

# **Paul's Letters to the Church at Corinth**

## **In Order to Edify**

**1 Corinthians 14**

**Lesson 9**

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School  
March 3, 2013*

# “Now concerning Spiritual gifts . . .”

- ▶ Special abilities given by the Holy Spirit (12:8-10)
- ▶ Given “for the common good.” (12:7)
- ▶ Contemporary controversy
- ▶ Misunderstood in the Corinthian church
- ▶ A manual on Spiritual gifts (12-15)

# Spiritual Gifts in History

- ▶ Acts 2 – Pentecost
- ▶ Acts 10 – Cornelius and household
- ▶ Acts 19 – Disciples of John

# Spiritual Gifts in History

Chrysostom (347-407 AD) on 1 Corinthians 12: “This whole place is very obscure; but the obscurity is produced by our ignorance of the facts referred to and by their cessation, being such as then used to occur, but now no longer take place.”

# Spiritual Gifts in History

Augustine (353-430 AD): “In earliest times, ‘the Holy Ghost fell upon them that believed: and they spake in tongues,’ which they had not learned, ‘as the Spirit gave them utterance.’ These were signs adapted to the time. For there behooved to be that betokening of the Holy Spirit in all tongues, to show that the Gospel of God was to run through all tongues all over the whole earth. That thing was done for a betokening, and it passed away.”

# Spiritual Gifts in History

- ▶ Tongues began to emerge in the 1800's
  - A concern for holiness
  - A shift from Calvinistic theology to Arminian theology
- ▶ “Be of sin the double cure, cleanse me from its guilt and power.” [“Rock of Ages” - Augustus Toplady]
- ▶ John Wesley (1709-1791) – entire sanctification
- ▶ Charles Finney (1792-1875) – baptism of the Holy Spirit
- ▶ Holiness movement – outward manifestations
- ▶ 1906-1909 Azusa Street Revival – William Seymour

# Fundamental Principles (12-14)

- ▶ Must learn by revelation
- ▶ Holy Spirit teaches that “Jesus is LORD”
- ▶ Varieties of gifts, services and workings
- ▶ Gifts given for the common good
- ▶ Gifts sovereignly distributed
- ▶ None have all or any particular gift
- ▶ There is a more excellent way – love

# The Gift of Tongues

- ▶ Purpose for the Church – 14:1-19
- ▶ Purpose for unbelievers 14:20-25
- ▶ Practice guidelines – 14:26-40



# Tongues in the Church (14:1-19)

- ▶ “Pursue love and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts”
- ▶ Prophecy is the most important spiritual gift
- ▶ Tongues require interpretation for value
- ▶ Tongues must used to edify

# Tongues for the Unbeliever (14:20-25)

- ▶ A stern rebuke
- ▶ Tongues are a sign (living parable)
- ▶ Prophecy is the means of salvation
- ▶ The grace of the Gospel
  - “What dreadful madness is this – to pursue eagerly with their whole desire, what, in the sight of God, is regarded as a curse!” (Calvin)

# Practice of Tongues (14:26-40)

- ▶ Do all things for building up
- ▶ Practice standards for tongues
  - Only 2 or 3 speak in a service
  - Must have an interpreter
  - Keep silent – restrain the gift – if no interpreter

# Practice of Prophecy

- ▶ Only 2 or 3 speak in a service
- ▶ Revelation take priority
- ▶ Prophecy is for all to learn and be encouraged
- ▶ Spirits of prophets are subject to the prophets
- ▶ God is not the Author of confusion but of peace

# Women in the Church

- ▶ Women keep silent in the churches
- ▶ Women were speaking in tongues in the church
- ▶ Submission
- ▶ In context, women may not speak in tongues in the church, or prophesy

# The Last Word

- ▶ A rebuke for non-conformity
- ▶ The authority of this teaching on Spiritual gifts
- ▶ Earnestly desire to prophesy
- ▶ Do not forbid tongues
- ▶ Do all things decently and in order

# IN ORDER, TO EDIFY

- ▶ The gift of tongues – a legitimate Spiritual gift
- ▶ The gift of tongues – an inferior Spiritual gift
- ▶ Modern tongues movement – a false doctrine
- ▶ In order, to edify – for the common good