

Congregation of Elohim

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**** Earnestly Seek the Gifts of The Holy Spirit ****

1) We should not be ignorant of the spiritual gifts:

In 1Corinthians 12:1 the Apostle Paul states, “Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.” So, Paul who was extremely busy and suffered so much for the Called ones, would not have taken so much time to make this statement if it was not vitally important for the Called. So, this means we need to know what the gifts are and know that they are absolutely necessary.

Greek words translated as gifts, and service in 1Corinthians chapters 12 - 14:

Per the Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, the word "gifts" and “service” is as follows in Greek respectively.

- **Gifts:** "charisma" Strong's code # 5486 which means "spiritual gifts." xarismata (the plural form) literally means "grace-endowments." Also, “grace-gift”) divinely empowers a believer to share God's work with others, i.e. Spirit-empowered service to the Church to carry out His plan for His people.”
- **Service:** "energēma" Strong's code # 1755 which means “thing wrought; effect; operation.”

2) Our Testimony for Elohim needs to be by His Spirit:

Verses 2-3 teach that, unlike the covenant relation with Elohim, the idols of religions can do absolutely nothing for worshipers. Yet, faith in Elohim is so effectual, that even our testimony about Him must be by His Spirit to be acceptable. A person who only makes verbal pronouncements about Elohim without proof from Him (faith) is not honoring Him. The testimony has to be by the Spirit as in the case of Peter’s response when Yeshua asked “who do you say that I the Son of Man Am?” Peter did not respond with an answer he learned or read from some human source. Peter responded by the Spirit “You are the Christ the Son of Living Power” (Matthew 16:16). In response to Peter, Yeshua stated “Blessed are you Simon Son of Yonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father Who is in Heaven” (Matthew 16:17). All the other disciples gave plausible answers; but none were by the Spirit or certain. Only Peter at that time was given this absolute truth from the Father. This is “the good confession” we must all have. So, our testimony needs to come from the direct teaching and interaction from Elohim; not mortal constructs.

This clarifies what Yeshua meant when He taught “The Father is Spirit and those who worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth. For such the Father seeks.” The word “worship” in this case does not mean adoration or praise. Rather, as in most cases, it means to serve or work for. Thus, The Living Power is looking for people who will serve or work for Him in Spirit and in Truth. It is not something we can ever do with our fleshy limitations. Flesh and blood on its own cannot achieve this. This mode of serving in Spirit and Truth, can only be enabled by Elohim. He will empower those who repent and believe in Him to serve Him in Spirit and in Truth.

3) The Gifts of the Spirit:

1Corinthians 12:4-11, Paul outlines the gifts of the Spirit which are as follows:

1. Utterance of Wisdom
2. Utterance of Knowledge
3. Faith
4. Healing
5. Miracles
6. Prophecy
7. Distinguishing Spirits
8. Various Kinds of Tongues
9. Interpretation of Tongues

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Prior to Paul, Peter testified that the gifts of the Spirit are a fulfilling of Joel's prophecy. In Acts 2:16-18 stated "But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; " 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith Elohim, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.' "

4) Purpose of Spiritual Gifts:

Paul states "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good" (1Corinthians 12:7). So, the gifts of the Spirit are all for the wellbeing and success of the Called (body) in Christ.

5) The Gifts are For Everyone in Christ:

Paul states "...and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same Elohim who empowers them all in everyone (1Corinthians 12:5-6). The latter part shows the gifts are given to "everyone" who is truly in Christ, not only to elders and pastors.

6) The Services (Tasks):

Paul states "...and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same Elohim who empowers them all in everyone (1Corinthians 12:5-6). The first part shows, beside spiritual gifts, Elohim gives different yet specific services and activities to *everyone* who is truly in Christ, *not only "clergy."* Per Paul, "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And Elohim has appointed in the Called Ones first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues" (1Corinthians 12:27-28). So, the specific services or activities of the Spirit established and required by Elohim are:

1. Apostles
2. Prophets
3. Teachers
4. Miracle Workers
5. Healers
6. Helpers
7. Administration
8. Speaker/translator of various languages

It is important to understand, that these functions are ordained by the Spirit, and can only be properly accomplished by the spiritual gifts; not by any natural innate ability or skill gained by human means.

7) The Love Paradigm:

At the end of the chapter, Paul states "But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way" (1Corinthians 12:31). He then proceeds to show the value and virtues of divine love and that it is what matters most and gives value to everything the Called Ones do (1Corinthians 13:1-13). The Apostle Yohn testified two times that Elohim is love (1John 4:8,16). Since, by the testimony of two a matter shall stand, we can rest assured Elohim is indeed love. So, as we look at Paul's statements regarding love, we need to understand them by how Elohim, Who is love, has dealt with the world for He "so loved the world." As we do, we will learn that love is more than compassion or charity. As Elohim is love, everything He did and does is by love! When He purposed to create before actually creating, it was love, when He

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destroyed millions or more people young, old, and animal life in the flood during Noah's days, it was love. All His compassion, commandments, justice, and so on - even the lake of fire, are all expressions of love.

Leviticus 19 specifies what Elohim means by love and what He means by "you shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Leviticus 19:1-16-17-18-37). As you read it, you will see that the love of Elohim is centered on justice and righteousness. Paul testifies that love is a paradigm or way of life in Elohim that enables the Called to withstand and do the impossible - all things (1Corinthians 13:4-7). Also, that love is head from which faith and hope and the other Divine virtues stem (1Corinthians 13:13).

8) Earnestly Seek the Gifts:

Some read chapter 13 and conclude the gifts are not necessary. But, reemphasizing its vital importance in chapter 14, Paul states "Pursue love, *and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts*, especially that you may prophesy" (1Corinthians 14:1). Some church groups teach that the gift of tongues is not needed, but Paul, aligned with the Prophet Joel, taught "*Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy*. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up" (1Corinthians 14:5). So, no matter what any of today's elders or pastors may say, per prophetic and apostolic teaching, *all* the gifts *are important*, especially prophecy.

9) Seek Especially Prophecy:

Throughout chapter 14 Paul emphasizes, and describes the efficacy and importance of prophecy. Below are three main points that show this and the divine nature of this vital spiritual gift for the Called Ones:

1. Reveals secrets of the heart to convict (1Corinthians 14:25)
2. Gives credibility to the Called Ones (1Corinthians 14:25)
3. Brings glory to Elohim (1Corinthians 14:25)

Conclusion:

The gifts and services by the Spirit for the Called of Elohim are a must if we are to be "good and faithful servants" of Elohim. Per the Apostle Paul, we need to know what they are and that they are vitally necessary for the wellbeing and success as the body of Christ collectively and individually. We need to function through love and to earnestly seek the gifts of the Spirit; especially prophecy. Prophecy is our main testimony that will give credibility to the Called of Elohim and bring glory and praise to Him. If we are really Disciples of Christ, then this is our job. So, let's earnestly seek the gifts of the Spirit through prayer to our Father in heaven in the Name of Yeshua His Holy Uniquely Born Son so we can be good and profitable servants.