongues, they should pray that they would receive the interpretation (1 Corinthians 14:13).
 - The word spoken will bring comfort, exhortation, correction, or guidance to an individual or a group, It will never be hateful or condemning because the source of the message is God and God is love.

A Brief Review

- Praying in tongues, which is also called praying in the spirit, is man speaking to God by his own will and is completely at the will of the one praying.
- The gift of tongues is God speaking to man with various operations and effects through the will and specific direction of the Holy Spirit Himself.

Praying in the Spirit

- Being filled with the Holy Spirit opens the ability to pray supernaturally.

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- There are times when we don't know how to pray because a situation or a decision is so great or devastating that it's not directly addressed in the Word of God.
 - Romans 8:26 (NASB) *"...but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groaning too deep for words."*
- The Holy Spirit knows what is best and by you praying in the spirit, with the Holy Spirit assisting you, you are now praying the will of God for you.
- It takes faith to pray in the spirit because you are placing your trust in God without the evidence of understandable words.

Knowing the Will of God

- When we pray, we must pray the will of God. Only when we pray His will, will He hear us and grant the request (1 John 5:14-15).
- What is the will of God?
 - His will is found in His Word, the Holy Bible, and by praying in the spirit.
 - There are certain things that we know are the will of God. In those things we do not need to pray in tongues, because we know His will.
 - Healing—we know it is God's will to heal (Psalm 103:3).
 - Poverty—we know we pray for prosperity (Psalm 35:27).
 - Broken heart or emotional issue—we know God sent Jesus to the earth to heal the brokenhearted (Luke 4:18).

Ignoring One of the Greatest Spiritual Tools

- Because of past abuses and because of incorrect teaching, some ministries, pastors, and teachers have chosen to avoid anything in the Word concerning speaking in tongues.
 - It is impossible to attain wisdom and knowledge about tongues by ignoring what the Bible has to say about it.
 - This avoidance has left much of the church void of one of the greatest spiritual tools provided to the church today.
 - Praying the will of God can literally protect your family, deliver you from destruction, and save your life.

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- Ephesians 6:18 (NIV) *Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.*

Why Should I Pray in the Spirit?

- The purpose of praying in the spirit is to pray the will of God and to strengthen yourself in the knowledge that you have prayed His will.
 - One of the greatest ways to relieve stress and be filled with joy is through the building up that comes through praying in the spirit (Jude 1:20).
- When we don't know how to pray, the Holy Spirit will intercede for us and pray the will of God on our behalf (Romans 8:26).
- Praying in the spirit cannot be used as a crutch or an excuse for not knowing the Word of God.
 - Pray in the spirit and pray with the understanding.
 - 1 Corinthians 14:14-15 *For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding.*
- Praying in the spirit allows the Holy Spirit to intercede for you and praying in the understanding is praying out of the abundance of your own heart.

Receive the Answer to Your Mystery

- How do we speak the wisdom of God? How do we speak answers to the mysteries?
 - 1 Corinthians 14:2 *"For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries."*
- When we speak in an unknown tongue, we are speaking mysteries, wisdom, and answers. We are speaking the hidden wisdom that God has hidden for us in these last days.

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- When we pray in an unknown tongue, the Spirit of God is interceding through us. He is using our voice, but He is speaking the perfect will of God.
- 1 Corinthians 2:13 *“These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”*
- As you receive the mysteries of God, you will also receive peace and comfort knowing that God has deposited the answer in you.

Keep Your Battery Charged

- A battery contains power, but if a battery is left uncharged or unused, the power will diminish.
- Likewise, we must keep our spiritual battery full of faith by filling it with the Word so that in times of peril, we will not be caught off guard.
 - The Holy Spirit is the power of God and by praying in the Spirit, we build up our most holy faith (Jude 1:20).
 - Faith is the catalyst that activates God’s miraculous supernatural power.
- Being filled with the Holy Spirit is not a one-time event and then it’s over.
 - The apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit in the upper room with the evidence of speaking in tongues.
 - Upon telling their friends what had happened when the chief priests and elders commanded them to not speak or teach in the name of Jesus (Acts 4:18), they prayed and were all filled with the Holy Spirit again.
 - Acts 4:31 *“And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.”*
- In Ephesians 5:18 Paul admonishes the church to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - The Greek word used there is *plerousthe*. The literal translation of this verb can best be stated as “be being kept filled.”

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- Billy Graham, the great American evangelist, in his book, *The Holy Spirit*, said that Ephesians 5:18 literally says, “Keep on being filled with the Spirit.”⁴
 - In his book, he also said, “Unfortunately millions of God’s people do not enjoy the unlimited spiritual wealth at their disposal because they are not filled with the Holy Spirit. We are not filled once for all, like a bucket. Instead, we are to be filled constantly.”⁵
 - As believers we are to keep ourselves constantly filled as we live our lives each day.
 - This process is how we daily are led by and walk by the Spirit.
 - Ephesians 5:18 *“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.”*
- Keep your spiritual battery charged with the Word and by praying in the spirit.

Tongues + Interpretation = Prophecy

- The apostle Paul said we should desire to prophesy because one who prophesies speaks edification, exhortation, and comfort to men and edifies the church.
 - 1 Corinthians 14:4 *“He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.”*
 - He said one who prophesies is greater than one who speaks with tongues—unless he interprets.
 - When tongues and interpretation are in operation as gifts of the Holy Spirit, they are equal to prophecy and the church receives edification.
 - Praying in the spirit is personal, but the gift of tongues and the gift of interpretation are public and equal to prophecy (1 Corinthians 14:5).
- If someone speaks in a tongue by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, then he should pray that he will interpret and then the whole body will be edified.

⁴Billy Graham, *The Holy Spirit*, (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1988), 117.

⁵*Ibid.*, 117.

Ninth Gift—The Gift of Interpretation of Tongues

1 Corinthians 12:7,10,11

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all

10... 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.

Definition

- The gift of the interpretation of tongues is the supernatural explanation by the Holy Spirit of the meaning of an utterance in an unknown tongue that is in an understandable language to the hearer.
 - 1 Corinthians 14:5,13 *"I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification. Therefore let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret."*
- The gift of interpretation of tongues is not the translation of tongues.
 - A translation is taking individual words and converting them to their counterparts in the other language.
 - This is not the case when interpreting tongues. The person receiving the gift (who may or may not be the person who presented the message in tongues) will speak by the guidance of the Holy Spirit and convey the meaning of the word spoken by the Holy Spirit.

The Parallel Flow

- The parallel flow of the gift of interpretation of tongues is simply the revelation of the written Word of God by the Holy Spirit.
 - The revelation of the written Word of God comes through personal study and meditation.
 - The natural response for the Spirit of God is to bring revelation and understanding when we hide His Word in our hearts.
 - This revelation is available to any believer who desires a greater depth in the Word of God.

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- The gift of tongues requires the gift of interpretation to be of benefit to everyone.
 - The gift of interpretation of tongues is unique in that it can only be administered when the gift of tongues is in operation.
 - The person receiving this gift must take a step of faith and begin speaking even though the entire interpretation has not yet been given by the Spirit at that time.
- The Holy Spirit determines who will receive the gift of interpretation of tongues, but the revelation of the Word is determined by the effort of each individual believer to apply themselves in the study of the Word.
 - The Holy Spirit is always faithful to bring revelation.

A Step of Faith

- Illustration: My first experience with the gift of interpretation was many years ago when I was the worship leader at a church that allowed the Holy Spirit to administer His gifts. (Pages 225–227 in *Unlocking the Mysteries of the Holy Spirit*)
 - During a service someone started speaking with the gift of tongues. While they were speaking, the Holy Spirit gave me two very detailed sentences, but I knew there was more to it so I waited to speak out until He gave me the whole interpretation. While I was waiting, someone else gave the interpretation, which was exactly the words I heard, but he continued on after that. Later the Lord revealed to me that He had wanted me to step out in faith and speak what He had given me, and then He would have continued to reveal the message as I was speaking. But I had quenched the Spirit.
 - That day was a great learning time for me. I realized how important it is for everything that is done by the Spirit to be done in faith. We must walk in the light we have been given and as we walk, the path will continue to be lighted ahead of us.

The Spirit of Order

- While it is the Spirit who gives utterance because the Holy Spirit is the one distributing the gift as He wills, the one who receives the gift is not a mindless robot without control.
 - Through wisdom and prudence (common sense and good judgment) and by the prompting of the Holy Spirit, the one receiving the gift operates in the gift.

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- The Holy Spirit will never bring confusion or chaos. When the Holy Spirit has a word from God to be spoken in an unknown tongue and interpreted, it is for the purpose of deliverance, edification, or correction and must be able to be heard.
 - Anyone who creates noise or confusion, so that the individual delivering the word from God is not able to be heard, is out of order.
 - 1 Corinthians 14:33 *“For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.”*

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Session 10 1 Corinthians 13 & 14

1 Corinthians 13

The Greatest Gift

1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

2 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.

3 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.

● Love Defined

4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;

5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;

6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;

7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 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.

9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part.

10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

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11 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.

12 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.

- **Love is greater than faith and hope.**
 - Why? God is love.

13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 14

Prophecy and Tongues

1 Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.

2 For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.

3 But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.

4 He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.

5 I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.

Tongues Must Be Interpreted

6 But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you unless I speak to you either by revelation, by knowledge, by prophesying, or by teaching?

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7 Even things without life, whether flute or harp, when they make a sound, unless they make a distinction in the sounds, how will it be known what is piped or played?

8 For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare for battle?

9 So likewise you, unless you utter by the tongue words easy to understand, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air.

10 There are, it may be, so many kinds of languages in the world, and none of them is without significance.

11 Therefore, if I do not know the meaning of the language, I shall be a foreigner to him who speaks, and he who speaks will be a foreigner to me.

12 Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel.

13 Therefore let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret.

14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.

- **Romans 8:26-28** “Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”

15 What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.

- **Praying in the spirit** is a believer praying in tongues to the Father. The Father does not need interpretation. Praying in the spirit prays the will of God and when the will of God is prayed and we know that He heard us

(we know this through proper teaching and understanding), He grants the request.

- 1 John 5:14-15 *“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.”*

16 Otherwise, if you bless with the spirit, how will he who occupies the place of the uninformed say “Amen” at your giving of thanks, since he does not understand what you say?

17 For you indeed give thanks well, but the other is not edified.

18 I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all;

- Anyone who claims that speaking with tongues is “of the devil” can only look to Paul’s own statement concerning his own life. If speaking in tongues is “of the devil,” then Paul thanked God that he was doing something the devil wanted.
 - Simple common sense is sometimes not applied to the Scriptures if it opposes a man-made denominational doctrine.

19 yet in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

Tongues a Sign to Unbelievers

20 Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature.

*21 In the law it is written: “With men of other tongues and other lips I will speak to this people; and yet, for all that, they will not hear Me,” says the Lord.**

- **Isaiah 28:11-12*** *“For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people, To whom He said, “This is the rest with which You may cause the weary to rest,” And, “This is the refreshing”; Yet they would not hear.”*

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22 Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophesying is not for unbelievers but for those who believe.

23 Therefore if the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those who are uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind?

24 But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all.

25 And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you.

Order in Church Meetings

26 How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.

27 If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret.

28 But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God.

29 Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge.

● **Judging prophecy**

- The gift of prophecy in operation by the Holy Spirit will not bring depression or despair, but will lift up, build up, and strengthen the body of Christ on earth.
 - 1 Corinthians 14:1-5; 1 Corinthians 14:29
- How do we judge prophecy?
 - The Spirit of God always ministers through peace and restoration and not through fear and condemnation.

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- All prophecy must lift up and exalt Jesus.
 - Any prophecy that lifts up a person or an organization above Jesus is not of God.
 - A false prophecy will always try to divert the glory, the honor, and the attention to another individual or group (1 John 4:1-3).
 - All spoken prophecy must agree with God's written Word. Any prophecy that does not agree is false.
 - All prophecy must be tested by First Corinthians 14:3: "*He who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.*"
 - Prophecies are given through the anointing of the Holy Spirit and will always produce liberty and be soaked in love.
 - If a "prophet" speaks fear and condemnation, then reject that prophecy. It is not of God.
- **Qualified to prophesy**
 - The Holy Spirit is the one who qualifies and decides to whom the gift will be given.
 - 2 Peter 1:21 "*For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*"

30 But if anything is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent.

31 For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged.

32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.

33 For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

- **Explanation**
 - Paul is quoting (in verses 34 & 35) a statement that has been made probably in a letter to him or by way of accepted comment. Then in verse 36 he brings a question in the form of a rebuke to the preceding statement and concludes by rejecting that statement as ignorant. He re-emphasizes the use of prophecy and to not forbid anyone to speak

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with tongues while at the same time keeping the gathering of the church decently and in order.

34 Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law also says.

35 And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is shameful for women to speak in church.

36 Or did the word of God come originally from you? Or was it you only that it reached?

37 If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord.

38 But if anyone is ignorant, let him be ignorant.

39 Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues.

40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

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Session 11 1 Corinthians 15

The Risen Christ, Faith's Reality

1 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand,

2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

5 and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.

6 After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep.

7 After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles.

8 Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

9 For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

11 Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

The Risen Christ, Our Hope

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- **Our guarantee of resurrection**

12 Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen.

14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.

15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise.

16 For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen.

17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!

18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

The Last Enemy Destroyed

- Revelation 21:4 “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead.

22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.

24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He

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puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.

25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.

26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.

27 For “He has put all things under His feet.” But when He says “all things are put under Him,” it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted.

28 Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.

Effects of Denying the Resurrection

29 Otherwise, what will they do who are baptized for the dead, if the dead do not rise at all? Why then are they baptized for the dead?

30 And why do we stand in jeopardy every hour?

31 I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.

32 If, in the manner of men, I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantage is it to me? If the dead do not rise, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!”

33 Do not be deceived: “Evil company corrupts good habits.”

34 Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.

A Glorious Body

35 But someone will say, “How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?”

36 Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies.

37 And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain—perhaps wheat or some other grain.

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38 But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body.

39 All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, and another of birds.

40 There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.

41 There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory.

● **The resurrection of the dead**

42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.

43 It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.

44 It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

45 And so it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being.” The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual.

47 The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven.

48 As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly.

49 And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.

Our Final Victory

- Over death and decay

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.

- The catching away and the glorification of our bodies

51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—

52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”

55 “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?”

56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.

57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

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Session 12

1 Corinthians 16

Collection for the Saints

1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also:

2 On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.

3 And when I come, whomever you approve by your letters I will send to bear your gift to Jerusalem.

4 But if it is fitting that I go also, they will go with me.

Personal Plans

- Paul's update to his followers on his upcoming plans (Paul's newsletter)

5 Now I will come to you when I pass through Macedonia (for I am passing through Macedonia).

6 And it may be that I will remain, or even spend the winter with you, that you may send me on my journey, wherever I go.

7 For I do not wish to see you now on the way; but I hope to stay a while with you, if the Lord permits.

8 But I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost.

9 For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

10 And if Timothy comes, see that he may be with you without fear; for he does the work of the Lord, as I also do.

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11 Therefore let no one despise him. But send him on his journey in peace, that he may come to me; for I am waiting for him with the brethren.

12 Now concerning our brother Apollos, I strongly urged him to come to you with the brethren, but he was quite unwilling to come at this time; however, he will come when he has a convenient time.

Final Exhortations

- Last thoughts

13 Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.

14 Let all that you do be done with love.

15 I urge you, brethren—you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints—

16 that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us.

17 I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied.

18 For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men.

Greetings and a Solemn Farewell

- Paul's salutation

19 The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.

20 All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

21 The salutation with my own hand—Paul's.

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22 If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come!

23 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

24 My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

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