

“Tapping the Power Source” (1 Corinthians 12:2-3)

Last week: 1 Corinthians 12: 1

- 1** Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware.

REVIEW FROM LAST WEEK re: “SPIRITUALS”

What is translated “spiritual gifts” in verse 1 is actually “spirituals”

- a. the word “gift” is not in the Greek
- b. “spirituals” = pneuma t ikon
- c. “pneuma” = spirit or Spirit (pneumatic or pneumatology)
- d. “ikon” ending a word means “characterized by”
- e. ICON = an image or representation of something greater

Put together, we have that a “spiritual” or “spiritual gift” is a characterization of and a controlling by the Holy Spirit within us

“UNAWARE” = “Ignorant”

Paul does not want us to be unaware that the church functions by the supernatural manifestations of the Holy Spirit within its members (the individual Christians) he calls “spirituals”

THIS WEEK – Tapping the Power Source (of the Holy Spirit)

Our Text: 1 Corinthians 12:2-3

- 2** You know that when you were pagans, you were led astray to the dumb idols, however you were led.
- 3** Therefore I make known to you, that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus is accursed”; and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.

Vs. 3

THE FIRST thing Paul wants us to be fully aware of is that ANY SPIRITUALITY or SPIRITUALS (spiritual gifts) we have come 100% from the indwelling Holy Spirit
Vs 3: we can't even say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the indwelling presence of Jesus in every believer -

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Him [Christ] who strengthens me.

John 15:5 ... [Jesus:] ...for apart from me you can do nothing.

Q to ponder: Do we really understand and believe that we can only accomplish the supernatural by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit? Without this power source flowing through our life, we can only ministry by natural means. Paul

wants us to understand that we Christians should be operating on a supernatural level of ministry through “spirituals” (spiritual gifts).

For Paul, it’s “black or white” with no grey area. One who says “Jesus is accursed” is easily identified as NOT being led by the Holy Spirit – “no brainer.” Equally, he says that one who even says “Jesus is Lord” (assumed, with sincerity) can only do that seemingly small spiritual thing by the Holy Spirit.

Vs. 2 “led astray”

Paul asks us to think about our “leading” as non Christians. If we’re honest and perceptive, our direction was not really by choice, as much as being “led astray” by an outside source. We were not blameless – we made the decision to yield – yet the call was “irresistible.” This is what Paul meant in Romans 6:6 when he said that our “old self” (pre-Christian) was a “slave to sin.” In other words, we HAD to sin – sin was irresistible without the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

“however you were led”

Jesus said the path is wide that leads to destruction, with many on that wide path (Matt. 7:13) – that means that there are many different ways to be led astray. So it is that Paul says here in 1 Cor. 12:2 “however you were led.” (a friend, a church, a family, a gang, by rebellion or by complacency)

“dumb idols”

Note in v. 2 that what these non-believing people are being led to are “dumb idols.”

“Dumb” not meaning stupid, but meaning “unable to speak.”

It is perhaps obvious, but WE ARE LED BY WHAT WE FOLLOW – THEREFORE WHAT WE FOLLOW BECOMES OUR “IDOL” And Paul says these false idols can’t speak, therefore they can’t guide, correct or motivate like the H.S. can.

Vs. 2 & Vs. 3 together

Just as our pre-Christian “call” to be led astray was “irresistible” – that is, we had to sin and could only live on a natural plain, led by a mute idol . . .

(experience, emotion, sensuality, satisfaction)

So our Christian call by the Holy Spirit is also “irresistible” – that is, we are freed from having to sin (Paul: “slaves of righteousness”, Romans 6:18) and are able to live on a supernatural plain, led by the indwelling Holy Spirit.

(teaching, encouraging, counseling, comforting, helping, leading – like the gifts of the Spirit mentioned in 1 Cor, 12 and Romans 12)

When we SHARE these supernaturally endowed characteristics of the Holy Spirit to build up the body of Christ, the church, we are using what we call “SPIRITUALS” – or, spiritual gifts. (TAPPING THE POWER SOURCE!)

CLEARING AWAY THE CONFUSION

1. Don't confuse Spiritual Gifts with Natural Talents

- ✓ Everyone has various talents of some sort, in varying degrees
- ✓ Talents come from genetics, environment and discipline
- ✓ Ultimately, every talent comes from God (but not supernatural)
- ✓ Christians and non-Christians have talents
- ✓ Talents may or may not become spiritual gifts
- ✓ Talents should be used for the Lord

2. Don't confuse Spiritual Gifts with Fruit of the Spirit

- ✓ Fruit is singular – the 9-faceted nature of God, the Holy Spirit. (Gal 5:22-23)
- ✓ All Christians have all the fruit within, since the Spirit is within
- ✓ Gifts are multiple – one or more, but not all, are given to each believer (12:7)
- ✓ Fruit is DEVELOPED through Christian maturity – yielding to the Spirit within
- ✓ Gifts are DISCOVERED – certain supernatural abilities that are given
- ✓ The Corinthians had plenty of gifts (1 Cor. 1:7) but lacked in fruit (1 Cor. 13)
- ✓ FRUIT is the foundation for the correct use of GIFTS
- ✓ GIFTS are temporary – FRUIT is eternal

3. Don't confuse Spiritual Gifts with Christian Roles

- ✓ The gifts are characteristics expected of all mature Christians
- ✓ Because the Spirit is in us, we have some of all his characteristics
- ✓ All Christians have the ROLE of faith, teaching, mercy, giving, helps, etc.
- ✓ A “spiritual” (gift) is a supernatural, extra strengthening in a certain role

4. Don't confuse Spiritual Gifts with Counterfeit Gifts

- ✓ Only those things that are valuable are counterfeited
- ✓ Satan actively opposes the work of the Lord in every way possible
Matthew 24:24 For false Christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders, so as to deceive, if possible, even the elect”

- ✓ Ex. Moses' miracles were counterfeited by the magicians in Pharaoh's court
- ✓ Counterfeits can include: natural talent, Satanic ability, temporary service

***The Basic "Corinthian" Problem* LACK OF SEPARATENESS FROM THE WORLD**
(specifically regarding spiritual giftedness)

1. Failure to distinguish between natural talent and spiritual giftedness
2. Tendency to favor one giftedness over another in importance
3. Error in seeing the ecstatic and emotional as signs of spirituality
(influence of the "mystery religion")
 - a. Religious fervor and physical ecstasy the sign of spirituality
 - b. Following a leader rather than God "I am of Paul"
 - c. Sexual freedom as a spiritual freedom "to Corinthianize"
 - d. I am my own master (lawsuits, feminism, abuse of liberty, etc.)
 - e. FINAL FORM (Revelation 17:5): MYSTERY BABYLON

***A Brief History* THE DISCOVERY OF THE POWER SOURCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

1. 1900 – the Pentecostal movement began
 - a. Fueled by speaking in tongues on Azusa Street in Los Angeles
 - b. Sparked a new interest in the Holy Spirit, previously only a "doctrine"
 - c. Spawned denominations such as Assembly of God, Church of God, Foursquare "Full Gospel"
2. c. 1950 - the Charismatic movement began
 - a. accompanied by the "Jesus movement" begun in San Francisco, reaching to the "Hippies" of the day
 - b. Sparked a new interest in the gifts of the Holy Spirit
 - c. Spawning churches of more Spirit freedom and freedom of expression – Calvary Chapel, Vineyard (breaking from Calvary Chapel)

To these movements we owe

1. A strong doctrine and interest in the person and ministry of the Holy Spirit
2. An increased interest in and teaching of Spiritual Gifts of the Holy Spirit
3. A Praise and Worship style of music worship
 - a. sings more songs to the Lord, rather than hymns that sing primarily about the Lord;
 - b. an instrumentation of contemporary music: guitars, drums, bass guitar, etc.
 - c. a use of gifted laity leading rather than a "song leaders"

WE MUST TAP THE CORRECT AND ONLY POWER SOURCE – The Holy Spirit of God!