

Spiritual Gifts Mini-Series (from I Cor.12-14)
Part 1: Got Gift? – Joel 2:28-29; I Cor.12:1-7, 11-12; Eph.4:4-7

0.0 Introduction

- 0.1 An irony of church history
- 0.2 Early church at Corinth: on isthmus between mainland Greece & Achaia
- 0.3 Among many fine parts of I-II Cor is this major piece on Spirit activity

1.0 The Nature of a Gift

- 1.1 “Spiritual” = originating from God and sent via his Spirit
- 1.2 Different from spiritual fruit = virtue transformation (Gal.5:22-24)
- 1.3 Given freely, rather than by obligation
- 1.4 “Things of the Spirit” (*pneumatikwn*, I Cor.12:1) and “gifts” (*charismatwn*, v.4), latter meaning ‘graces, kindnesses, favors’ (related to *charis* ‘grace’)
- 1.5 Delightful for both giver and receiver

2.0 The Spirit of the Gift

- 2.1 Tied to our conversion & sanctification – Spirit orchestrates these (I Pet.1:2)
- 2.2 Yet full involvement of Trinity (I Cor.12:4-6)
- 2.3 Same God is behind each person’s gifts → uni-diversity
- 2.4 We may be unaware of what is occurring to others or ourselves – *God’s* activity

3.0 The Receiver of the Gift

- 3.1 Given to *each* individual (I Cor.12:7a)
- 3.2 With a view to the common good (I Cor.12:7b)
- 3.3 “All empowered by one and same Spirit” (I Cor.12:11)
- 3.4 If God “made us one body” (I Cor.12:13), then we need to reach out accordingly

4.0 Wielding Gifts

- 4.1 Two factors pressed me to identify & grasp gifts
- 4.2 This season has severely tested the spirit of the Christian body
- 4.3 Generous, patient, focused believers much needed – and who spend time listening
- 4.4 “To whom much is given, much is expected” (Lk.12:48) – and we can love because he first loved us (I Jn.4:19)

Next week (Feb.20) – Part 2: Smorgasbord of Gifts
I Cor.12:4-12; Eph.4:7-1; Rom.12:6-8