

ST. SIMEON ANGLICAN CHURCH, OFF FUTA ROAD, AKURE

BIBLE STUDY, 22/07/2009

STUDY 2

THE DIVERSITY OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

I Corinthians 12:4-6

Having come to an understanding of the nature of spiritual gifts, it is good to find exactly what gifts have been given. God hath distributed variety of gifts and graces in different degrees amongst His people. The one Spirit is refracted into various spiritual endowments unique to the several members (I Corinthians 12:11). Every man hath his proper gift of God, and the gifts and graces of all are this way made useful and beneficial. Job was exemplary for plainness and patience; Moses for faithfulness and meekness; Josiah for tenderness. One hath quickness of parts, but not so solid a judgment; another is solid, but not so ready and quick. One hath a good wit, another a better memory, a third excels them both in utterance. One is zealous, but ungrounded, another well principled, but timorous. One is wary and prudent, another open and plain hearted. One is trembling, another cheerful. And thus the gospel must have both its Boanerges (sons of thunder) and its Barnabas (son of consolation); the first, as it were, to cleanse and purge the air before it can be fit for the smiles of a Saviour. Unspeakable are the benefits resulting from spiritual and orderly communion.

Now, the end and use of church fellowship is to make a rich improvement of all by a regular use and exercise of the gifts and graces found in every one. One must impart his light, and another his warmth. The eye, viz., the knowing man, cannot say to the hand, viz., the active man, I have no need of thee. Moses with all his knowledge and ruling abilities required Aaron's elocution; and he who "speaks with the tongue of angels" may yet be at a loss when he comes to matters of controversy. And this should prevent the despondency of the meanest understandings (I Corinthians 12:21-22). Let not the foot trample upon itself because it does not rule the body, but consider that it has the honour to support it. Nay, the greatest abilities are sometimes beholding to the very meanest.

Questions for discussion

1. What is meant by diversity of gifts? Does the diversity of the Spirit's gifts exclude contrariety?
2. Carefully identify the gifts of the Spirit found in Romans 12:6-8; I Corinthians 12:8-10; I Corinthians 12:28; I Corinthians 12:29-30 and Ephesians 4:11. Can we insist that all the lists together are complete lists of spiritual gifts?
3. Identify those gifts which appear more than once and in more than one of Paul's epistles. Romans 12:6-8; I Corinthians 12:8-10; I Corinthians 12:28; I Corinthians 12:29-30 and Ephesians 4:11. Subtracting those repeated gifts, what is the total of the spiritual gifts?
4. Take a close examination of the lists of the spiritual gifts found in Romans 12:6-8; I Corinthians 12:8-10; I Corinthians 12:28; I Corinthians 12:29-30 and Ephesians 4:11; does your examination reveal some overlap in the lists? If yes, identify some of them.
5. Which of the epistles can be considered the key list or that mentions the gifts in order of importance? Romans 12:6-8; I Corinthians 12:8-10; I Corinthians 12:28; I Corinthians 12:29-30 and Ephesians 4:11.
6. Are the spiritual gifts for today? I Corinthians 13:8-12.
7. Is it possible to identify those who seem to have the spiritual gifts but are not truly born-again? I Corinthians 13:16; Matthew 7:20
8. What is the problem of the church at Corinth that Paul addressed at length in I Corinthians 14?
9. What do you understand by these phrases of the Scriptures "*Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery*". "*Stir up the gift of God, which is in thee ... for God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind*" I Timothy 4:14; II Timothy 1:6-7.

Conclusion

In the Church there are, and must be, several members having their several uses and stations (I Corinthians 12:28); the employment of so many parts subserving the joint interest and design of the whole as the motion of a clock is a complicated motion of so many wheels fitly put together; and life itself but the result of several operations, all issuing from and contributing to the support of the same body (I Corinthians 12:29-30). As in the natural body the eyes do not speak, nor the tongue see, so neither in the spiritual is every one who has the gift of prophecy endued also with the gift and spirit of government, etc. Now God has use of all the several tempers and constitutions of men, to serve the Church by.