

CONCERNING SPIRITUAL GIFTS
I COR. 12:1-3

Introduction:

- A. We must interpret the Bible, by the Bible.
 - 1. Some study to prove prior beliefs.
 - 2. Some study to disprove prior beliefs.

- B. The proper way to , "rightly divide the word of truth" is to accept the concept of dispensations or ages.
II Tim. 2:15.
 - 1. Dispensationalism is the truth that God has chosen to deal with mankind differently in different ages.
 - a. Not in the plan of salvation.
 - b. Has always been by faith.
 - 2. Some examples of dispensationalism.
 - a. Adam and Eve in the garden.
 - b. Noah building an Ark, the rainbow.
 - c. Israel as God's Kingdom witnesses.

Matt. 11:43 "Therefore, say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof."

- d. This was not an abrogation of the Abrahamic Covenant, but a fulfilling of the Mosaic Covenant.
 - e. The church is not the Kingdom witnesses.

- C. The church age or the "last days" were to be marked by signs.
 - 1. Acts 2:1-24.
 - 2. The day of Pentecost was fulfilling of prophecy. Joel 2:28-32 (822).
 - 3. Jesus had been approved by miracles. Acts 2:22.
 - 4. The statement of Jesus. Mark 16:14-20.

- D. The "last days" are the "last days of man's world," not the very last days of the earth.

1. The "last days" have been on-going for 1900 years.
2. v17,18 are signs of the beginning of the "last days"
 - a. Revelation ; Vials, Trumpets, Woes.
3. v19-20 are signs of the end of the last days.
4. v21, is the truth for all of the "last days" or every day of those last days.
5. signs, Ken Copeland.

E. The questions we must answer.

1. How long were these special gifts to continue?
 - a. To the coming of Christ?
 - b. To the giving of Scripture?

I. TRUTHS NECESSARY TO COMPREHEND GIFTS.

A. People who over-emphasized gifts were ignorant.

1. v1.
2. ignorant = agnoeo - want of perception.

B. The two absolute requisites for a belief in tongues and healing.

1. Ignorance (of Bible).
2. Immaturity (spiritually).

C. The Gentiles were the primary abusers. v2

1. Why?
 - a. They were accustomed to being "led" by emotion.
 - b. The Jews used written revelation; Amp. "You know that when you were heathen, you were led off after idols that could not speak, habitually, as impulse directed you and whenever the occasion might arise."
2. carry away = apago - to lead away, to conduct.
3. As worshipers of idols they were caught up in ecstatic utterances and so-called visitations.
4. The Hindus, Moselms, Buddhists, etc. practice ecstatic utterances.

D. The work of the Holy Spirit.

1. "wherefore I give you to understand."
2. understand = gnoizo - to make known, reveal.
3. The negative statement.
 - a. No man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed."

(1) accursed = anathema - something consecrated to God; among Jews what was consecrated could not be redeemed, if living must be put to death. In the N.T. sense, to say the Jesus was "anathema" meant he was a malefactor, one justly condemned to death.

(2) The Holy Spirit would never lead anyone to call Jesus "anathema."

4. The positive statement.

- a. "and that no man can say Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Spirit."

(1) Men affirmed themselves to be a Christian by affirming their faith in the historic Jesus as "the Lord."

(2) Not revealed by flesh and blood.

(3) Matt. 16:13-17.

(4) I John 4:1-3.

E. This doesn't mean you can't say the words.

1. It means you can't make the commitment.

II. THE SPIRIT OF GOD HAS NOT CEASED HIS WORKING.

A. He leads us to His Word.

B. He is our Comforter.

1. He aids us in our suffering.

C. He convicts men of the truth about Himself.

1. This is the most important work.

