

AGNOSTIC BELIEVERS

We begin a new series entitled, 2021 Spiritual Gifts from (1 Cor.12:1-31).

Our lesson title comes from (1 Cor.12:1) “**Now concerning** (de peri+reference) [referring to 7:1; 8:1; 12:1; 16:1] **spiritual gifts** (pneumatikos), **brethren** (believers), **I do not want** (ouk thelo/ p.a.ind.1ps) **you** (su/ aplm) **to be unaware**” (agnoeo/ p.a.infin) [ignorance or without knowledge of a specific subject (category of bible doctrine) (agnostic).

Personally, by this definition, I was an Agnostic Believer early in my Christian way of life because of a lack of knowledge regarding Spiritual Gifts. My first three years were in an evangelical church **without** any teaching on Spiritual Gifts, and my next four years were in theology schooling **without** any teaching on Spiritual Gift!

It wasn't until I personally studied the Book of 1 Corinthians that I had any knowledge of Spiritual Gifts. I learned from Paul that Spiritual Gifts were the primary ministry of every member of a local church body (1 Cor.12-14; Rom12; and Eph.4).

It was a spiritual life changer for me and my church ministry. As a result, I have taught on Spiritual gifted ministry to DSBC every year for the last 47 years. Spiritual gifts and spiritual growth (Heb.5:12-14; 2 Pet.3:18) are the ministries of our church.

We will study four aspects of enlightening Agnostic Believers to the importance of the doctrine of Spiritual Gifts for the ministry of the local church body (1 Cor.12:1-31).

1. Paul wrote (1 Cor.12-14) to answer specific questions concerning Spiritual Gifts and their function in the body of Christ, the church (1 Cor.7:1; 12:1).

Paul responded doctrinally to their questions so that they might not be ignorant or without knowledge regarding Spiritual Gifts and their ministry function in the local church body (1 Cor.12:1).

PRINCIPLE: Correcting congregational problems requires Categorical Bible Doctrine (1 Cor.12-14).

“Now concerning the things about which you wrote...” (1 Cor.7:1; 8:1; 12:1; 16:1). This series of lessons will focus upon some problems related to spiritually gifted ministries within the local church body (1 Cor.12-14).

2. You will note that the word for gifts is in italic in (1 Cor.12:1).

The context will determine that Paul was speaking about Spiritual gifts (1 Cor.12-14).

- **Spiritual Gifts will be subject in (1 Cor.12:1) and (1 Cor.12:3)** - “Now there are varieties of gifts (charisma/ glpn) [the result of God’s grace], but the same Spirit”.
 - All spiritual gifts are result of God’s grace.
 - (Rom.12:3, 6) “Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us.”

- **Spiritual gifts are not natural or human propensities.**
 - For example, a person goes to college to become a teacher of some subject.
 - This does not mean they have the “spiritual gift” of teacher? (1 Cor.12:28-30).
- **Spiritual gifts are different than fruit of the Spirit (Gal.5:16, 22-23).**
 - Yet they both operate under the indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit.
 - (1 Cor.12:7) “But to **each one** is given the manifestation (he phanerosis) of the Spirit for the common good.”

3. Every church age believer receives a spiritual gift the moment he believed that Jesus Christ died for his sins, was buried, and raised from the dead on the third day. (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9; 1 Cor.12:7).

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

(1 Cor.12:4) “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit”.

4. It should be mentioned that all members of Godhead are involved in the spiritual gifted ministries of the body of Christ, the local church (1 Cor.12:4-5).

(1 Cor.12:4) “Now there are varieties (diairesis) **of gifts** (charisma), but **the same Spirit.**”

(1 Cor.12:5) “Now there are varieties **of ministries** (diakonia) but **the same Lord.**”

(1 Cor.12:6) “Now there are varieties **of effects** (energema/ performances), but **the same God** who works all things in all persona.”

There are no spiritually ungifted churches in the Plan of God. It is a matter of ignorance (agnoeo) (1 Cor.12:1).

The Word of God, Categorically heard, believed, and applied will take an Agnostic Believer, (one without understanding), from a position of “now knowing” (gnosis) to one of “whole knowledge” or “applicable knowledge” (epignosis).

(clockwise)
AGNOSTIC BELIEVER
Hearing (Rom.10:17)

EPIGNOSIS
Completing (Jas.2:22)

GNOSIS
Believing (Heb.4:2)

Applying (2 Cor.5:7)