

Remnant Life Church  
February 2, 2014

**“Why Are The Gifts Important?”**  
I Corinthians 12:11

- **Why do we give and receive gifts?**
  - As an act of love or affection
  - To give assistance to someone
  - Increase what is already happening
- **The nature of a physical gift is always positive never negative**
  - The same applies to the GOTS
  - The only negative aspect of the gifts occurs when the users of the gift takes their eyes off of God and allows the attention to be on themselves
- **Embracing the gifts of the spirit means understanding them**
  - Not only what they are but why they are
  - Why did Paul write about these to the church in Corinth?

**1. The letter to the Corinthian church**

- a. Located about 3 miles NE from today's city
- b. Corinth was an ancient city (several thousand years old in Paul's day) that was completely destroyed by Rome in 146 BC
- c. Julius Caesar had it rebuilt around 44 BC and it was in that city that Paul founded the church
- d. The city was situated about 40 miles west of Athens
  - i. Its proximity to 2 ports in addition to its geographic topography gave it strategic importance to N-S-E-W trade and travel
  - ii. The wealth and all that involved with it was the background that Paul worked in
  - iii. It also insured a tremendous diversity of people including religious practices, beliefs and customs
- e. On the hill overlooking the city was the temple to the goddess Aphrodite whose entire religion was based on the hedonistic (pleasure) lifestyle
- f. If you were looking to plant a church this would have been one of the most difficult places to do it

## 2. The 3 primary elements of I Corinthians

- a. Addressing some of the church member's reluctance to completely break with the past – still embracing behavior that was inconsistent and therefore causing division
- b. Instruction on the life of the Christian and how to live an empowered life following Jesus (purpose of the gifts)
- c. The most important factor of life - love (**I Cor. 13**)

## 3. Why are the gifts important?

- a. As the end times increase in intensity the church will need to have these gifts in operation to have victory and maintain focus on God
- b. The necessity of diversity for the health, growth and good of the church
- c. Not unity in conformity rather the importance of everyone operating in their specific gift
- d. All of the gifts (should) point a person to God, the giver of the gift
  - i. *Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.* - **James 1:17**

## 4. What would keep the gifts from operating today?

- a. We do not embrace, teach, desire to understand or ask for them
  - i. *...You do not have because you do not ask God.* **James 4:2**
  - ii. **I Tim 4:14** – *Do not neglect the gift that is in you...*
  - iii. The word neglect means to take lightly or have no regard for
  - iv. If something is not important we will neglect it
  - v. **II Tim 1:6** - *...stir up the gift of God*
  - vi. Stir up (or fan into flame from the NIV) is the picture of rekindling a fire with the present embers
- b. They are embraced and operate in the flesh rather than the spirit
  - i. There is always contention between the flesh and the spirit (**Mark:14:38; John 6:63; Rom 8:6**)
  - ii. Things done in the flesh are counterfeit and not from God (contrary to His Word)
- c. The leadership of the church will not allow them to become active
  - i. The authority of the church must be honored (**I Thess 5:12-13**)
  - ii. The gifts will not operate where they are not welcomed
- d. A present atmosphere of skepticism and unbelief in a church

- i. Jesus about to raise a young girl from the dead
- ii. **Mark 5:39-40** – Jesus cleared the room except for the mother and father and those who truly believed
- e. Ignorance of what they are and how they operate
  - i. **Hosea 4:6**
  - ii. Out of ignorance comes fear

*All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines (wills).*

**I Cor. 12:11**

*The Code of the Holy Spirit – Perry Stone (2013)*

“When desiring a spiritual gift, we must keep in mind that the gift is not given to show we are more superior to others or more spiritual, and certainly must not be operated with pride. The gifts are for the edification, exhortation, and comfort of the church, and to assist in ministering to the unsaved, revealing the living God.”