

INTRODUCTION TO SPIRITUAL GIFTS

The phrase, “**Now Concerning,**” is used by Paul to address a series of doctrinal subjects asked by the Corinthian believers.

| | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| (1Cor.7:1) | [marriage] | (1Cor.8:1) | [idolatry] | (1Cor.15:1) | [gospel] |
| (1Cor.7:25) | [virginity] | (1Cor.12:1) | [spiritual gifts] | (1Cor.16:1) | [giving to missions] |
| | | | | (1Cor.16:12) | [Apollos’ ministry] |

You can see that Paul used this phrase to introduce the subject:
“**Now Concerning Spiritual Gifts**” (ton pneumatikos)

| |
|--|
| This lesson will study five points of Introduction to the subject of Spiritual Gifts. |
|--|

- 1. While it is true that Paul wrote 1 Cor.12-14 to address specific questions regarding spiritual gifts, he also wrote it to correct some problems arising from them.**

In 1 Cor.12-14, Paul addressed eight problem areas arising from spiritual gifts within the congregation: ignorance (12:1) and division (12:25) and love (13:1-8) and edification and exhortation and consolation (14:3-5, 12) and childish thinking (14:20) and confusion (14:33).

We must approach the subject of spiritual gifts by applying 2 Tim.3:16-17 - “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

- 2. Paul began in 1 Cor.12:1-7 by establishing two criteria for understanding the subject of spiritual gifts. (1 Cor.12:1-3; 1 John 4:1-3, 15).**

First criteria addressed the old man cosmos diabolicus problem of influence of pagan cultural Corinthian idolatry before saved (12:2) [you know].

Second criteria addressed the new man divine viewpoint of the influence of Christianity by the indwelling Holy Spirit after salvation (12:3) [therefore / Jesus is Lord].

- 3. The distribution of spiritual gifts to church age believers is based on the ascension and session of Jesus Christ, followed by the parakletos ministry of the Holy Spirit (John 7:38-39; 14-16).**

“As for me (John), I baptize you with water for repentance, but He (Christ) who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” (Matt.3:11; John 1:29-34) [Jesus].

“Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.” (Acts 2:33)

There is a difference between the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (Gal.3:1-5; Rom.8:9; 1 Cor.6:19-20) and the distribution of a spiritual gift (1 Cor.12:7, 11).

“But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.” (12:11)

4. Six different Greek words are used in 1 Cor.12-14 to describe the uniqueness of spiritual gifted ministries within the local church body.

- **Pneumatikos** (12:1) emphasizes that both the distribution and the exercise of spiritual gifts belong to the indwelling Holy Spirit (Gal.3:1-5; 1 Cor.6:19-20).
- **Charisma** (12:3-6) emphasizes the results of the influence of grace salvation upon the distribution and exercise and ministry of spiritual gifts (Eph.2:8-9; Rom.1:16; 1 Cor.15:3-4).
- **Diakonia** (12:5) emphasizes the ministry of service of spiritual gifts within the local church (12:12-27).
- **Energema** (12:6) emphasizes the results of the ministry performance of spiritual gifts as the program of the local church (1 Cor.12-14; Rom.12).
- **Tithemi** (12:28) emphasizes the strategic appointment of each spiritual gift as part of the master plan of God for the local church (Eph.4:11-13; 1 Pet.4:10-11).
- **Oidodome** (14:12) emphasizes the importance of edification of the congregation of the local church through the proper function of spiritual gifts.

5. There are four main passages of Scriptures listing spiritual gifts. We will list them under each heading.

| <u>1 Cor.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-teachers |
| Gifts of miracles | Gifts of healings | Give | |
| Prophecy | Helps | Lead | |
| Distinguishing 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, count the unmarked gifts and write the number under each list. Then add the four count lists and write the total number on this blank line bellow.

Total count _____.

**“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware.”
(1 Cor.12:1)**