Spiritual Unity of Believers

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God bless you,

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Coordinator

Topic:

SPIRITUAL UNITY OF BELIEVERS

Key Text: 1 Corinthians 12:1-8

Teacher: Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we bless You and adore You, we are gathered here to learn Your word, please give us the understanding of Your word, and help us to be doers of the word in Jesus Christ name. Amen

Study

1 Corinthians 12:1-8 (KJV)

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant. [2] Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led. [3] Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. [4] Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. [5] And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. [6] And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. [7] But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. [8] For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

In this chapter of Paul's letter to the Corinthians, he emphasized on the spiritual unity of believers, bringing it on from the aspect of spiritual gifts, saying he does not want us to be ignorant. The Corinthian church was such an one so much endowed with spiritual gifts but was really abused, these gifts were extraordinary offices and powers bestowed on ministers and Christians in the first ages for the conviction of unbelievers and propagation of the gospel. Gifts and Graces were freely given by God. Where grace is given, it is for the salvation of those who have it, Gifts were given for the salvation of others. Paul told them that he would not have them ignorant of these spiritual gifts, for they came from God and were to be used for Him. If

they are ignorant of the fact, it will lead them far away from God's purpose and intentions, for when the purpose of a thing is not known, misuse is inevitable. **1 Corinthians 12:3 KJV** Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. Its misuse is inevitable.

Paul reminded them of their former states as gentiles when they could not be influenced by the Spirit of Christ. So he had to remind them that when they did not have the Spirit of Christ, they could not operate in spiritual gifts. This makes it clear that it's the Holy Spirit that helps us operate in spiritual gifts. Therefore, they should realize that these gifts are from God. Their former state was that explained in **Ephesians 2:12 KJV** That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: Apostle Paul gave five characteristics of those who are gentiles when he was speaking to the Ephesians.

1. ***These are those who are without Christ:*** It is either they do not know Christ at all or they have heard about Him but have not so much given Him a way in their lives or possibly they rejected Him. In all, they are not in Christ, they have no fellowship with Him. That was our initial state.

2. ***They are aliens from the commonwealth of Israel:*** God chose Israel as His own special people out of all the kindred of the Earth to make Himself known and glorified through them, they are children of covenant and they are taught and guided by God's royal laws which separates them from other nations. Therefore, the gentiles do not have a part in such blessings but are aliens to the common good of Israel. Such were we!

3. ***We were strangers from the covenants of promise:*** The covenant God made with Abraham that through Him all the nations of the Earth would be blessed was not in effect in our lives, for we were strangers by blood, race, descendants etc

4. ***We had no hope:*** We had no hope of being partakers of such blessings, no hope of being part of such covenants and the glory attended to it.

5. ***We were without Christ in the world:*** Because we were carried away in idolatry, we were without the knowledge of the true and living God, hence, we were separated from Him and are without Him in this wretched world of sin.

Therefore, now that we can see the power of God working in us through these gifts, we should know that it is not by power but by the power of God who works all things in us by His grace. **Ephesians 1:11 KJV** In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: we were carried away to dumb idols that have mouths but cannot speak, ears but cannot hear, eyes but cannot see. **Psalm 115:5-6 KJV** They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not: [6] They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not: during those times, we could not boast of anything such as spiritual gifts in which many now pride themselves in now like the Corinthian church, We were led in such ways either by our heathen leaders or by the prince of this world who had blinded our minds.

Now, I want to ask you a question, **do you know your spiritual gifts??? If yes, mention them.**

1 Corinthians 12:3 KJV Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. No one who has the Holy Spirit in him would ever say anything insulting about Jesus Christ and for anyone who says Jesus is Lord, such has the Holy Spirit. **1 Corinthians 12:4 KJV** Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. Here, Paul says although gifts are many and are different, in functions, manifestations, they all have one source which is the Holy Spirit, the Corinthian Church was so much blessed with diversities of gifts that it is possible that they were beginning to think some gifts come from another source. But Paul said, though different

gifts, one source. Same applies to ministries. **1 Corinthians 12:5-6 KJV** And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. [6] And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But all came from one Lord. It is practically impossible to give a comprehensive list of all the ministries present but one thing is sure, they all come from God. **1 Corinthians 12:7 KJV** But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all, for every gift given to each one in whatever shape or form and display, it is given to each, not for personal profit but for the profit of all. It is clear that God delights to give spiritual gifts to His people—the Bride of Christ. These gifts are impacted by God to every believer upon conversion as the Holy Spirit chooses. These gifts confirm the word of God and expand the kingdom of God. Spiritual gifts can be neglected and misused but they remain the divine power source for Christ's body on the Earth.

Through teaching, evangelizing, prophesying, and demonstrating the miraculous, God uses His people to expand His Kingdom and to establish righteousness on earth through the proper use of gifts He has given, there's no place in His scripture or Church History where these gifts are taken away or removed from body of Christ. The church moves forward through these divine gifts. Spiritual gifts did not replace the word of God, but the word of God will spread and flourish as the fully-equipped body of Christ operates in the use of God's enabling power. **1 Corinthians 12:8 KJV** For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; God gives the gifts of the Spirit to the body of Christ for the profit of all, those who know that they are members of Christ's body should know that the gift given to them is not for personal use or for personal gain, all believers received at least one gift as they became members of Christ's family, none is empty only that Grace is given according to the measure of the gift one receives. **Ephesians 4:7 KJV** But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. It is not right to make merchandise of the gifts of God because it was given for free and not worked for. We must always put it in our minds that these gifts are meant for rendering services to

others and not ourselves, so we must swing ourselves into service so that others might profit with and for them to be built, we should seek the gain of others. **1 Corinthians 10:24 KJV** Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth. That is, the gifts of the Spirit should not be based on **selfishness,** it should be centered on **selflessness**. These gifts are numerous and one cannot limit them to some specific demonstration of power or manifestations because the workings of the Spirit of God cannot be limited.

Some of the gifts as listed by Paul the Apostle are classified into three categories:

1. **REVELATION GIFTS**

- Word of wisdom

- Word of knowledge

- Discerning of spirits

2. **POWER GIFTS**

- Faith

- Gifts of Healing

- Working of Miracles

3. **SPEAKING GIFTS**

- Speaking In Tongues

- Interpretation of Tongues

- Prophecy

These gifts are stated and categorized according to 1 Corinthians 12. There are other gifts mentioned in Romans 12:6-8.

In conclusion,

Make sure that you do not misuse your gifts, or leave it redundant. God did it this way so that everyone will be useful and no one would feel inferior or superior. If people are not benefiting from your gift,

then it's useless, that was why Paul told Timothy. **2 Timothy 1:6 KJV** Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou STIR UP THE GIFT OF GOD, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.

What Apostle Paul told Timothy is what I say to you all too, STIR UP THE GIFTS OF GOD IN YOU.

QUESTION

How would someone identify his or her gift?

Answer

Alright, you can know simply through their manifestations. You can also know through dreams. Do you know that some people have the gift of dreaming? So, you must watch out for the extraordinary things that started happening since the moment you got born again which were not happening before.

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