



Manifestations in the Church

Christians have been fooled for ages.

(1 Cor 12:1 KJV) Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

Greek New Testament translators saw fit to ignore the proper meaning of pneumatikos, from which 'spiritual gifts' comes. One small word, gifts, has queried the minds of well-meaning believers and prevented them from walking into the greatness of a Christ-filled life. Spiritual savy is largely fed by music and dancing, and sadly, far too much emphasis on sentiment. We are to be filled to overflowing with spirit, not carnal devices. If you want to become a spiritual man or woman, you must listen to Jesus when he taught:

(John 4:24 KJV) God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.



Do you believe in Jesus? I ask that because there are Christians who don't. They act the part, speak the script, but refuse God's power. The absolute nature of worship is spiritual. Today, you cannot worship God unless you obey Jesus' ever-so-clear words. Spiritual worship stems from the gift of holy spirit received with the new birth, nothing else. One particular manifestation of holy spirit qualifies as worship's workhorse—speaking in tongues. Every Christian is supposed to speak in tongues. Most don't.

Timothy cast a clear warning:

(2 Tim 3:5 KJV) Having

a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

The path of power has been carved through darkness; the light of God's Word will illuminate your every step. This couldn't be more necessary than in this fantastic field of study. Make the choice now: either choose power or darkness. A life without power is a walk of darkness.

1 Corinthians 14 unfolds the operation of the gift of holy spirit. And, might I add, every word matters. Even Christian scholars ignore the exactness of God's Word in this regard. Let us never cast our lot among them.

Charisma

Charisma means, 'gifts of God's grace, from God to man.' But, this Greek word isn't used at all in 1 Corinthians 14. It does appear six times in chapter 12 though.

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What does this profound discovery mean to an inquisitive Bible student? It means that the instructions regarding operating the gift of holy spirit as put forth in 1 Corinthians 14 never address a gift; they always address the manifestations of holy spirit. At some point, we must stop referring to the nine manifestations as gifts. They are only called gifts in religious circles.

But this is why we do:

(1 Cor 14:1 KJV) Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.

Some spiritual matters are charisma, gifts of God's grace from God to man. Others are the effects of manifestations as they minister to God's people. That said, we shouldn't be discussing the word 'gifts' at all—since it isn't even in this verse. How do I know that?

'Gifts' is in italics. It follows the word 'spiritual' from the Greek word pneumatikos, meaning, 'spiritual matters' or 'things of a spiritual nature.' If you translate pneumatikos as gifts, you will have to trash the manifesta-

tions. And, that's just what most people do. As I said, let us never be among them.

This chapter begins with several hearty requests.

1. Follow after [press toward] charity agape.
2. Desire spiritual matters.
3. Rather prophesy.

Why prophecy? Prophecy is bringing a message from or for God to those there. It must be in the language of the people present. Grown up Christians, ones mature in the subject of holy spirit, should seek to edify the Church; prophecy does just that. This is a Church of Christ-wide concern. We are to use prophecy more and more – IN THE CHURCH. In other words, people need to become spiritually mature. They'll never get there with singing and dancing worship. Yes, singing and dancing is a-okay, just not in place of spiritual worship.

Desire

Desire is zeloo. "Zealot" comes from this word. It means a "yearning zeal, enthusiastic believing." Desire spiritual things with enthusiasm and zeal.

(1 Cor 14:2 KJV) For he that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth *him*; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.

Yikes. Did you catch that forgery? *Unknown* is in italics. Get rid of it. The context is 'rather that ye may prophecy.' When I prophecy, I speak to men. When I speak in tongues, I speak to myself and to God. Speaking in tongues is not for use in a believer's meeting—unless accompanied with interpretation—we'll get to that. On the day of Pentecost, people understood them, but those speaking didn't understand what they were speaking. If they had understood, it would have been a known language. Speaking in tongues is speaking divine secrets to God. Those things are mysteries. It is God in connection to him, and him in connection with God.

Laleo - speaketh

The inference is speaking without reference to the utterance. Don't pay any atten-

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tion to the words being spoken.

(1 Cor 14:3 KJV) **But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.**

When I bring forth a word of prophecy, it edifies the believers by exhorting and comforting them.

Edification, Exhortation, Comfort

We speak of a house as an edifice. These manifestations build people up. Exhortation means to encourage to a more worthy endeavor, to get people 'on the ball' so to speak. Comfort means to console. Prophecy must always align with these characteristics. Prophecy will build up by words of encouragement and consolation.

(1 Cor 14:4 KJV) **He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.**

Yikes! There's that nasty addition – unknown. Scratch it out. Speaking in tongues edifies the person speaking.

Prophecy edifies the Church. See the difference? Speaking in tongues builds up the spirit, making it big and fat. Prophecy makes the church big and fat. Speaking in tongues doesn't edify your brain cells. It can't; you don't understand what you're saying. It edifies the gift in you. Well, since that is true, we have learned that the spirit AND the Church needs to be edified.

(1 Cor 14:5 KJV) **I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.**

I'm sure there are those who would like nothing better than to trash verse five. To them, I say, why not remove John 3:16? Just take out every verse you don't like. Do you remember the man who tried to cut up God's Word and burn it?

(Jer 36:23 KJV) **And it came to pass, that when Jehudi had read three or four leaves, he cut it with the penknife, and cast it into the fire**

that was on the hearth, until all the roll was consumed in the fire that was on the hearth.

That's what people do today under some great University pedigree.

When I speak in tongues in the church, I am edified, but you're not. God doesn't want that. He wants the Church to receive edification. That's why the one speaking must prophecy. Prophecy exhorts others by encouraging them and comforting them. If speaking in tongues is manifested – in the Church—it must be interpreted.

Much Love in Christ,

Jerry D. Brown