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BS4-How the Church Functions-Lesson 1

GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

The word "Charisma" defined:

The word "charismatic" is derived from the Greek word charisma (μ) meaning "a gift of grace" (charis-). The plural form is charismata (μ), "gifts of grace." (Rodman Williams, SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY, 1996 Zondervan Publishing House, Page 345)

1. (1 Corinthians 12:7 KJV) But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

Through the pneumatic charismata the Holy Spirit shines forth and openly shows Himself. The Spirit who is invisible now manifests Himself visibly. (Rodman Williams, SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY, 1996 Zondervan Publishing House, Page 330)

THE WORD OF WISDOM

...the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to know the mind of the Holy Spirit in such a way as to receive insight into how given knowledge may best be applied to specific needs arising in the Body of Christ. (Peter Wagner, YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS, 1994 Regal Books, Page 192)

2. (Proverbs 9:10 KJV) The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

3.(James 1:5-8 KJV) If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. {6} But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. {7} For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. {8} A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

4. (1 Corinthians 2:7 KJV) But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

THE WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

The word "knowledge" is related to fact. If a thing is knowledge, then it is not mystery. The gift of the word of knowledge deals with that which exists whether it be in the past or in the present. (Lester Sumrall, THE GIFTS AND MINISTRIES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, 1993 Whitaker House, Page 66)

5. (Proverbs 1:7 KJV) The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

DISCERNING OF SPIRITS

The gift of discerning of spirits is the special ability that God gives to some members of the Body of Christ to know with assurance whether certain behavior purported to be of God is in reality divine, human or satanic. (Peter Wagner, YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS, 1979 Regal Books, Page 96)

Some people claim to have "the gift of discernment" but there is no such gift. It is not a discernment of things; it is the discernment of spirits....It is divinely comprehending and understanding a human spirit - the kind of spirit a person possesses. (Lester Sumrall, THE GIFTS AND MINISTRIES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, 1993 Whitaker House, Page 76)

All Christians should have a level of discernment!

6. (Hebrews 5:14 KJV) But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

7. (Acts 17:11 KJV) These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

8. (1 John 4:1-3 KJV) Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. {2} Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: {3} And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. Example of the Gift of Discernment:

9. (Acts 8:20-23 KJV) But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. {21} Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. {22} Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. {23} For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.

10. (Acts 13:6-11 KJV) And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Barjesus: {7} Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God. {8} But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith. {9} Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, {10} And said, O full of all subtlety and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? {11} And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand.

PROPHECY

11. (Psalms 139:17-18 NIV) How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! {18} Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with you.

12. (Psalms 40:5 NASB) Many, O LORD my God, are the wonders which Thou hast done, And Thy thoughts toward us; There is none to compare with Thee; If I would declare and speak of them, They would be too numerous to count.

13. (Jeremiah 19:11 NKJV) "and say to them, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Even so I will break this people and this city, as one breaks a potter's vessel, which cannot be made whole again; and they shall bury them in Tophet till there is no place to bury.

14. (1 Corinthians 14:1 KJV) Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.

No other gift can excell prophecy in importance for the body of Christ. Although this gift is an individual distribution by the Holy Spirit, it is available to all. (Rodman Williams, SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY, 1996 Zondervan Publishing House, Page 380)

15. (1 Corinthians 14:24 KJV) But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all:

16. (1 Corinthians 14:31 KJV) For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted.

Potentially everyone may prophecy!

17. (Acts 2:17-18 KJV) And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: {18} And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

Prophecy, accordingly, is an immediate communication from God in the common language. It is a "speaking for God by which a person's tongue is completely at the disposal of the Holy Spirit. (Rodman Williams, SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY, 1996 Zondervan Publishing House, Page 382) Thus those particularly gifted with prophecy function as prophets whenever they are used by the Holy Spirit in this role. This does not mean that a person functioning as a prophet at a given time holds the office of a prophet. (Rodman Williams, SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY, 1996 Zondervan Publishing House, Page 381)

The foundation of prophecy is revelation, not a prepared message.

18. (1 Corinthians 14:29-30 KJV) Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge. {30} If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace.

19. (Ephesians 1:17-18 KJV) That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: {18} The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and

what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

FAITH

The gift of faith is the special ability that God gives to some members of the Body of Christ to discern with extraordinary confidence the will and purposes of God for the future of His work. (Peter Wagner, YOUR

SPIRITUAL GIFTS, 1994 Regal Books, Page 146)

20. (Hebrews 11:7 KJV) By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

The gift of faith, in turn may be the immediate background for the exercise of the two ministry gifts that follow: gifts of healing and effecting of miracles... there may be a special God-given faith in some situation to strengthen the faith of others. (Rodman Williams, SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY, 1996 Zondervan Publishing House, Page 359)

GIFTS OF HEALINGS

It is significant that this gift of the Spirit is not healings as such but gifts of healings..Thus the one who receives such gifts does not directly perform the healings; rather he simply transmits the gifts. He is a kind of "delivery boy" who brings the gifts to others; Hence such a person does not become a healer even for a moment: he or she only passes on the healings to others. (Rodman Williams, SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY, 1996 Zondervan Publishing House, Page 367)

21. (Matthew 4:23-24 KJV) And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. {24} And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatic, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.

WORKING OF MIRACLES

Note again the plural words - workings of miracles. The person is the one - "to another" - but the gift is multiple. Since the word "workings" is plural, a miracle may be wrought by many ways or methods. Since the word "miracles" is plural, many kinds of miracles may take place. (Rodman Williams, SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY, 1996 Zondervan Publishing House, Page 375)

22. (John 14:12 KJV) Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

DIVERS KINDS OF TONGUES

"Kinds of tongues: is a gift of the Spirit for the edification of the body....Since there often is confusion in this matter, we need to stress the difference between devotional tongues and ministry tongues. Devotional tongues, originating in the coming of the Spirit and continuing in the life of prayer and praise, have no limitation; all may speak in tongues. (Rodman Williams, SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY, 1996 Zondervan Publishing House, Page 397)

PRAYER LANGUAGE

23. (1 Corinthians 14:4-5 KJV) He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church. {5} I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.

GIFT OF TONGUES

24. (1 Corinthians 12:29-30 KJV) Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? {30} Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?

25. (1 Corinthians 14:26-28 KJV) How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying. {27} If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret. {28} But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.

No one understands the one speaking

26. (1 Corinthians 14:2 KJV) For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.

27. (1 Corinthians 14:13-15 KJV) Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret. {14} For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. {15} What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also. Tongues of men and of angels

28. (1 Corinthians 13:1 KJV) Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

The gift of interpretation of tongues is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to make known in the vernacular the message of one who speaks in tongues. (Peter Wagner, YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS, 1994 Regal Books, Page 206-207)

It is Interpretation, not translation!