

I Corinthians 12:1-11

Charisma

Introduction:

Charisma comes from the Greek Language meaning “gift.” In Theology it means, “a divinely conferred gift or power.” In the political world we say that some politicians have charisma, the ability to communicate with speech in order to persuade. President Ronald Reagan is said to have had charisma with his communication skills, his one liners always seemed to captivate his audience.

At Corinth there was a wide range of charisma given to the believer by the Holy Spirit used to edify the church and communicate and affirm the gospel.

I. The Variety of Spiritual Gifts

A. Gifts given by the Spirit – v.1

1. “Spiritual” is used 14 times.
2. Listen up! “brethren, I would not have you to be unaware
3. Dumb idols – v.2; Psalm 115:5-7

B. Our Confession of faith – The Lordship of Christ – v.3 cf. Phil 2:11

C. Extraordinary endowments:

1. No one is left out – v.7
2. Other lists: Rom. 12:6-8; Eph. 4:11-12; I Pet. 4:10-11

D. Nine gifts listed – v.8-10

1. Wisdom and Knowledge – I Cor. 1:17,20,25
2. Faith – Acts 27:23-26,34; Hebrews 11; Jam. 5:14-15
3. Healings
4. Miracles: (Moses, Joshua, Elijah, Elisha, Daniel, Jesus (Josh.10:13; Dan. 3:19-27; 6:16-23
5. Prophecy
6. Distinguishing of spirits
7. Tongues and Interpretation of tongues – I Cor. 14:6-28; Acts 2:8-11; I Cor.14:2

II. The Duration of Spiritual Gifts

A. Observations about miracles, healing, prophecy and other extraordinary gifts:

1. Paul does not intimate that every believer receives the power to work miracles and healings. – Read 12:28-30
2. The working of miracles seems to be a distinctive mark of the apostle in order to confirm the gospel in the apostolic age – Acts 6:8; I Cor. 8:7; 13:8-13; Heb. 2:3,4
3. The working of miracles, healings and other extraordinary gifts even in the apostolic age may be mimicked by Satan and his cohorts. II Cor. 11:14; Matt. 16:23; Acts 13:10; I John 4:1-3; II Thess. 2:9-10

B. Revelatory Gifts:

1. What must be understood is the apostles lived in a unique age performing their extraordinary gifts to be seen by others.
2. The apostles and prophets of the New Testament were the foundation upon which the church was built, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone – Eph. 2:20; 4:11-13; I Cor. 3:11
3. The revelatory gifts were necessary in an age when the canon of the New Testament was incomplete and many of the epistles were in process of being written. (Chrysostom, Richard Gaffin, “A defense of Cessationism”, Westminster Confession)

Conclusion:

1. The greatest gift of all given to man is the Holy Spirit producing a new heart in an unbeliever. Regeneration is a transformation of a dead man in their sins into life eternal unto good works.
2. The Holy Spirit has given gifts to everyone in the body of Christ. Ordinary gifts to as spell out in Romans 12:7-8; service, teachers, exhorters, givers, leaders, and mercy.

