

## **Exegetical Notes – 1 Corinthians 12:1-11**

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**Introduction:** In 1 Corinthians 10:31, Paul lays down the great principle which governs the life of every believer, **“DO IT ALL FOR THE GLORY OF GOD.”**

Whatever a Christian does must be done to bring God glory. In chapter 11:2 through 14:40, Paul’s main concern is public worship. Certainly everything which is done in Christian worship should bring glory to God. In chapter 12, Paul begins a discussion of how spiritual gifts should be used in worship.

### **1 Corinthians 12:1-11**

#### **Verses 1-3**

***Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. <sup>2</sup> You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. <sup>3</sup> Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus be cursed,” and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.***

- What are “gifts of the Spirit” (see verses 7-11)? There, Paul gives a list of some of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The list given in these verses is not inclusive of all the gifts of the Spirit. The gifts of the Spirit are talents, abilities, understandings (none of these words fit completely) which come to Christians to enable the proper functioning of the Church.
- The first gift of the Holy Spirit is the ability to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. The Holy Spirit leads us into truth. Without the enlightenment and understanding which comes through the Holy Spirit’s teaching we cannot know who Jesus is nor can we make the great confession that He is Lord.
- A person enlightened by the Holy Spirit with understanding of who Jesus is could not and would not curse the name of Jesus.
- The first gift of the Holy Spirit is the knowledge of who Jesus is.

#### **Verses 4-5**

***<sup>4</sup> There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. <sup>5</sup> There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.***

- There is a variety of gifts of the Spirit. But all of them come from the Holy Spirit. They result in various kinds of ministry to the people of God, but it all comes from the Lord. The working of the Holy Spirit through the people of God is evidence that God is at work within the Church. Since all of this is of God, the people of God cannot and should not take credit for it. It is all of God.

### Verse 7

**<sup>7</sup> Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.**

- To each and every Christian gifts of the Holy Spirit are given.
- These gifts are given for the common good of the Church and not to aggrandize individual members of the Church.

### Verses 8-11

**<sup>8</sup> To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup> All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.**

- Here, Paul gives a practical list of the gifts of the Spirit. Wisdom is the ability to apply knowledge practically. Knowledge is the ability to understand something. Faith is the ability to trust God implicitly. Healing is the ability to heal people from various physical ailments. Miraculous Powers are signs which prove that God is beyond the realm of natural events. Prophecy is the ability to declare the will of God. Distinguishing of Spirits is the ability to discern what spirit is moving in a particular moment, a good spirit or an evil one. Speaking in tongues is the ability to preach the good news about Jesus in languages you have not learned. Interpretation of tongues is the ability to understand the tongue spoken by another. This is only a partial list of the gifts of the Spirit
- Paul makes it clear that God gives these gifts through the Holy Spirit as He chooses. They are given at the discretion of God for the good of the Church.

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