

Abide Part 17: Operating in Love (2-10-2019)

Review: The Gifts are for Today, & we use them in Love by walking in: Humility, Unity, Responsibility, & Honor

- God desires that we not be ignorant, lack understanding or ignore His Gifts for us
- His desire is that the diversity of gifts be available to all as needed to benefit the whole body

We have covered most of “The Spiritual Gifts” listed in Romans 12 & 1 Corinthians 12 the last 2 weeks.

Today: Reflecting on some challenging aspects of the Spiritual Gifts, followed by group discussion.

Opening: The opening & closing of 1 Corinthians chapter 14 sets the tone

1 Corinthians 14:1 (ESV)

Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.

1 Corinthians 14:39-40 (ESV)

(39) So, my brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. (40) But all things should be done decently and in order.

1) Prayer language - Speaking in Tongues

1 Corinthians 14:2 (ESV)

For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 14:4 (ESV)

The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself . . .

1 Corinthians 14:14-15 (ESV)

(14) For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. (15) What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.

Notes:

- 1) Speaking to God – mysteries in the Spirit
- 2) Builds me up
- 3) Engage your spirit & your mind – often praying in tongues leads to clarity & prayer in my own language

2) Prophecy

a) Prophecy – builds up, encourages, and consoles or comforts . . .

1 Corinthians 14:3 (ESV)

On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation.

1 Corinthians 14:4 (ESV)

The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself . . . but the one who prophesies builds up the church.

b) Handling Prophecy . . .

- **Be open to Prophecy**

1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 (ESV)

(19) Do not quench the Spirit. (20) Do not despise prophecies, (21) but test everything; hold fast what is good.

- **Test Prophecy** – both the prophet & the substance of the words . . .

1 John 4:1 (ESV)

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but **test the spirits** to see whether they are from God, for **many false prophets** have gone out into the world.

2 Peter chapter 2 – a very direct & harsh warning against false prophets & teachers

Acts 17:10-12 (ESV)

(10) The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. (11) Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; **they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.** (12) Many of them therefore believed, with not a few Greek women of high standing as well as men.

3) Orderly Worship Service

a) Tongues – if not interpreted, they do not help the body in an organized setting

1 Corinthians 14:9-13, 18-19 (ESV)

(9) So with yourselves, if with your tongue you utter speech that is not intelligible, how will anyone know what is said? For you will be speaking into the air. (10) There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning, (11) but if I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me. (12) So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, **strive to excel in building up the church.** (13) Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret . . . (18) I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. (19) Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

b) **Tongues** – can be confusing to outsiders/visitors

1 Corinthians 14:23 (ESV)

If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds?

c) **Prophecy & Tongues** – under the control of the speaker, in an orderly fashion

1 Corinthians 14:31-33 (ESV)

(31) For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged, (32) and the **spirits of prophets are subject to prophets**. (33) For God is not a God of confusion but of peace. As in all the churches of the saints

Closing: The Way of Love (1 Corinthians 13)

1 Corinthians 13:1 (ESV)

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

Notes: Tongues (understood or not) without love – distracting & obnoxious

1 Corinthians 13:2 (ESV)

And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

Notes: Prophecy & miracles without love – amounts to nothing (no substance)

1 Corinthians 13:3 (ESV)

If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Notes: If I avoid spiritual gifts & just live a life of service & sacrifice, but with no love – I gain nothing!

Instead, let's walk in Love in our Church Community . . .

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (ESV)

(4) Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant (5) or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; (6) it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. (7) Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (8) Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.

For Reference:

The Primary Passages Listing the Spiritual Gifts

Romans 12:6-8 (ESV)

(6) Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if **prophecy**, in proportion to our faith; (7) if **service**, in our serving; the one who **teaches**, in his teaching; (8) the one who **exhorts**, in his exhortation; the one who **contributes**, in generosity; the one who **leads**, with zeal; the one who does acts of **mercy**, with cheerfulness.

1 Corinthians 12:8-10 (ESV)

(8) For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of **wisdom**, and to another the utterance of **knowledge** according to the same Spirit, (9) to another **faith** by the same Spirit, to another gifts of **healing** by the one Spirit, (10) to another the working of **miracles**, to another **prophecy**, to another the ability to **distinguish between spirits**, to another **various kinds of tongues**, to another the **interpretation of tongues**.

1 Corinthians 12:28 (ESV)

(28) And God has appointed in the church first **apostles**, second **prophets**, third **teachers**, then **miracles**, then gifts of **healing**, **helping**, **administrating**, and various kinds of **tongues**.

Ephesians 4:11-12 (ESV)

(11) And he gave the **apostles**, the **prophets**, the **evangelists**, the **shepherds** and **teachers**, (12) to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ

Exploring the Gifts . . .

- **Prophecy** (Propheteia G4394) – Romans 12:6, 1 Corinthians 12:10 (also see Role of Prophet)
 - **Meaning:** A discourse emanating from divine inspiration and declaring the purposes of God, whether by reproving and admonishing the wicked, or comforting the afflicted, or revealing things hidden; or by foretelling future events
- Prophecy defined:** God inspired speech or action that is either **Fore-telling** (future) or **Forth-telling** (now)
- **Examples:** 1 Thess. 5:20 – despise not prophesy, 1 Timothy 4:14 – Timothy commissioned by prophecy, 2 Peter 1:20-21 – Scripture came by prophecy
 - **Word of Wisdom** (Logos G3056 “word” & Sophia G4678 “wisdom”) – 1 Corinthians 12:8
 - **Meaning:** Wisdom, understanding, insight, skill, tact, expertise. Practical wisdom, and management, including the idea of sound judgment and good sense.
 - **Word of Knowledge** (Logos G3056 “word” & Gnosis G1108 “knowledge”) – 1 Corinthians 12:8
 - **Meaning:** Knowing, to know something, general knowledge and understanding

- ***The Role of a Prophet*** (Prophetes G4396) – 1 Corinthians 12:28, Ephesians 4:11
 - **Meaning:** One who, moved by the inspiration of God speaks to instruct, comfort, encourage, rebuke, convict, and stimulate, their hearers. They can speak concerning future events.
 - **Examples:** Luke 7:26-28 (John the Baptist), Acts 15:32 (Judas & Silas – prophets who comfort & strengthen the church @ Antioch)

- **Healing** (iama G2386) – 1 Corinthians 12:9, 28

Related: Only 3 occurrences of this word in NT, all in this passage (as a noun: “gifts of healings”), but root is from (G2390 – iaomai which is a verb)

- **Meaning:** (iama) - a cure, healing, a means of healing, remedy, or medicine, a healing or cure, the result of the process of healing. (iaomai) – to heal, make whole, To heal, cure, restore to bodily health. Metaphorically, of moral diseases, to heal or save from the consequences of sin.
- **Examples:** Physical healings by Jesus & the disciples (Luke 6:18, Acts 3:11), demonic oppression (Luke 9:42), Consider the implications of Dr. Luke focusing on these! Also includes spiritual healing (James 5:16), and ultimately, Jesus healed us of our sinful condition on the cross . . .

1 Peter 2:24 (ESV)

(Jesus) himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

- **Miracles** (working: energema - G1755 / miracles: dunamis – G1411) – 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28
 - **Working / Energema**
 - **Meaning:** Operation, effect, working (the idea is being “energized” by God’s Grace), same word as a verb: energeo - G1754: to be at work, active, effective, mighty.
 - **Examples:** (1 Cor. 12:6) diversity in operations, same God working in all. (Gal. 5:6) all that counts is faith working through love, (James 5:16) – effectual fervent prayer avails much.
 - **Miracles / Dunamis**
 - **Meaning:** Most often translated “power” (71) – also: mighty, miracles, strength. Miraculous power, might, strength, force, ability. To be able or capable.
 - **Examples:** (Luke 1:35) the power of the Holy Spirit that caused Mary to become pregnant with Jesus – **it was the how to her humble yes!** (Luke 4:14) after his temptation Jesus returns in the power of the Spirit, (Luke 8:46) power goes out of Jesus

to heal the woman with the issue of blood, (Luke 9:1) Jesus gives power to his disciples to heal the sick & cast out devils, (Acts 1:8) Jesus promises the receiving of power from the Holy Spirit, (Romans 1:16) the gospel is the power of God for salvation, (Romans 15:13) **Our joy, peace, & hope are by the power of the Holy Spirit!**

- **Examples: Energeo & Dunamis together:** (Matt. 14:2) worked in Jesus, (Ephesians 3:20) works in the life of a believer to understand the depth of the love of God, (Col. 1:28-29) works in Paul to bring others to full understanding of the gospel of Jesus.

- **Various kinds of Tongues** (various: genos – G1085 / tongues: glossa – G1100) – 1 Cor. 12:10, 28
 - **Meaning: Tongues / Glossa** – tongue (the body part), language or speech,
 - **Paul mentions “various” tongues:** genos – kind, family, lineage, nation
 - 1 Cor. 12:10 (various tongues)
 - **Jesus mentions a “new” tongue:** kainos – G2537 – new, fresh, unused, novel, unprecedented
 - Mark 16:17 (new tongues), 2 Cor. 5:17 (new creation), Luke 5:38 (new wine skin)
 - **Luke mentions “other” tongues:** heteros – G2087 – other, another, different
 - Acts 2:4 (other tongues)
 - **Examples:**
 - **Foreign Language** – a known foreign language, but previously un-known to you
 - Acts 2:11 (at Pentecost)
 - **Un-Known prayer language** – for private prayer
 - 1 Cor. Chapter 14 (we will review this in detail next week)
 - **Un-known prayer language accompanied by interpretation** – for corporate prayer
 - Acts 10:46 (Gentiles receive HS: tongues & magnify God)
 - Acts 19:6 (Paul @ Ephesus – believers in John the Baptist, now accept Jesus & receive baptism of HS – tongues & prophecy)
 - 1 Cor. Chapter 14 (as mentioned above)