**God Gave us The Gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:1-11)**

We are thankful to God, because he has given us the gifts of the Spirit. Greetings to you dear brothers and sisters as we speak today about a second important reason to give thanks, namely our Spirit-led life, and specifically the existence of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church. God poured out his Holy Spirit on his people – and in doing so, the power of the Holy Spirit did not only help believers to make a correct declaration of their salvation, but it also caused them to have on an individual basis various abilities given by the same Holy Spirit. The existence and use of these gifts are pillars of a living and growing Christian Church. We’re going to speak, therefore, about them and especially about their usefulness within our church life. In the end of the message, my prayer is that we will appreciate God’s supernatural and various gifts for each believer even more than before. Also, I pray that we will be impelled even more by the Spirit towards a truly spiritual ministry, incorporating the use of the gifts of the Spirit. Again, we are thankful to God, because he has given us the gifts of the Spirit. Let’s speak, then, about these foundational spiritual weapons.

We are thankful to God because he has given us spiritual gifts, which advance the work of his kingdom. God did not only send Jesus, but also Jesus’ co-worker, the Holy Spirit, in all his power to help us in his work. Paul the Apostle considers it important to be aware of spiritual gifts. He says that no one can reject Christ while having the Spirit of God, and it is only by the same Spirit that one can know Christ as Lord. The same Spirit that reveals Jesus’ Lordship to each believer also gives them special supernatural abilities. When we take this reading in the above context, we understand that we cannot buy these gifts or learn them by signing up for a class or by gaining a great deal of schooling. These are given by the Holy Spirit, and they must be used under the guidance of the Spirit only.

The gifts are many – and everybody does not have the same gift. The services are various, says the Apostle – not every person can serve in the same way. The activities of the Spirit are various – everybody is affected differently by the tangible presence of the Holy Spirit. However, it is the same God who is working within and among the believers.

The Spirit reveals his work and his messages individually to benefit all. Two of the gifts, in addition, the gifts of tongues and prophecy, are further explained in the remainder of the 12th chapter and the whole 14th chapter, so that their correct use within and benefit to the church would be clear.

All the supernatural gifts are not necessarily listed in great detail, but what is written are the main categories of gifts; we have the word of wisdom, the word of knowleddge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discernment of spirits, various tongues and interpretation of tongues. All of these are distributed by the same Holy Spirit. It is the same Spirit that makes them work within us, and the same Spirit that distributes them to each of us who have him within us, as he desires.

This is like a large company that is in the newspaper business. Every position and job demand a different skill set: the writer’s needed gift is one thing, but the organizer’s gift is another. The company president’s gift is one thing, but the printer’s needed skill set is different. The distributor or delivery person is different, and the public relations workers needed skill set is altogether different. Each worker is called to a different job.

Today, we as those led by the Holy Spirit are called to recognize our individual supernatural gifts and to train ourselves in their use. If you call Jesus “Lord”, then you already have the help of the Spirit – but if you are unaware of his activity within you, ask the Spirit for a fresh infilling, and he will touch and bless you. We need prayer warriors today – those who can hear or sense the voice of the Lord. We need God gifts of supernatural wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracle-working, spirit-discerning, unknown languages and the interpretation of the latter. Each gift has its specific manner and timing with which it needs to be used. Each one is useful for the growth of the church. However, if we do not delve deep into this topic, if we do not learn about the above gifts and their use in our church life, we will remain Christians who only use our natural abilities, while our enemies (the devil and his minions) use supernatural weapons in their assignment to destroy every believer and every church.

Come, and let us learn about how to use them. And let us give glory to the Lord that he has sent his Spirit to us, so that we can be one body, so that we can truly believe in him, so that we can use the gifts of his Spirit for God’s work in this world.

We are thankful to God because he has given us spiritual gifts, which advance the work of his kingdom. We are thankful, therefore, not only because God sent us Jesus, but also because He sent us His Spirit, and distributed to us his gifts. God bless you all, amen.