

THE MASTER'S PLAN FOR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Paul used the two Greek words (tithemi and sugkerannumi) to established that all spiritual gifts are predetermined according to the Master's Plan in 1 Cor.12 for the local church.

Paul used tithemi to teach that God places each spiritual gifted believer in the local church for a spiritual gifted ministry:

(1 Cor.12:18) "But now God has placed (tithemi / a.m.ind. 3ps) each one of them, in the body, just as He desired."

(1 Cor.12:28) "And God has appointed (tithemi / a.m.ind.3ps) in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues."

Paul used sugkerannumi to teach that God composes or blends together the local church body of believers by different spiritual gifts:

(1 Cor.12:24) "Whereas our seemly members have no need of it. But God has so composed (sugkerannumi / a.a.ind.3ps) the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked."

This lesson will study five aspects of how spiritual gifts operate in the local church according to the Master's Plan.

1. Paul used two Greek phrases "each one" (hekastos/ 1 Cor.12:7, 11, 18) and "to one and to another" (men ho and allos de/ 1 Cor.12:8-10) to compose the local church body by placing spiritually gifted believers according to the Master's plan.

"But the **one and the same Spirit** works all these things, distributing to each one (hekastos) individually just as He wills." (1 Cor.12:11) "But now God placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desires." (1 Cor.12:18)

Note how the phrase (to one and to another) is used to identify four sets of spiritual gifts in 1 Cor.12:8-10:

- word of wisdom and word of knowledge
- different faith and gifts of healings and effecting of miracles
- prophecy and distinguishing spirits
- various kinds of tongues and interpretation (pauo / f.p.ind / intransitive) [cease in itself]

Note also that all spiritual gifts are distributed by the Holy Spirit (**1 Cor.12:11**).

This means that if one of the gifts in a set is done away with then the other, associated gift is also done away with.

Example: "If there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away (katargeo / f.p.ind.3ps / transitive) [an outside object will cause them to be done away with] [i.e. the Cannon of Scripture around 100AD] used twice: (James 1:25)." (1 Cor.13:8, 10) (to teleion / n.s.neuter / substantive adjective used as a noun) [The perfect completes the partial].

Personally, I believe the tenth spiritual gift that was done away was apostle (Rev.1:9).

2. The local church is composed of spiritually gifted believers who have been placed in it according to the Master's plan (1 Cor.12:12-28; Rom.12:4-5).

Every church age believer becomes a member of the universal church at the moment of salvation but the individual believer must chose to become a member of a local church (Gal.3:1-5; 1 Cor.12:11-13; Acts 18:1-17) [Corinth].

Paul compared the importance of spiritual gifts of the local church to functional parts of the human body. (1 Cor.12:12-28). "That there should be no division in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it." (1 Cor.12:25-26)

- Spiritual gifts are supernatural abilities and not natural propensities (1 Cor.12:4-6).
- Spiritual gifts were designed to be the dynamic program of ministries of the local church (1 Cor.12).

3. The Master's plan for every believer is to be a functional part of a local church because of the distribution of a spiritual gift at salvation.

(1 Cor.12:28) "And God has appointed in the church." (Rom.12:4) "For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function."

Therefore it is the responsibility of every believer to align with a bible teaching church for spiritual growth (Eph.4:11-13; Heb.5:11-14).

Once a believer finds a local church that teaches for spiritual growth, it is essential to attend on a regular basis and to become active within the body for the exercise of spiritual gifts (Heb.10:25). "Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it." (1 Cor.12:27)

4. The supernatural function of spiritual gifts within the local church is the organized witness of God in the world of the Master's plan.

"God also bearing witness (sunepimartureo / p.a.ptc) [to join in giving corroborating testimony] with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of Holy Spirit according to His will." (Heb.2:4)

"So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members' one of another." (Rom.12:5)

Paul taught that spiritual gifts were an important part of the spiritual unity and growth of the local church body (Eph.4:11-16).

5. The function of spiritual gifts must be compatible with the word of God according to the Mater's plan (1 Cor.14:33, 40).

"For through the grace to me I say to every man among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God allotted to each a measure of faith." (Rom.12:3)

An example of this point is that some spiritual gifts would cease and others be done away during the church age according to the Master's plan based on 1 Cor.13:8-10; 14:20-22.

"As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ, from whom the **whole body**, being fitted together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of **each individual part**, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love." (Eph.4:14-16)