

## To Profit Withal

### 1 Corinthians 12:1 – 7



~ We took communion together on our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God in our last report, spiritually speaking, of course; and if you haven't read that report, you will struggle with this one, because we are entering a new section of Corinthians. Our so-called safari does not divide the books of the Bible as a typical Bible study might; but, if we did, this would mark a major division in this epistle. This is where Paul begins to use the physical body as an example for the endowment of our spiritual gifts.

Everything Paul has spoken of in first Corinthians thus far concerns carnalities; and was written to a bunch of babes in Christ. From here forward it will be nearly impossible to follow along with us if you have no spiritual discernment and understanding. The spiritual "*gifts*" were given to the apostles at this time in which we are studying to maintain unity in a time of great diversity....

***<sup>1</sup> Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.***

~ You'll notice "*gifts*" in verse one is not in italics; that means it does not appear in our most ancient manuscripts; that word was added at some later time for clarification. The Berkley Translation reads, "*spiritual endowments.*" The problem is: that doesn't clarify anything for the carnal Christian! Either way, the apostles were given certain gifts at this time because they did not have a New Testament Bible. Of course, no one else had one, either. The gifts provided credibility.

With the spirituality we have available in Scripture today, there's no need to have gifts. Remember, in chapter three, Paul said he couldn't even speak to these carnal Christians in Corinth spiritually in a proper, correct and

To Profit Withal

1 Corinthians 12:1 – 7



completely mature manner. The church in Corinth was completely divided. They had real problems that they weren't dealing with. They had a sex problem; and people suing each other. I'm sure they were teaching their children about sex-ed in public school, but they weren't teaching the children about spiritual things. They couldn't agree on women's dress or men's haircuts or the meal offering. There was gluttony and slothfulness and drunkenness at the Lord's Supper. They were in a bad way in Corinth, you may be sure.

The church today is eerily similar to the church in Corinth. Most churches have a remarkable way of keeping people out of the Bible – by just dabbling in it. Friends, you can never realize your spiritual gifts outside of the Word of God; and searching the Scriptures is an ongoing practice of talent that never ends. You can just write that down. Congregations go round and round in familiar little areas of the Bible – and then – the end. They always develop gimmicks and methods after that – then they usually just disappear. What they don't realize is neglecting a sincere Bible study is a direct sign of gross carnality. This is no joke, my beloved. These are the worst types of Christians who do this, too, by the way. They never recognize sin in their own life, but they sure recognize it in yours. Alright, these "gifts" or *endowments* — are always spiritual gifts in the Heavens bestowed upon us by God Himself....

***<sup>2</sup> Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led.***

***Psalm 115:<sup>5</sup> Idols have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not: <sup>6</sup> They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not: <sup>7</sup> They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat. <sup>8</sup> They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them ~***

***Habakkuk 2:<sup>18</sup> What profiteth the graven image that the maker thereof hath graven it; the molten image, and a teacher of lies, that the maker of his work trusteth therein, to make dumb idols? <sup>19</sup> Woe unto him that saith***

To Profit Withal

1 Corinthians 12:1 – 7

>>><<

Page 2 of 5

*to the wood, Awake; to the dumb stone, Arise, it shall teach! Behold, it is laid over with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in the midst of it.*  
<sup>20</sup> *But the LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him ~*

## >>> 1 Corinthians chapter twelve <<<

***<sup>3</sup> 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 Spirit.***

~ Let's understand the Lordship of Jesus Christ. It is impossible to belittle Him by the Spirit of God. Many people say the words today claiming Jesus being their Lord; but they aren't sincere. Jesus Himself said, "*in those days many shall come and say unto Me, 'Lord, Lord...'*" Jesus doesn't know those people. He said so. Their life is all surface cosmetic and counterfeit Christianity. God deals in convictions of the soul, friends. This safari believes we come to the cross to be saved, but we don't stay there. There's no sense hanging around an empty cross. We're talking about the Living Christ. When we take our eyes off of Christ — we sink ~

***Acts 2:***<sup>36</sup> *Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ ~*

There are many people who deny the sovereignty of Christ today; but the Holy Spirit commands and leads a campaign of total obedience to Himself. That is an inescapable fact in life — and death! The church is comprised of those who are centered around that truth as interpreted by the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit Who interprets the Lordship of Jesus to our lives.

Unfortunately, so many people have gone off on tangents about spirituality. Ask one hundred people who they say Jesus is, and you'll get ninety-seven different answers. Jesus asked Simon Peter, "*....whom say ye that I Am?*" Well, Jesus is asking you and me that same question. The answer is in Matthew chapter sixteen verse sixteen....

To Profit Withal

1 Corinthians 12:1 – 7

>>><<

***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.***

~ No man is fit to serve God who has not been mastered by Christ. The unifying function of the Holy Spirit in the church today is to reveal His Lordship to believers in Holy Writ. Naturally, in order to keep unity, God gives different spiritual abilities to different people.

The matter of tongues oft cometh upon the intelligentsia in sophisticate circles; commonly known as the charismatic movement. “Gifts,” in this passage, does not refer to tongues — not in any sense of an imagination. This means *all* gifts the Holy Spirit gives to believers within the True and Living church. It doesn’t matter which gift you have if the Lord Jesus isn’t the One using it through you for His Own glory. God wants to live and work through the life of the individual believer. All things are done by believers to exalt the Lordship of Christ Jesus as God Himself....

***7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.***

~ I recognize some people emphasize this chapter with chapter fourteen; but they get stuck in the mud and never seem to grow spiritually. A gift is a capacity for service and a function in service. A gift, in the spiritual sense, means the Holy Spirit doing a particular ministry through the tabernacle of the believer and empowering the believer to execute His commands! This can only be done in the power of the Spirit of God. You and I are nothing without Christ, but He is still everything without us. I have discovered that I am of absolutely no use to God or man, friends – that’s just a fact – I am not veering off on some pious platitude or feel-sorry-for-me something. No, I am content and happy. That’s just what’s real.

To Profit Withal

1 Corinthians 12:1 – 7

>>><<

Page 4 of 5

Even in my wretched state, God gave me a gift; so I am to exercise that gift. When I do exercise that gift, through the Word of God, is the only time the Holy Spirit manifests Himself to others through me. Unfortunately, many people think their talent makes it impossible for the Lord to get along without them. Are you allowing the Holy Spirit to use your talent as He lives through you? Are you even allowing God to live through you at all? Most Christians would do well to simply get out of God's way.

Every believer has a specific and definite gift. There are many members in the body so, naturally, there are many gifts. Every Christian man and woman have been given a spiritual endowment by which we function as a member of the body of Christ! The purpose of the gifts is *ALWAYS* to build up the church – the true body of believers. If you are exercising your gifts selfishly, then those aren't gifts — they are curses. If you aren't building up the body of believers, then you are tearing them down. Jesus said, "*he who is not for Me is against Me*" ~

>>><<<

To Profit Withal

1 Corinthians 12:1 – 7

>>><<<