

Diversities of Gifts - One Spirit

by G.W. North

The gifts of the Spirit are special and precious, distributed by the Spirit to enable the Lord to work through His body as He chooses.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:4

Topics: "Spiritual Gifts", "Unity in Diversity"

Description

G.W. North emphasizes the importance of understanding the diversities of spiritual gifts given by the same Spirit, urging believers to explore the Scriptures for clarity on these gifts. He points out that while churches may exhibit a variety of expressions, true diversity in spiritual gifts is often overshadowed by mere noise rather than genuine manifestations of the Spirit's power. North highlights that each gift is a manifestation of the Spirit, intended for the mutual benefit of the body of Christ, and that these gifts should be recognized as divine enablements rather than personal achievements. He stresses the singularity of the Spirit who distributes these gifts, reminding believers that they are to be used as instruments for God's purposes. Ultimately, the sermon calls for a deeper appreciation of the Spirit's work within the church and the unique roles each member plays.

Transcript

Now the phrase 'gifts of the Spirit' is nowhere to be found in the Bible. That this is so in no way invalidates its use; but knowledge of this fact should serve as a spur to us, making us diligently search the scriptures to find out exactly what is said about the gifts by God, Who is the Source of both gifts and scriptures.

Approaching this particular section, we are introduced to the subject in verse 4, 'there are diversities of gifts but the same Spirit'. Regrettably it must be said that although in every other realm this is manifestly true, upon entering the churches, the men spoken of in 12:23 may remain unconvinced that in things spiritual this is really so. All too often in many churches where the gifts are in use, any diversion from monotony is in volume of noise and not in variety of manifestation. Oh, when shall we learn that noise is not power?

Following on from this introduction, we are told in the next two verses that there are differences of administrations and diversities of operations. Then in verse 7 we are brought back from the plurality of diversities, differences, gifts, administrations and operations, to the singular 'manifestation of the Spirit', which we are told is given to every man for mutual profit. Proceeding to the following verses, we come upon a detail of nine things which can only be described in the abstract as 'gifts of the Spirit'. Going still

further, we find that this list is immediately backed up by a verse telling us that the Spirit who gives these gifts is the selfsame Spirit who divides them as He will between members of the body, and further still, having done so, personally works them through each member.

The truth we need to recognise here is brought out grammatically by the use of the singular and the plural: the one and selfsame Spirit is the person who works the many gifts. We thereby learn that persons who have received gifts must not work them themselves, but recognise that they are to be held as direct enablers only. They are special and precious and have been gratuitously distributed by the Spirit to members of Christ whose body we are. This He does so that by these the Lord can at any time He chooses work just as He will, through whom He will, by whatever gift He will.

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