

***“The 7-FOLD Excellencies of the Mystery:
"The Church which is His Body:
The Special Spiritual Gifts and Enablings, Under Grace”***

Theme Verses:

Phil. 1:19-21

19 For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and **the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,**

20 According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.

21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

1 Cor. 13:8b-9 ... but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

1 Cor. 13:8a Charity never faileth:

1 Cor. 13:13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

Review:

- ***So we have been considering the Seven Excellencies revealed by Paul for the Gentiles, for the Church or out-gathering of called out ones for this dispensation of the grace of God. This is the list: A New Dispensation, A Better Gospel, Every Spiritual Blessing, An Abundant Life, The Church Which Is One Body, The Blessed Hope and Heavenly Calling (or rapture), and A Heavenly Warfare***
- ***Last time, we dwelt in the truth concerning the “never-ending supply” from the indwelling Christ:***

Phil. 1:19-21

19 For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and **the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,**

20 According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be

magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.
21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

- ***In Phil. 1 he writes that the desire of his heart was that “Christ shall be magnified in my body”! So we would do well to ask what they saw in Paul? His goal was testimony: that he might shine forth the unlimited grace of the Lord Jesus. So this is what Paul in this prayer asks to be magnified in his body. We should do the same.***
- ***Now we also considered the meaning of this expression, “the spirit of Jesus Christ”. For better understanding, we looked at 1 Cor. 15, the great resurrection passage, especially in verse 45: “And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.”***
 - ***To paraphrase this a little, we might restate it like this: “the last Adam, Christ Jesus, a life-giving or life restoring spirit”.***
 - ***This is Christ’s resurrection quality of life poured out into us today -- and it is (and it becomes, by the very nature of its working itself into us) an inexhaustible supply of new life in Christ our savior. “Christ in you, the hope of glory”! Do you have this hope? You should. It really makes the difference when the trials that are common to man come upon us and Satan’s attacks are it seems also “never-ending”.***
 - ***And, we were encouraged, I trust, to see that the “never-ending supply” from the indwelling Christ shall always be there to bring us hope and deliverance. Amen?***

Transition:

We continue today even further with our fellowship around these precious truths with our Excellency, #5: The truth of and the reality concerning the Church which is His Body. Today, we will consider the Special Spiritual Gifts and Enablings God once gave to Christ’s Body:

- ***The special spiritual gifts: their fact***
- ***The special spiritual gifts: their kinds and distribution***
- ***The special spiritual gifts: their duration***

Key Scriptures:

[READ] 1 Cor. 12:7-10

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

8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another [allos] the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

9 To another [heteros] faith by the same Spirit; to another [allos] the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

10 To another [allos] the working of miracles; to another [allos] prophecy; to another [allos] discerning of spirits; to another [heteros] divers kinds of tongues; to another [allos] the interpretation of tongues:

READ] 1 Cor. 13:1-3

1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

[READ] 1 Cor. 13:4-7

4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

[READ] 1 Cor. 13:8a Charity never faileth:

...

[READ] 1 Cor. 13:8b-9 ... but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

[READ] 1 Cor. 13:10-12

10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

[READ] 1 Cor. 13:13

13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

I. The Church, the Body of Christ: The Spiritual Enablings - Their Fact

- ***The Gifts Spiritual Gifts (charisma) Identified. Here we see the listing***

of special divine enablings during this early period in the life of the church which is Christ's Body. As we continue, take note of that, that the gifts are divine enablings to accomplish what God intended at that time...

- **Those relating to Apostleship (the signs of an apostle):**
 - **2 Cor. 12:12** Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.
 - **The book of Acts may be read in this regard and Paul's letters, especially 1 Corinthians.**
- **Those relating to Revelation is helpful -**
 - **Word of wisdom & knowledge**
 - **Prophecy**
- **And then, the sign gifts, relating specifically to Israel though no doubt of meaning to the Gentiles as well as Paul reveals**
 - **Faith, healing, miracles, discerning of spirits**
- **And, finally, the communication gifts in the area of foreign languages**
 - **Languages (Tongues) and Translations (Interpretation of Tongues)**

#1: The Church, the Body of Christ: The Spiritual Enablings - Their Fact

II. The Church, the Body of Christ: The Spiritual Enablings - Their Distribution and Kinds

- **The gifts or enablings are illustrated by the Body analogy:**
 - **1 Cor. 12:12-13** For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.
 - **So the distribution of the gifts is clear: We are members of Christ's Body and according to the analogy, we therefore have divine enablings.**
 - **Therefore, everyone has a gift**
 - **And, it seems, everyone has a single gift, as verses 13-17 reveal: " Verse 17: "If the whole body were an eye,**

where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling?"

- ***But this is not the most important thing here revealed, is it?***

- ***The gifts or enablings and their kinds or types are revealed:***

- ***1 Cor. 12:7-10***

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

8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another [allos] the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

9 To another [heteros] faith by the same Spirit; to another [allos] the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

10 To another [allos] the working of miracles; to another [allos] prophecy; to another [allos] discerning of spirits; to another [heteros] divers kinds of tongues; to another [allos] the interpretation of tongues:

- ***Take careful note: There are three groups here and we will see shortly how important those three groupings are here in Paul's letter.***

- ***#1: Word of wisdom, word of knowledge (revelatory gifts)***
- ***#2: Faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits (sign gifts regarding Israel, some revelatory as well)***
- ***#3: tongues (foreign languages), interpretation of tongues (translation) (communication gifts)***

- ***So there are three groupings of gifts here and the groups are distinguished by the Greek words allos and heteros, another of the same kind and another of a different kind:***

- ***Revelatory***
- ***Signs (to make Israel jealous):***
 - ***Rom. 10:19 (and also, 11:11)*** But I say, Did not Israel know? First Moses saith, I will provoke you to jealousy by them that are no

people, and by a foolish nation I will anger you.

- **Communication**
- **The special gift of apostleship is not mentioned here.**
- **And, the enduring gifts mentioned in Romans 12 and Ephesians are not mentioned. The gifts found here are the special enablings that would be terminated in due time. The other gifts such as pastor, teacher, exhortation, helps, etc. continue today.**

#1: The Church, the Body of Christ: The Spiritual Enablings - Their Fact

#2: The Church, the Body of Christ: The Spiritual Enablings - Their Distribution and Kinds

III. The Church, the Body of Christ: The Spiritual Enablings or Gifts - Their Duration

- **Nothing could be clearer from this chapter than that these gifts or enablings were very temporary and further, that they would soon be passing away.**
 - **Regarding love, for example, in stark contrast to the other special gifts mentioned here, verse**
 - **They SHALL PASS AWAY AND SHALL DIMINISH while the fruit abides and remains.**
 - **The revelation given here in chapters 12 & 13 explain it all -- as we shall see! Praise be to God.**
- **It is according to the various purposes of the gifts that Paul has revealed here the duration of the enablings:**
 - **Regarding God's revelation**
 - **When the revelation had been completed and the need no longer existed - Col. 1:25: "Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God"**
 - **Regarding the signs for Israel**
 - **1 Cor. 1:22-23**
22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:
23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;
24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks,

Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

- **Regarding the need for gospel proclamation**
 - **Foreign languages unlearned yet used by the saints as their native tongue for speaking (tongues) and for translation (interpretation of tongues)**
- **Now we see here that Paul has picked one gift from each grouping!! That is the key to understanding. He has divided up all of these special enablings of the Spirit of God into these several groups and then said of each one -- that they would be very temporary!!**
 - **[READ] 1 Cor. 13:8b-9s ... but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.**
9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.
 - **#2: Faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits (sign gifts regarding Israel, some revelatory as well) -- these shall become irrelevant and will no longer be appropriate (see 2 Tim. 1:10 - death is "abolished")**
 - **#3: tongues (foreign languages), interpretation of tongues (translation) (communication gifts) -- THESE SHALL CEASE (we get our word "pause" from this Greek word used here)**
 - **#1: Word of wisdom, word of knowledge (revelatory gifts) - again, these shall be inappropriate**
- **So each grouping of gifts is special and they should be kept distinct, as the apostle indicates so clearly here. He says that the time will come that ...**
 - **... there are no more apostles - the last of the apostle would and has come...**
 - **... Israel has been set aside completely and there is no more need for miracles, etc...**
 - **And, ... the revelation of God for us saved under the fullness of grace has been completed...**
 - **AND THEN, they would all have met their full purpose in the plan of God and would be terminated.**
- **The timing of all of this is also made clear in addition to the reality of it in verses 10 - 12.**

[READ] 1 Cor. 13:10-12

10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

- **So, some questions:**
 - **What is the perfect, or, the completed thing mentioned here?**
 - **Has that completed thing yet come into being?**
 - **Why cannot this be the second coming or the rapture that is referred to here?**

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#2: The Church, the Body of Christ: The Spiritual Enablings - Their Distribution and Kinds

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IV. The Church, the Body of Christ: The Spiritual Enablings or Gifts - Today

- **What about today?**
- **Love will continue always**
 - **Both beginning and end of the 1 Cor. 13 passage proclaims the continual presence of the fruit of the spirit, here identified by the first of the segments of the fruit, LOVE.**
 - **It is clear that that would be ABIDING**
 - **Indeed, it is abiding today while those other gifts have entirely passed away.**
- **Love is the first segment in the fruit of the Spirit -- and it will continue on throughout the dispensation of grace! Amen.**
- **And, then there is the unfailing and unlimited outpouring of God's gift of Christ's own spirit and life as we learned last time, the "supply of the spirit of Christ", Phil. 1:**

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#4: The Church, the Body of Christ: The Spiritual Enablings or Gifts - Today

SUMMARY & CONCLUSIONS:

- ***According to 2 Thess. 2 Satan will use counterfeit signs and wonders during the dispensation of grace to lead astray many. This is a precursor to the full manifestation of the Lawless One in the Great Tribulation period.***
- ***Beware of those who would lead you astray today through false teachings regarding the gifts of the spirit. Beware. What they are doing is frustrating the grace of God and the gracious work of Christ dwelling in each of us today.***
- ***Instead, rest in the fullness of God's grace. It is enough. We need nothing more for joy, peace, and true contentment.***