



“Letters to the Corinthians” Study Notes

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Lesson 23: The HOLY SPIRIT'S Gifts (Not Yours)

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Read Mark 13:21-23. What caution/warning are we given here? Why should we remember this when we are studying the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

Read Matthew 7:21-23. What sobering warning are we given here? Again, why must we keep these things in mind as we study the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

Read Ephesians 4:25-32. In context, all these instructions are given for what kind of relationships? Why should we put away falsehood? Why should we not let the sun go down on our anger? Why should we not steal, but labor? Why should we watch our words? In the context, verses 25-29, 31-32, what might we do that might grieve the Holy Spirit? Again, what does that tell us about the purpose of the Holy Spirit and His giftings to us? What should we put away? How should we engage each other?

Romans 12:3-8. What does Paul warn here? How does this passage go along with these verses in 1 Corinthians? Again, what is the focus of the gifts? What is their purpose?

Read Acts 19:11-20. Who was doing miracles? What did God do with handkerchiefs and aprons? What did some enterprising Jewish exorcists decide to do? What startling response did the evil spirit give? What happened to these exorcists? What was the result for the body of Christ?

Read Hebrews 2:1-4. What must we be careful about? What was declared to us? What went along with the message that was sent, to verify the authenticity of the message?

Read Acts 2:5-11. When the Holy Spirit came onto the apostles, what were they able to do? Why were the people astonished?

Read Deuteronomy 18:18-22. Why is it such a big deal for a prophet who says they have a word from God to be 100% accurate? Is there any reason to think that this criteria was only for the time of the Old Testament?

Read 1 John 4:1-6. What are we NOT to believe? What are we to do instead? How will we know whether they are true or false? What does it mean to confess that Jesus Christ has come?

Think about this. If someone claimed to serve and honor Christ, yet they also taught that you, yourself, could become a little god, slightly lower than Christ, why would that teaching negate their confession? If someone claimed to honor Christ and taught that it is always God's will to heal a sick believer, again, how would that demonstrate they do not honor the true Christ? Ladies, there are MANY who claim to serve Christ, but if the Christ they serve is not the Christ described in Scripture, they are worshipping a different Christ, whether they know it or not. This is why it is SO important for YOU to know YOUR Bible, so when you hear these things you can examine whether they hold up against God's word...or not.

Read Galatians 5:16-26. We see here another list, again, not exhaustive, this time of what the fruit of having the Holy Spirit of God dwelling in you will look like in your life. Paul starts, though, by providing a "baseline" as he describes the fleshly desires of the world. What does it look like to walk with the world? Can you remain in your sin, unrepentant, indefinitely, and still actually be part of Christ? Look at the list of "works of the flesh". You should be able to find at LEAST three or more things listed there that apply to your own life, that you may be battling even today. What happens when we compare those fruit to the fruit of the Spirit? Ladies, don't misunderstand: I'm not saying you are going to completely stop sinning in this life. However, while you may still struggle with your sin toward strife or envy, it should be a struggle, and it should be one that makes you hate your sin more and more and love God more and more. If you don't think your sin is that big of a deal, you need to consider whether you truly understand the Gospel.

Ladies, God has so graciously given us His Spirit to dwell in our very hearts and to guide and direct us, convicting us of sin and exhorting us to go forth for Him. The gifts that the Spirit bestows are not for your own glory, but for the benefit of the body of Christ. Think about that, today. How do the gifts given to the body benefit the body, today? What unique gifts might you find that we have in 2018 in the body of Christ that were not necessary back in 100 AD? Do you see how God has been faithful to continue to provide those gifts that are necessary? As you spend time with God today, ask Him to help you to grow in discernment, that you may not be led astray by any means, to a false idea of God and His purpose. Truly evaluate the gifts you have been given and see how you can use them to build up the body of Christ. And, ladies, examine the fruit of those who, today, continue to elevate certain gifts over others. Examine what they teach, especially those who claim to be able to command miracles today, and look to see whether they preach a saving Gospel, calling for repentance of SIN and faith in Christ alone. Please, ladies, do not be deceived. Those who are putting on a show that has nothing to do with honoring God will be found out, and God will deal with them. Test EVERYTHING and make sure whatever you are learning lines up with Scripture. Ask God to increase your desire to know who He truly is, and to draw you to His Word to find out more about Him and how He desires to be worshiped, and how He interacts with His people. You'll never fathom the depth of our God, ladies, but oh, what a wonderful way to invest your time, in the God who created you, died for you, and will raise you up on the last day.