

Studies in First Corinthians

NT Survey Lesson 98--1 Corinthians 12

Introduction: The Christians at Corinth had received various miraculous powers from the Holy Spirit called spiritual gifts. However, these gifts had become the occasion for disharmony and competition in the body at Corinth. In this lesson Paul discusses the gifts of the Spirit and how each person should be seen as a contributing member of the one body.

Lesson aim: To encourage the student to understand the need to see the church as a body of members each doing his part in the Lord's work.

Paul discusses the proper attitude toward spiritual gifts--1 Cor. 12:1-31

1. When the Corinthians were pagans and worshippers of idols, were they led to a speaking God or a "dumb" god? Into truth or astray from truth?
2. In contrast, were the Corinthians as Christians led to a speaking God or a "dumb" god? If a speaking God, how did God speak to His people? Did the Spirit lead them to say contradictory things or the same thing?
3. Though there were different gifts, different ministries, different effects, what three things were the same about all spiritual gifts?
4. What was the purpose of spiritual gifts according to v. 7?
5. Make a list of the different spiritual gifts and try to give a definition of each one if you can.
6. From whom did all of the spiritual gifts come? Who determined who received what gift?
7. The body of Christ is made up of _____ members. However, there is but _____ body.
8. How did all the Corinthians get into the body of Christ? By how many Spirits were they led? Of how many Spirits were they made to drink? What is the point of emphasizing these things?

9. What point about spiritual gifts is Paul making in v. 15-19? In v. 20-21?
10. What attitude should the members of the body of Christ have toward each other when one member suffers? When one member is honored?
11. Name in order the various roles or offices that God has set or appointed in the church. What point did Paul make about them in v. 29-30?
12. What did Paul urge the Corinthians to do in view of the order of gifts he established in v. 28-30? (See v. 31) What would those greater gifts be?