1Thess #120

Use your discernment when supporting a ministry.

Please keep our sister in Christ, Pam H.in your prayers.

/2023 PRB Ministry Bible Conference is on November 11th & 12th located at the Historical Train Depot of Dunnellon Florida. Classes begin 10:45 am.

12061 S. Williams Street, Dunnellon Fla. 34432 \

We will be going into 1Corinthians chapter twelve today so feel free to go there now.

This will be the closing message on this series.

What we have covered in this series should have enlightened many people about spiritual leadership, especially in the context of the pastor-teacher.

Ephesians chapter 4 gives a very strong statement in relation to what the majority of the work for the pastor-teacher is, in this CA dispensation;

/Eph 4:11 And He gave some *as* apostles, some *as* prophets, some *as* evangelists, some *as* **pastors and teachers**, 12 for **the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry,** for the **building up of the body of Christ**;\

That is the purpose and calling for a qualified pastor-teacher – equipping the saints and building up the body of Christ before the Rapture of the church.

If you are not under a ministry that equips you for spiritual warfare, which means a serious, bible teaching ministry.

A pastor that drives you toward maturity – teaching in season and out of season, when the message is popular, boring, exciting or down right difficult to digest, then you may want to question what spiritual authority are you are under.

REPEAT

The gift of pastor teacher is not designed to be a 24/7 answering machine or a counseling hotline.

Once the early church began to form, it became obvious there were many needs in a congregation and the apostles addressed it immediately.

This is really true within a brick-and-mortar church when it begins to grow.

/Act 6:2 So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, “**It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables**.

The gift of pastor-teacher is a reflection of the apostles – the focus must be on the word! \

The misconception is that the pastor has to visit the sick, counsel the weak and charge into the local community to make a social change.

None of that is a the calling for a pastor-teacher. Those roles and ministries are what mature Bels step up to do after they have been taught accurate BD.

/[Act 6:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/6/3/s_1024003) “Instead, brothers *and sisters,* select from among you **seven men of good reputation,** full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task. 4“But **we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”**\

Notice two things …seven men, it is always best to have an uneven number for the sake of voting on church matters.

Seven, being a godly number of completion or perfection. And secondary, the call for deacons was for MEN, mature Bels.

The role for church administration on any level, is to take pressure off the pastor-teacher so that he is not distracted from his studies.

In 1Corinthians chapter twelve the Apostle Paul is addressing and emotional group of Bels who began making an issue out of spiritual gifts.

1Cor 12:1 Now concerning spiritual *gifts,* brothers *and sisters,* I do not want you to be unaware.

[1Co 12:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/12/2/s_1074002) You know that when you were pagans, *you were* led astray to the mute idols, however you were led.

/[1Co 12:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/12/3/s_1074003) Therefore I make known to you that **no one speaking by the Spirit of God says**, “Jesus is accursed”; and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.

The Apostle Paul is pointing to Bels filled by the Spirit (present tense). They speak in truth of Christ and live in the truth of Christ.\

Apostle Paul is referencing a Bel heading toward maturity, living in the two power options habitually.

They recognize the deity of Jesus Christ.

[1Co 12:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/12/4/s_1074004) Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.

/[1Co 12:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/12/5/s_1074005) And there are **varieties of ministries,** and the same Lord.

A ministry can be any spiritual application or the gift of pastor, deacon, prison ministry, outreach programs or a group bible study, every Bel can have a ministry.\

When Chad and Jessica set up the South Dakota Bible Conference last year, they embarked upon a type of ministry. When setting that up and sponsoring that, for the benefit of others - it became a ministry for them.

[1Co 12:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/12/6/s_1074006) There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all *persons.*

[1Co 12:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/12/7/s_1074007) But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

/[1Co 12:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/12/8/s_1074008) For to one is given **the word of wisdom through the Spirit**, and to another **the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit**;

This speaks to those who may go forward deeper in ministry because of maturity. \

Some Bels reach levels of maturity and they become great assets for a church or a pastor-teacher.

Some ministries and gifts are temporary, they are either designed for a specific task and time. While others are related to establishing something longer lasting.

The Apostle Paul begins to go down the list of all the gifts and ministries.

Many were available up to a certain point or temporary at the early establishing of the foundation of the church.

[1Co 12:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/12/9/s_1074009) to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,

/[1Co 12:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/12/10/s_1074010) and to another the **effecting of miracles**, and to another **prophecy**, and to another the **distinguishing of spirits**, to another *various* **kinds of tongues**, and to another **the interpretation of tongues**.

Healing and miracles were given through Christ to certain disciples and the Apostles for the formation of the church. (Luke 10) \

God continues to perform miracles and healings - it is simply rare in the current CA that we see these spiritual gifts anymore.

Prophecy as many of you know from past lessons, was a gift for assisting in the completed canon of scripture.

Most of what the Apostle Paul is covering is temporary gifts and ministries for the foundation of the early church.

Did you also know that in the Bible a prophet of GOD was never wrong, not even once! Not even off by a minor date or time, they were precise when GOD used them.

/1Cor 12:12 - *distinguishing of spirits*, this was to clearly see false teachers and there are mature Bels today with this type of discernment.

*kinds of tongues,* (*genos glossa*)

This speaks directly to evangelizing in a KNOWN language, not gibberish.

*the interpretation of tongues,* this gift was always accompanied by interpretation of a known language. \

GAIN-US, this is used to describe a tribal or national language.

GLO-SAH, a certain style of dialect - such as Spanish, English or Russian for example.

Tongues was actually a dual prophecy that was fulfilled in the early church.

It was used to evangelize and then to speak to the nation of Israel one last time before discipline came into fruition.

[1Co 12:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/12/11/s_1074011) But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

/1Cor 12:12 For **just as the body is one and *yet* has many parts**, and all the parts of the body, though **they are many, are one body, so also is Christ**.

Gifts and ministries are used to bring unity to the body of Christ. We are all considered a part of the body as true Bels. \

[1Co 12:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/12/13/s_1074013) For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

[1Co 12:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/12/14/s_1074014) For the body is not one part, but many.

Now what many denominational churches fail to represent is that 1Corinthians chapter twelve is designed to go right into chapter 13 and then chapter 14.

Jump over to chapter 13;

/1Cor 13:8 Love never fails; but **if *there are gifts of* prophecy, they will be done away with**; if *there are* **tongues**, **they will cease**; if *there is* **knowledge**, it will be done away with.

This is all referenced as gifts in the early church establishment. The knowledge is pointing to anything related prophetic as well as any further knowledge outside of what is in the Bible.\

[1Co 13:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/13/9/s_1075009) For we know in part and prophesy in part;

/[1Co 13:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/13/10/s_1075010) but **when the perfect comes**, **the partial will be done away** with.

The perfect is the completed canon of scripture – everything leading up to that was a partial or piece of the larger puzzle of the complete BIBLE! \

This is why Paul goes on to say – it is time to grow up BELS!

Stop quarreling over spiritual gifts and especially ones that are about to be done away with!

1Co 13:11 When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.

/[1Co 13:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/13/12/s_1075012) For now **we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face**; now I know in part, but **then I will know fully**, just as I also have been fully known.

Corinth just so happened to be the experts at manufacturing mirrors. The perfect mirror is the WORD, that is what brings everything into focus.\

[1Co 13:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/13/13/s_1075013) But now faith, hope, and love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

The greatest is Godly love – impersonal, unconditional, virtue love - from walking in the two power options.

Interestingly enough, chapter 14 even goes deeper into details about not focusing on gifts that are soon going to be done away with. My suggestion is read chapters 12 thru 14 as a whole.

/1Cor 14:21 In the Law it is written: “BY MEN OF STRANGE TONGUES AND BY THE LIPS OF STRANGERS I WILL SPEAK TO THIS PEOPLE, AND EVEN SO THEY WILL NOT LISTEN TO ME,” says the Lord.

This was a prophetic warning (Isa 28:11) that it was the last sign before the fifth cycle of discipline would be allowed to open up.\

What I am closing this series out with is a warning not to fall into the majority of the religious nonsense in the devil’s world.

/Only spiritual maturity from being in the word, filled by the Spirit habitually drives a Bel into a place of spiritual discernment. When it comes to spiritual gifts you must understand at what point it was used and what is no longer applicable. Dispensational studies help clarify almost all of these issues. So that Bels are not pulled into an emotional church filled with counterfeits and greed. \

Many churches press their congregation into tithing which was for the nation of Israel.

What you give is between you and GOD.

/Remember that the tithe is defined in the scripture as a ten per cent income tax for the citizens of Israel only, both Believers and Unbelievers. It included Unbels because it was a tax, it was not regarded as spiritual giving. It was designed to help run the nation (logistics). Spiritual giving is presented in the Mosaic Law under one word — *“offerings.”* Offerings were for Believers only.\

This again speaks to how much you understand the dispensation you live in.

You can close today in 1Corinthians chapter sixteen.

/Deu 14:22 **You shall certainly tithe** all the produce **from what you sow**, which comes from the field every year.

Lev 27:32 ‘For **every tenth part of herd or flock**, whatever passes under the rod, the tenth one shall be holy to the LORD. (Num 18:20-21)\

The ten percent tithe began with Abraham giving to Melchizedek.

Abraham as a Believer became a citizen of Melchizedek’s kingdom under his protection.

That was a set precedent for the nation of Israel – not CA Bels.

/1Cor 16:1 Now **concerning the collection for the saints,** as I directed the churches of Galatia, **so you are to do as well.**

Pastor-teachers, like apostles, are called to make a living from studying and teaching. (1Tim 5:17, 1Cor 9:14, Gal 6:6)\

There are other scriptures, but these speak directly to supporting the teaching ministry of the WORD.

And the man of GOD is to freely give under the grace principle of running a ministry.

Yet you find nothing about tithing of any percentage. There is no set amount or percentage in the CA dispensation.

/[1Co 16:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/16/2/s_1078002) On the first day of every week, **each of you is to put aside and save as he may prosper**, so that no collections *need to* be made when I come.

This is a privacy matter between you and GOD. Do not ever become ‘guilted’ into giving and never give if you are unable to first supply for your own family.\

I may be different in my approach in several areas from the men of my lineage. As I often tell people, if you are struggling to pay your bills and you sent in a recent financial gift - let me know…I will send it back.

Remember God looks at the heart.

/2Cor 9:6 Now *I say* this: **the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly**, and the one who sows generously will also reap generously. 7 **Each one** *must do* just **as he has decided in his heart**, not reluctantly **or under compulsion**, for **God loves a cheerful giver**.\