

18th December 2019.

THE RIGHT MANIFESTATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

I Corinthians 12:1-7.

The section we start tonight focuses on the Apostle Paul's addressing the way the Corinthian Church was abusing the spiritual gifts the Lord had bestowed upon His church, as the false religion situation in Corinth caused counterfeit spiritual manifestations that had to be confronted. The church was being informed on this subject by Paul and its behavior would be regulated by the truth of God's word and the Spirit of God. Even as its stated "Now concerning", referring to a query raised in the letter referred to in Ch. 7:1.....

Even as it still is a subject of great importance of clarity especially today in our age of an overwhelming increase of false Christianity (Churches, Pastors, Worship, etc.). Hopefully that we shall be able to continue this subject next year, as tonight is our last study this year, next Wednesday being Christmas day, when we'll have one service at 10am.

Our passage of concentration tonight reads.....

Vs 1. Considering the italicizing of "*gifts*" to indicate that the word isn't in the original text but implied by the context, as we see that in the section. We would read it as "concerning the spiritual, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant: As in referring to that which has spiritual qualities or characteristics or is some form of spiritual control. – Of things pertaining to the spiritual realm. (Rom. 8 refers a lot to.) Which we ourselves must clearly know is so real, and not just fantasy nor spooky. We should know that God is Spirit, even as quoted of Jesus. (Jhn.4:24) And so are we essentially. We are spirits with souls residing in bodies.

We earlier on in the study referred to this in I Cor. 2:9-16.....

Spiritual gifts are divine enablements for ministry that the Holy Spirit gives in some measure to all believers and that are to be completely under His control and solely used for the building of the church to Christ's glory.

These had to be distinguished from the mystical experiences called "ecstasy" (supernatural, sensuous communion with a deity) and "enthusiasm" (divination, dreams, revelations, visions) that were found in the pagan religions of Corinth.

A clear example was that of the girl in Acts 16:16..you see to whose profit she was.

In that **Vs 2**..... Some of the church of Corinth were mimicking certain dramatic and bizarre practices of the mystery religions that they had been a part of, like ecstatic hypnotic chants and ceremonies, with the inclusion of drunkenness (Eph.5:18) and sexual orgies, to which the devotees willfully yielded themselves to gross sin. We have seen the like, especially in South-Africa; the eating of grass, and even in Kenya where one started a church that ‘sucks women’s breasts’ by the Pastor to minister to them deliverance!

Vs 3..... What would happen during such episodes would be that the Name of Jesus Christ would be accursed, because as they actually claimed to be prophesying or teaching in the Spirit, they were demonically blaspheming the Name of The Lord whom they were supposed to be worshiping. Any so called ministry that is not fully honoring Jesus Christ should be classified as of the Anti-Christ. He was not just a good teacher, a miracle worker, or a loving man. But the Son of God given as the Lamb of God to overcome sin and its consequences. And even during His days on earth flesh and blood did not reveal that to men, but the Holy Spirit. (Matt.16:16, 17) (Jhn.1:33, 34)

Paul lays down a broad principle for discerning matters regarding spiritual gifts: judge things by how they relate to Jesus Christ. Does a supposed spiritual gift glorify Jesus? Does it promote the true Jesus, or a false one? Even a masquerader like the other girl in Acts 16 should be dealt with sternly.

I Thess. 5:19-21 says....

Vs 4-6..... Mark the allusion to the Divine Trinity: the same Spirit, vs 4; the same Lord, vs 5; the same God, vs 6. The Spirit directs, the Savior is the channel of supply, and the Father is the fountain of all.

There are diversities of gifts: Paul will go on to list some nine spiritual gifts in the following verses, and more in other places. There is indeed a diversity of gifts! Yet, there is only one Giver, who works through the diverse gifts. The gifts are diverse, the ministries are different, and the activities are diverse: but it all is the same Spirit, the same Lord, The same God doing the work through the gifts, the ministries, and the activities.

The difference between gifts, ministries, and activities is that though all of these are gifts. Some gifts are ministries - standing offices or positions in the church.

Some gifts are activities - miraculous events or outpourings at a particular time and place.

Vs 7..... No matter what gift, ministry, or effect, all the 'spiritual'(eby'omumwoyo) ought to be governed by the Holy Spirit, to make Jesus Christ known, understood and glorified in the church and in the world.

Jesus made it plain, saying that when the Holy Spirit would come, He will testify of Me (John 15:26), and He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you (John 16:14). The ministry of the Holy Spirit is not to promote Himself or any man, but to glorify and represent Jesus. We can therefore trust that the true ministry of the Holy Spirit will be according to the nature of Jesus.

We should never think the Holy Spirit is "more" present when He is manifested through the gifts. The Holy Spirit is always present with believers, but at times He is more apparent through the manifestation of the Spirit. The purpose of the manifestation of the Spirit is to benefit the whole church family, not just a particular individual or group of people.

I John 4:1-3.....