

## Now Concerning Spiritual Gifts

I Corinthians 12:1

### I. INTRODUCTION: I

1. **2** Paul wrote the church at Corinth, *“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant”* (I Cor. 12:1).
  - A. **\*\*** Unfortunately, there is a great deal of ignorance when it comes to *“spiritual gifts.”*
  - B. Many denominations teach/practice a great deal of error when it comes to *“spiritual gifts.”*
  - C. Most notably the Pentecostal groups claim to be able to speak in tongues.
  - D. Denominations claiming to speak in tongues are referred to as *“charismatic”* denominations.
  - E. *“Charismatic”* is taken from the Greek word *“charismata”* which means *“a divinely conferred gift or power”* (Dictionary.com).
2. **\*\*** In our lesson we will answer four questions about *“spiritual gifts”*:
  - ☛ **What**
  - ☛ **How**
  - ☛ **Why**
  - ☛ **When**
3. **3** Let us consider what the Bible really teaches about *“spiritual gifts”* so that we will not *“be ignorant”* about them.

### II. DISCUSSION:

1. **4** What:
  - A. Role of the Holy Spirit in God’s scheme of redemption.
    - (1) To understand *“spiritual gifts”* it is important to first understand the Holy Spirit’s role in God’s scheme of redemption.
    - (2) In a nutshell, the Holy Spirit is the instrument by which God **reveals** His will to man.
    - (3) Without revelation we cannot know what is on another man’s mind nor can we know what is on God’s mind (i.e., His will for us is concerned):

**I Cor. 2:11:** *“For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.”*
    - (4) Illustration: I’m thinking of a number between 1 and 1,000. What number?
      - (a) You may get lucky and guess that number. You have a 1 in a 1,000 chance.
      - (b) **\*\*** The odds of guessing are magnified greatly if the question becomes: *“I’m thinking of a number between 1 and 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 (octillion).”*
      - (c) **\*\*** You can only know what is on my mind (i.e., the number) if I reveal it to you!  
BTW: the number was 683,479,256
      - (d) **\*\*** The same is true with God: *“Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.”*
    - (5) This is where the Holy Spirit comes in:

**I Cor. 2:9-13:** *“But as it is written:*  
*‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,*  
*Nor have entered into the heart of man*

*The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.'*

*10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. 13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches..."*

- (6) This truth about God's revelation is why Paul wrote what he did in Ephesians 3:1-5:

**Eph. 3:1-5:** *"For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles — 2 if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, 3 how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, 4 by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), 5 which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:"*

- (a) Before I told you my number (683,479,256) it was a "mystery" ("a hidden thing, secret"; Thayer).
- (b) My spirit had to reveal that number to you that you "might know" it.
- (c) The same is true for God's will; we cannot know it unless He reveals it (Eph. 3:1-5).
- (d) So, what we have recorded in the Bible is a revelation of the mind of God, not man:

**Gal. 1:11-12:** *"But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. 12 For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ."*

**B. 5** How did the Holy Spirit reveal God's Word?

- (1) *Baptism of the Holy Spirit:*

- (a) The baptism of the Holy Spirit enabled the apostles to reveal God's Word:

**Jn. 14:26:** *"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."*

**Jn. 15:26-27:** *"But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. 27 And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning."*

**Jn. 16:13-15:** *"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. 15 All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you."*

- (b) **\*\*** The baptism of the Holy Spirit was a "promise," not a command:

**Lk. 24:49:** *"Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."*

**Acts 1:4:** *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

**Acts 2:1-4:** *"When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind,*

and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

- (c) \*\* Only two cases of the baptism of the Holy Spirit: 1) Apostles (Acts 2:1-4), and 2) First Gentile converts:

**Acts 11:15-18:** “And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning. 16 Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, ‘John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ 17 If therefore God gave them the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God? 18 When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, ‘Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life.’”

**Acts 15:7-9:** “Peter rose up and said to them: ‘Men and brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. 8 So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us, 9 and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.’”

- (d) No other cases of Holy Spirit baptism are recorded in Scripture! **1 Cor. 2:11:** “For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.”

- (2) \*\* Gift of the Holy Spirit: has nothing directly to do with revealing God’s Word.

- (a) The “gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38) is neither the baptism of the Holy Spirit or the “spiritual gifts” of the New Testament.

- (b) The “gift of the Holy Spirit” is simply salvation in Jesus Christ:

- (i) Recall the prophet Joel’s prophecy:

**Acts 2:19:** “And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”

- (ii) Who would reveal this wonderful news? The Holy Spirit (Jn. 14, 15, 16; 1 Cor. 2)

- (iii) Revealing this new-found salvation in Jesus Christ was exactly what Peter was doing in Acts 2 “as the Spirit gave them utterance” (vs. 4).

**Acts 2:37:** “Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Men and brethren, what shall we do?’”

- (iv) What were these people asking Peter? “What must we do to call on the name of the Lord and be saved?”

- (v) Peter’s Holy Spirit inspired answer:

**Acts 2:38-39:** “Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.’”

- (vi) This “gift of the Holy Spirit” was available to the Pentecostians when they obeyed the gospel (Rom. 1:16-17).

- (vii) This same gift is available to you, me and the entire world when we obey the gospel! “For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.” (He calls everyone! Matt. 11:28-30; 1 Tim. 2:4)

(4) **6** “spiritual gifts”: There were nine spiritual gifts “given by the Spirit” (vs. 8): 1 Cor. 12:1-11

- ❶ “the word of wisdom” (vs. 8),
- ❷ “the word of knowledge,” (vs. 8),
- ❸ “faith” (vs. 9),
- ❹ “gifts of healing,” (vs. 9),
- ❺ “working of miracles,” (vs. 9),
- ❻ “prophecy,” (vs. 10),
- ❼ “discerning of spirits,” (vs. 10),
- ❽ “different kinds of tongues,” (vs. 10),
- ❾ “the interpretation of tongues” (vs. 10).

(a) All these gifts were supernatural in nature.

(b) “Knowledge,” e.g., was knowledge that did not come by study, but without study.

(c) “Kinds of tongues” was the supernatural ability to speak languages other than your native tongue, without studying or being taught that language. These “tongues” were not the gibberish of the Pentecostals and other “charismatics.”

**Acts 2:4-8:** “And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. 6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. 7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, ‘Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born?’” (cf. vss. 9-11)

## 2. **7** Why:

A. By “why,” I mean “Why did God give “spiritual gifts”?”

B. To understand the “why” of “spiritual gifts” we must appreciate the situation in the 1<sup>st</sup> century.

(1) The Lord Jesus gave the “Great Commission” to the apostles (Matt. 28:19-20; Mk. 16:15-16) to proclaim the availability of “the gift of the Holy Spirit” (i.e., salvation; Acts 2:21, 38).

(2) Indeed, that is exactly what they did:

**Acts 1:8:** “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

**Heb. 2:1-4:** “Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. 2 For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, 4 God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?”

**Mk. 16:19-20:** “So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. 20 And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.”

(3) **\*\*** Thus, the apostles preached a “certified” gospel (explain certification):

**Gal. 1:11-12:** *“But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. 12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.” (KJV)*

- (a) However, once the apostles converted folks and established a local church (e.g., Paul’s missionary journeys), they moved on and preached the “good news” to other people in other places.
- (b) \*\* The apostles were being guided into “*all truth*,” but it was impossible for them to impart “*all truth*” to those they converted before they moved on.
- (c) What were these new converts to do? They did not possess a completed NT.
- (d) That’s were “*spiritual gifts*” played a role. They were a temporary measure for the early church before the apostles were guided into “*all truth*” and the New Testament was complete and became available.

B. Note that all the gifts had something to do with revealing God’s Word:

**Heb. 2:3-4:** *“...which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, 4 God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?”*

- C. In the absence of the physical presence of an inspired teacher, these “*spiritual gifts*” aided the first Christians in guiding them in all manner of living, worship, etc.
- D. This aspect of “*spiritual gifts*” should also give us a big clue as to the length of their duration (more later).

### 3. **8** How:

A. How did people receive “*spiritual gifts*”?

- (1) “*Spiritual gifts*” were not the same as the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- (2) “*Spiritual gifts*” were not the same as “*the gift of the Holy Spirit*” (Acts 2:21, 28-29)

B. We often say “the Bible is its own best commentary”; meaning, let’s simply look at what the Bibles says to find out how “*spiritual gifts*” were given.

C. \*\* The case of Philip is most instructive (Acts 8:4-24).

- (1) After the disciples were “*scattered*” due to the persecution in Jerusalem they “*went everywhere preaching the word*” (Acts 8:4).

- (2) One of those disciples was a man named Philip who went to preach in Samaria (recall Acts 1:8).

**Acts 8:5-8:** *“Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. 6 And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. 7 For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. 8 And there was great joy in that city.”*

- (3) \*\* Philipp wasn’t an apostle; he hadn’t received the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4).
- (4) But the apostles had laid their hands on Philip (Acts 6:5-6) and thus he was able to work miracles (Acts 8:6-7) to “*confirm the word*” (**Mk. 16:20:** “*the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs*”).

**Acts 8:6:** “And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.”

(5) But Philip could not lay his hands on anyone to impart “spiritual gifts” to them.

(6) \*\* In the course of his evangelistic work, Philip converted a man named Simon:

**Acts 8:9-13:** “But there was a certain man called Simon, who previously practiced sorcery in the city and astonished the people of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great, 10 to whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, ‘This man is the great power of God.’ 11 And they heeded him because he had astonished them with his sorceries for a long time. 12 But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. 13 Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done.”

(7) \*\* Since Philip was not an apostle, he was unable to impart “spiritual gifts” to others. Why do I say that? Let the Bible be its own best commentary:

**Acts 8:14-17:** “Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, 15 who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. 16 For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.”

(8) It was only through “the laying on of the apostles’ hands” that “spiritual gifts” could be imparted to others! Philip, despite his “spiritual gifts” couldn’t do it!

**Acts 8:18-19:** “And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, 19 saying, ‘Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit.’”

(9) That “the laying on of the apostle’s hands” was necessary for the impartation of “spiritual gifts” can also be seen from two other examples:

(a) Conversions in Ephesus:

**Acts 19:5-6:** “...they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.”

(b) Paul’s epistle to the Romans:

**Rom. 1:11:** “For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established”

#### 4. **9** When:

A. By the “when” of “spiritual gifts” I mean “When were these gifts available?” “When did “spiritual gifts” end? When no longer available? Do these gifts continue today?”

B. We learn that “spiritual gifts” are no longer available and do not continue today by using two important principles of biblical hermeneutics: (1) direct statement, and (2) necessary inference (conclusion).

(1) \*\* Direct statement:

(a) I Corinthians 13:8 gives us a direct statement telling us the duration of “spiritual gifts”:



**I Cor. 13:8:** “Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.”

- (b) These three gifts (“prophecies...tongues...knowledge”) are **representative** of all nine “spiritual gifts.”
- (c) The apostle said they “will fail...will cease...will vanish away.”
- (d) \*\* So, the question is not **IF** this happened, but **WHEN** it happened.
- (e) \*\* The answer:

**I Cor. 13:9-10:** “For we know in part and we prophesy in part. **10** But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.”

- (i) Some think “that which is perfect” refers to Christ and maintain these gifts are operative today and will continue till He comes.
  - (ii) However, “that which is perfect” doesn’t refer to Christ; Christ is a “He,” not a “that.”
  - (iii) Rather, “that which is perfect” is of the same nature as that which is “in part” (i.e., “prophecies,” “tongues,” “knowledge”). What would be of the same nature? All nine “spiritual gifts.”
  - (iv) **10** When divine revelation was complete, these gifts would “fail,” “cease” and “vanish away.”
- (f) Observe what Paul said, “...that which is in part will be done away” (v. 10).
- (i) \*\* He illustrated the termination of the gifts in this manner: “When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.” (v. 11).
  - (ii) \*\* The “childish things” picture “spiritual gifts,” which existed during the infancy of the church.
  - (iii) \*\* Those who argue “spiritual gifts” continue today have the church remaining in its infancy, when the Bible confirms the church of Christ is in a state of maturity!
- (g) **11** Paul said, “For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.” (vs. 12).
- (i) \*\* Unlike when Paul wrote I Corinthians, divine revelation has been completed.
  - (ii) James spoke of “...the perfect law of liberty” (Jas. 1:25).
  - (iii) Jude exhorted, “...earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3).
  - (iv) Jesus’ promise to the apostles in John 16:13 has been fulfilled! Eph. 3:1-5
- (h) \*\* Since “that which is perfect” has come, then “spiritual gifts” have “failed,” “ceased,” “vanished away,” been “done away” and put away like “childish things”!
- (2) **12 Necessary conclusion:** (part 1) It should be obvious from the previous discussion the principle of necessary conclusion also tells us that “spiritual gifts” are no longer available.
- (a) “Spiritual gifts” were needed while the apostles were being guided into “all truth” (Jn. 16:13).
  - (b) Hence, when that was accomplished the need for “spiritual gifts” ended.

**Jude 3:** “Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.”

- (c) As a result, Christians are no longer dependent upon “spiritual gifts”; all we need to do is read the New Testament (cf. Eph. 3:1-5; Jn. 16:13).
- (d) Also, recall **Acts 8:19**: “...Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Spirit was given...”
  - (i) The apostles had no successors.
  - (ii) Hence, there are no apostles today (none meet the qualifications or are able to perform the signs, Acts 1:21-22; 2 Cor 12:12).
  - (iii) Thus, there is no one capable of imparting “spiritual gifts” today.
- (3) **13 Necessary conclusion:** (part 2) “Spiritual gifts” were no more because they had served their purpose.
  - (a) What was the purpose of “spiritual gifts”?
  - (b) The Hebrew writer recorded, “how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, 4 God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?” (Heb. 2:3-4).
  - (c) “Gifts of the Holy Spirit,” along with “signs and wonders, with various miracles,” served to **confirm the word**.
  - (d) When Jesus sent forth the apostles to preach the gospel, “...they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following” (Mk. 16:20).
  - (e) Once a thing is confirmed, it is confirmed for all time; it does not need to be confirmed again and again and again and again.
  - (f) **Galatians 3:15** says, “Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though it is only a man's covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it.”
  - (g) Since the purpose of spiritual gifts has been served (confirm the word), the need for them no longer exists.
  - (h) They may be likened to the scaffolding that is erected when a building is being constructed; once the building is complete, the scaffolding is taken away.
  - (i) **14** When God gets through with a thing, He does away with it.
    - ☛ **\*\***This is seen with the serpent of brass during the wilderness-wandering period.
    - ☛ When the children of Israel complained and fiery serpents were sent and bit the people, the Lord instructed Moses, “Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live.” (Num. 21:8).
    - ☛ This served a temporary purpose as God’s provision for the healing of snake bite and to foreshadow the day when folks would look to Christ to live (Jn. 3:14-15).
    - ☛ The children of Israel held on to this wilderness relic and made an idol out of it.
    - ☛ Many years down the road, during the days of the divided kingdom, when King Hezekiah of Judah comes on the scene, it is said: “He removed the high places and broke the sacred pillars, cut down the wooden image and broke in pieces the bronze



serpent that Moses had made; for until those days the children of Israel burned incense to it, and called it Nehushtan.” (2 Kgs. 18:4).

- ☛ “Nehushtan” means a piece of brass.
- ☛ It had served its purpose and now was just a piece of brass to be broken in pieces.
- ☛ **\*\***This is also true of the law of Moses.
- ☛ It was temporary — till Christ (Gal. 3:19, 16).
- ☛ When it served its purpose, it was “done away” (2 Cor. 3:7, 11).
- ☛ **\*\***When spiritual gifts served their intended purpose, they were “done away” (1 Cor. 13:10).
- ☛ Remember, when God gets through with a thing, He does away with it!

(4) **I 5** Necessary conclusion: (part 3) If “spiritual gifts” continue, why not observe the rules regulating their use?

- (a) 1 Corinthians 14 regulates the use of prophecy and tongues (2 of the 9 spiritual gifts).
- (b) The possessor of the gift was not controlled by the gift, but it was something he had the ability to restrain (vs. 32).
- (c) Read 1 Corinthians 14:27-31, 34, and 40.

**1 Cor. 14:27-31**: “If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret. 28 But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God. 29 Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge. 30 But if anything is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent. 31 For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged.”

**1 Cor. 14:34**: “Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law also says.”

**1 Cor. 14:40**: “Let all things be done decently and in order.”

- (d) Why is it that those who would have us believe “spiritual gifts” continue today do not observe the rules regulating their use?
- (e) Surely if God intended the “spiritual gifts” in 1 Corinthians 12 to continue in our time, His rules governing their use in 1 Corinthians 14 would also continue! **1 Cor. 14:33**: “For God is not the author of confusion but of peace...”

## II. CONCLUSION: **I 6**

1. “Spiritual gifts” served an important purpose in God’s scheme of redemption (1 Cor. 12-14; Heb. 2:3-4; Mk. 16:19-20).
  - A. During the time the Holy Spirit was guiding the apostles into “all truth” they served as an aid to the first century saints.
  - B. They were much like a scaffold on a building being constructed.
  - C. Once the building is constructed the scaffolding is removed.
  - D. Once the apostles were guided into “all truth” the scaffolding of “spiritual gifts” was removed.
2. The means by which “spiritual gifts” were imparted is no longer available, there are no living apostles.

3. The purpose of “*spiritual gifts*” to “*confirm*” God’s Word is no longer needed, God’s Word has been fully certified.
4. To claim “*spiritual gifts*” today is a false claim and a return to “*childish things*.”  
**I Cor. 12:1:** “Now concerning *spiritual gifts*, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:”
5. Invitation

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