

ST. SIMEON ANGLICAN CHURCH, OFF FUTA ROAD, AKURE

BIBLE STUDY, 05/08/2009

STUDY 4

THE DIVISIONS OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

I Peter 4:10 ó 11

The word *charisma*, with a single exception (I Peter 4:10), occurs in the New Testament only in the Pauline Epistles, and in the plural form is employed in a technical sense to denote extraordinary gifts of the Spirit bestowed upon Christians to equip them for the service of the church. Various lists of the spiritual gifts are given (Romans 12:6ó8; I Corinthians 12:4ó11, 28ó30; Ephesians 4:7ó12), none of which, it is evident, are exhaustive. Some of the gifts enumerated cannot be said to belong in any peculiar sense to the distinctive category. The peculiar spiritual gifts which Paul mentions fall into two great classesóthose which qualify their possessors for a ministry of the word, and those which prepare them to render services of a practical nature. Various efforts have been made to group or categorise the gifts mentioned in the Scriptures. Peter seems to distinguish between speaking gifts and service gifts in I Peter 4:10ó11 where he writes, "*As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth*". Some gifts focus primarily on "doing" and others on "speaking." Others have also attempted to categorise the spiritual gifts under such various headings as temporary and permanent; speaking, serving and sign; support, service and sign; and foundational, support, service and sign gifts. Each of these divisions has merit, depending on the purpose being served.

Questions for discussion

1. Identify and discuss the functions, importance and purpose of the spiritual gifts found in Romans 12:6ó8; I Corinthians 12:8ó10; I Corinthians 12:28; I Corinthians 12:29ó30; Ephesians 4:11.
2. Which of the gifts are connected with the ministry of the word and with practical service? Give reasons for your answers.
3. Carefully categorise spiritual gifts as found in Romans 12:6ó8; I Corinthians 12:8ó10; I Corinthians 12:28; I Corinthians 12:29ó30; Ephesians 4:11 under the following headings: temporary and permanent gifts; speaking, serving and sign gifts; support, service and sign gifts; and foundational, support, service and sign gifts.
4. Can you recognise any gift that is no longer in operation this day?
5. Are there differences and/or similarities which exist between certain gifts in terms of their function, importance and purpose? Point out such gifts and the differences/similarities which exist among them.

Conclusion

Some gifts carry with them particular honour because they are especially vital to the church. These are the support gifts which focus on the public ministry of the word. In this sense they support the church. The fourófold division of foundational, support, service, and sign gifts recognises the important distinction between the temporary foundational gifts and the other supportive gifts which are permanent, being a part of the superstructure phase of the church rather than its foundational phase of building. Whichever method of division is employed, it is

important to recognise the differences which exist between certain gifts. There are differences in function, differences in importance, and differences in purpose which, when recognised, greatly enhance our understanding of the gifts themselves.

The diversity of spiritual gifts

The following chart shows the spiritual gifts as they are listed in the indicated New Testament passages.

<u>Romans 12:6–8</u>	<u>I Cor. 12:29–30</u>	<u>I Corinthians 12:8–10</u>	<u>Ephesians 4:11</u>	<u>I Corinthians 12:28</u>
Prophecy	apostles	word of wisdom	apostles	apostles
ministry	Prophecy	word of knowledge	prophets	prophets
teaching	teaching	faith	evangelists	teachers
exhortation	miracles	healing	pastoróteacher	miracles
giving	healing	miracles		healings
ruling	tongues	prophecy		helping
showing mercy	interpreting tongues	discerning of spirits		governing
		kinds of tongues		diverse tongues
		interpreting tongues		

Divisions of spiritual gifts listed in their categories

1. /Temporary /Permanent	2. /Speaking /Serving /Sign	3./Support /Service /Sign	4./Foundational /Support /Service /Sign
<u>Temporary</u> apostleship prophecy knowledge wisdom discerning spirits miracles healings tongues interpreting tongues	<u>Speaking</u> apostles prophecy evangelism pastor-teacher teaching <u>Serving</u> ruling governing faith giving helping mercy ministry	<u>Support</u> apostles prophecy evangelism pastor-teacher teaching <u>Service</u> ruling governing exhortation faith giving helping mercy	<u>Foundational</u> apostles prophets <u>Service</u> ruling governing exhortation faith giving helping mercy ministry <u>Support</u> evangelism

ruling
governing
exhortation
faith
giving
helping
mercy
ministry

Sign
discern spirits
miracles
healings
tongues
interpreting tongues
wisdom
knowledge

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