

ST. SIMEON ANGLICAN CHURCH, OFF FUTA ROAD, AKURE

BIBLE STUDY, 29/07/2009

STUDY 3

THE DISTRIBUTION OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN THE CHURCH

I Corinthians 12:4 6 6

In the opening verses of I Corinthians 12, Paul raises and answers an important question. The question concerns the matter of the distribution of the spiritual gifts. Who gives them? And who receives them? This dimension of the subject makes it particularly exciting. These spiritual gifts, though proceeding from the same Spirit, are yet various. They have one author and original, but are themselves of various kinds. *There are diversities of gifts*, such as revelations, tongues, prophecy, interpretations of tongues; *but the same Spirit. There are differences of administrations*, or different offices, and officers to discharge them, different ordinances and institutions (I Corinthians 12:28-30), *but the same Lord*, who appointed all, I Corinthians 12:6. *There are diversities of operations*, or miraculous powers (I Corinthians 12:10), *but it is the same God that worketh all in all*. "Gifts," "administrations," "operations," respectively correspond to the Divine Tree. Spiritual gifts are "gifts" of the same Spirit of holiness and knowledge (I Corinthians 2:10); 'ministrations' in the service of the same Lord of love, and "operations" derived from the same Source, the omnipotent Father (I Corinthians 8:6), omnipotence.

The source of these spiritual gifts was God's grace, and the agent by whom they were produced was the Holy Ghost. They were grace gifts; and the apostle expressly says that amid diversity of gifts it is one and the same Spirit by whom they are bestowed, and amid diversity of services it is one and the same Lord by whom they are appointed, and amid diversity of operations it is one God who energises all in all (I Corinthians 12:4-6).

Questions for discussion

1. Describe the differences between gifts, administration and operations. I Corinthians 12:4-6.
2. What is the source of the spiritual gifts? I Corinthians 12:4-6; Ephesians 4:7, 11; James 1:
3. Who may receive the spiritual gifts? Ephesians 4:7; I Peter 4:10; I Corinthians 12:7, 11, 18.
4. What happen to a church that depends upon the "professional" ministers only? I Corinthians 12:12-31
5. It is true that all Christians have a gift but do all have the same gift? Is there any gift that is universal? I Corinthians 12:12-31
6. Each Christian has a spiritual gift, but does he possess one only spiritual gift? Discuss with examples. I Timothy 3:16; I Corinthians 12:11; II Timothy 4:16; I Peter 4:10-11
7. Is there any varied degree of giftedness which God has wisely bestowed? I Corinthians 12:6; Romans 12:3, 6; II Timothy 1:6
8. Can Christian minister outside his area of giftedness? Could he do so effectively?

Conclusion

There are various gifts, administrations, and operations, but all proceed from one God, one Lord, one Spirit; that is, from Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, the spring and origin of all spiritual blessings and bequests: all issue from the same fountain; all have the same author. Spiritual gifts are gifts given by the Triune Godhead secured by the conquering Lord Jesus for every one of His people. God has sovereignly and variously equipped each member to function in his or her unique place in the body. This function is not optional but expected and essential to the body as a

whole. And while no one gift is universal, all within the body are to care for the others in every way possible. This is God's way of ministering to His church not through a gifted pastor only or through only a few in leadership, but through all the members gifted to serve one another. This is the only way a body can function.