

## **NOW CONCERNING SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

The phrase “**Now concerning**” is used by Paul to answer a series of doctrinal questions asked by the Corinthian Church (1 Cor.7:1, 7:25; 8:1; 12:1; 15:1; 16:1 & 12).

1 Cor.12-14 will answer several questions regarding the subject of spiritual gifts.

This phrase is used to introduce the subject of Spiritual Gifts: “**Now** (explanatory conjunction /de) **concerning** (peri + gen. of reference) **spiritual** (ton pneumatikos / gpln) **gifts**” (1 Cor.12:1).

**This lesson will study FIVE points of Introduction to the subject of “Now Concerning Spiritual Gifts”.**

- 1. While it is true that Paul wrote 1 Cor.12-14 to answer specific questions regarding Spiritual Gifts, he also wrote to correct some congregational problems arising from this subject.**

Paul addressed the following 8 problem areas arising from the subject of Spiritual Gifts.

He wrote to **correct ignorance** (1 Cor.12:1) (agnoeo) [lack of correct information] and (schisma) [**division**] (1 Cor.12:25) and to **encourage** (agape) [**love**] (1 Cor.13:1-8) and to (oikodome) [**encourage**] **edification**, (paraklesis) [**exhortation**], (paramuthia) [**consolation or speaking kindly**] (1 Cor.14:3-5, 12) and to **correct** (paidion) [**childish**] (akatastasia) **thinking** (deficient in spiritual understanding) (1 Cor.14:20) and (akatastasia) [**confusion**] [instability leading to disorder] (1 Cor.14:33) .

“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable **for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness**; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.” (2Tim.3:16-17)

- 2. Paul began by giving two criterion by which the Christian might determine whether or not he was being guided by the teaching ministry of The Holy Spirit. (1 Cor.12:2-3; 1 John 4:1-3, 15) (test spirit – truth vs. lies).**

**First**, Paul reminded them that as unbelievers they had been led by idolatrous (old man cosmos diabolicus) thinking: “You know that when you were pagans (ethnos) [Gentiles], you were led astray (ago / impf.p.ind) to the dumb idols (aphonos eidolon), however you were led (apago / p.p.ptc nplm).” (1 Cor.12:2)

**Second**, Paul reminded them that as believers the Holy Spirit leads them in ways (thinking) compatible with the word of God. i.e. New Man Divine Viewpoint (NMDV) thinking: “Therefore (dio) [because of this] I make known (gnorizo / p.a.ind) to dispel Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus (OMCD) thinking (ignorance) to you, that no one (oudeis) speaking by the Spirit of God says, **Jesus is accursed**; and no one (oudeis) can say, **Jesus is Lord**, except by the Holy Spirit.” (1 Cor.12:3)

“And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the **Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but **you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you.**” (John 14:16-17; 16:13-15)

- 3. The distribution of a spiritual gift to every church age believer is based upon the completion of the ascension-session of Jesus:**

“Therefore it says, ‘when He ascended on high, He led captive a host of captives, and **He gave (didomi / a.a.ind) gifts** (doma) [gift for special occasion] **to men.**” (Eph.4:8; Ps.68:18)

Three important church age ministries of the Holy Spirit are based on the ascension and session of Jesus:

- **The first** is the distinction between The Holy Spirit as being a spiritual gift (singular) and spiritual gifts (plural) being given from the Holy Spirit (Gal.3:2-3, 14, Rom.8:9).
- **The second** is that the Holy Spirit indwells every church age believer at the moment of grace salvation: “But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.” (John 7:39; 1 Cor.6:19-20).
- **The third** is that spiritual gifts are distributed by the Holy Spirit to every church age believer at the moment of grace salvation: “To each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” (1 Cor.12:7) and “But the one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.”(1 Cor.12:11)

**4. Six different Greek words are used to describe the uniqueness of spiritual gifts within the local church body (1 Cor.12-14).**

- **Pneumatikos** (1Cor.12:1) It emphasizes the distribution and exercise of spiritual gifts by means of indwelling Holy Spirit (Gal.3:2-3; 1 Cor.6:19-20).
- **Charisma** (1 Cor.12:4) It emphasizes the influence of grace salvation through the gospel of Jesus Christ upon the distribution of spiritual gifts (Eph.2:8-9; Rom.1:16; 1 Cor.15:3-4).
- **Diakonia** (1 Cor.12:5) It emphasizes the ministry service of spiritual gifts within the local body of Christ, the church (1 Cor.12:12-27).
- **Energema** (1 Cor.12:6) It emphasizes the performance of spiritual gifts as the program of supernatural ministries of the local church (1 Cor.12-14).
- **Tithemi** (1 Cor.12:28) It emphasizes the appointment of each spiritual gift as part of the master plan of God for each local church.
- **Oikodome** (1 Cor.14:12) It emphasizes the importance of edification of the local body of Christ through the proper function of spiritual gifts.

**5. There are four major passages of Scriptures that list spiritual gifts. We will list them under each of the four passages.**

<u>1Cor.12:8-10</u>	<u>1 Cor.12:28-30</u>	<u>Rom.12:6-8</u>	<u>Eph.4:11</u>
Word of wisdom	Apostles	Prophecy	Apostles
Word of knowledge	Prophets	Service	Prophets
Different faith	Teachers	Teach	Evangelists
Gifts of healings	Miracles	Exhort	Pastor-teacher
Gifts of miracles	Gifts of healings	Give	
Prophecy	Helps	Lead	
Distinguishing of spirits	Administration	Mercy	
Kinds of tongues	Kinds of tongues		
Interpretation of tongues	Interpret of tongues		
Count_____	Count_____	Count_____	Count_____

**Mark through the ones that are repeated and total up the remaining unmarked gifts, writing the total number of spiritual gifts on this line\_\_\_\_\_.**