

# Paul's First Letter to the Church at Corinth

## 1 Corinthians

Victory Christian Center    Elder Tim Herman    August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009

### Spiritual Gifts (Chapters 12-14)

- V.29, 30...obvious answer to each gift/position is 'no'
- V.31.a..."eagerly desire the best (better) gifts" because those are the gifts that are most profitable to all
  - Greek for 'best' is *krite'-tohn* meaning "more useful"
  - Good gifts: faith, miracles, discernment, administration, tongues/interpretation
  - Better gifts: word of wisdom, word of knowledge, apostles, prophets, teachers (see 1 Cor. 14:1, 3)
- V.31.b..."I show you a more excellent way" (chapter 13)
  - Excellent in Greek is *hoop-er-bol-ay'*, meaning supreme
  - Best gift: the way of love
- Are the spiritual gifts listed in 1 Cor. 12 still for the church today?
  - Some say 'no'. Those gifts were only needed in the early church to get it established so the "manifestation" gifts 'ceased' after the 1st century. 1 Cor. 13:8-10 is interpreted by some to imply that when the 'canon' (Bible) was finalized, then the "charismatic signs" died away.
  - Some say 'yes'. There is no teaching in scripture that the gifts were only for the early church. If the gifts were only for the early church, then there is no healing, discernment, words of wisdom or knowledge, and the apostolic ministry would have been voided. Of course, ALL the gifts will eventually be useless when "that which is perfect is come", meaning eternity in heaven. (1 Cor. 13:12)
- Chapter 13...love is superior to spiritual gifts
  - The spiritual gifts MUST be used in love (test the spirit)
  - 12:31, "I show you a more excellent way"...this fits better as the first verse of chapter 13
  - 13:1...If I have the ability to speak in multiple known languages or in tongues (angelic language), but don't have love, then I am only making obnoxious noises
  - 13:2...If I have the greater gifts of prophecy and wisdom and also have the gifts of faith/miracles, but don't have love, then I am "nothing". Greek for 'nothing' is *Oudeis*, meaning absolute zero (more than just "I am nothing")
  - 13:3...If I give away everything including my own body, but don't have love, then "I am profited nothing" (literal)
- Chapter 13...love is superior to spiritual gifts
  - 13:4-7...the character / conduct of love
    - Patient...Greek is *mak-roth-oo-meh'-o*, a compound word from *makros* meaning 'long' and *thumos* meaning 'passion'. Same word in 2 Peter 3:9 concerning how God is patient with us.
    - Kind...Greek is *khra-ste-yoo'-om-a-hee*, a compound verb meaning 'kindness' and 'to show'. Kindness is love in action (gentle, mild).
    - Not envious...Greek is *dzay-lo'-o* meaning to boil. This is a passionate word similar to being zealot, which can be destructive if the focus is evil.
    - Not boastful (braggart)
    - Not proud. This was a problem in the Corinthian church: see 4:6, 4:18, 4:19, 5:2, 8:1. It's still a problem in the charismatic church.
    - Not rude (indecent, inappropriate)
    - Not self-seeking

- Chapter 13...love is superior to spiritual gifts
  - 13:4-7...the character / conduct of love
    - Not easily angered. Greek is *par-ox-oo'-no*, meaning 'sharp'. Love does not have "sharp" words or expressions. Love is not easily irritated.
    - "Thinketh no evil" (KJV). Greek is *log-id'-zom-ahēe* meaning to count and keep a record. Love does not keep a record of wrong-doings with the intent of settling up.
    - Doesn't celebrate evil, but rather celebrates morality
    - "Bears all things" (KJV). Greek is *steg'-o* meaning to cover/preserve, like a roof.
    - Always believes. Love has faith in people.
    - Always hopes. Sees the bright side of things and doesn't despair.
    - Always endures. Perseveres. Stays to the end. Doesn't quit.
- Chapter 13...love is superior to spiritual gifts
  - 13:8-13...the eternal nature of love
    - V.8...all the gifts (from prophecy to tongues) will come to an end
    - V.9, 10...we have limited knowledge, but when that which is "perfect" comes, then that which is "in part" shall vanish. Greek for 'perfect' is *tel'-i-os* meaning complete, full, finished. Greek for 'in part' is *mer'-os* meaning a part of a larger whole.
    - V.11...when I became a man (perfect in v.10), I stopped acting like a child (in part in V.10)
    - V.12...now we see things "through a glass darkly" (KJV). The mirrors in Corinth and the ancient world were made of brass (not glass) which gave a distorted view of the person, but THEN we will see face to face, literally "I will see eye-to-eye". When we see Jesus, then we will truly know Him, just as He knows us...and there will be no need for spiritual gifts.
    - Faith, hope, and love are eternal, but love is needed by faith & hope