

PAUL'S FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A GODLESS WORLD

1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 14:1-40

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

THE CHRISTIAN IN LOVE MAKES FOR A CHURCH AT WORK

DISCOVERING THE NATURE OF GOD IN OUR EVERYDAY LIFE

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Love, Church, Gifts, Unity, Growth, Witness, God

Introduction to the Text: 1st Corinthians 14:1-40

The Amazing and Powerful Heartbeat That The Apostle Paul Had for the Church
was Truly Christ-Like.

He Loved the Church Universally – And Locally.

Because He Understood that a Local Church Communicated the Vision – The Great
Commission to the Ends of The Earth.

Matthew 28:18

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in
heaven and on earth. :19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing
them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, :20 teaching
them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always,
even to the end of the age." Amen.

The Christian Believers Became the Church On the Day of Pentecost – When...

Acts 1:8

But you shall receive **power** (*dynamite*) 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 4:17-20,29-31

But so that it spreads no further among the people, let us severely threaten them, that from now on they speak to no man in this name.” :18 So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. :19 But Peter and John answered and said to them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. :20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.” - - - :29 Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, :30 by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.” :31 And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

The Church When Little Will Always Be Mighty Because...

1 Timothy 3:14

These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; :15 but if I am delayed, *I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself **in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.***

The Christian When In Love with Jesus Will Always Be Effective Because...

John 7:37

On the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. :38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, **out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.**”:39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

The Water Poured Out Was Now Over

This event, though not mentioned in the OT, was a practice of the Jews who had a ceremony of carrying water from the **Pool of Siloam** and pouring it into a silver basin **by the altar of burnt offering each day for the first seven days of the Feast of Tabernacles.** But on the **eighth day** this wasn't done, **making Christ's offer of the water of eternal life from Himself even more startling.**

The Bible Says...

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, :17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Peter 1:20

knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, :21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as *they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.

Which Then “Naturally” Supernaturally Brings Us as Christians to the All-Authoritative, All-Sufficient Word of God – The Bible!

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit among His People – The Church, are to be increasing in use and effectiveness as we approach the last days leading up to the return of Christ.

Acts 2:14

But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. :15 For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is *only* the third hour of the day. :16 But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: :17 *“And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. :18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy. :19 I will show wonders in heaven above And signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke. :20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. :21 And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.’*

I Personally Believe The LORD is looking for a people whose hearts are willing and ready to live for Jesus no matter what – to take Jesus Christ everywhere the soles of your feet tread...

And He hasn't left us alone to do this.

“Behold I Am with you – Even to the End of the World.”

The church - She's been busy. She's gotten big, But she's out of shape.

Because she's acted too much on her own and without Him as the Head of her house.

He's With Us and He's Here for His Purposes.

...and so for the past 7 months we've been looking into just how we can be used of God and why we should be...

THE CHRISTIAN IN LOVE MAKES FOR A CHURCH AT WORK
WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER!

1.) Expecting to receive your spiritual gift(s)

THE CHRISTIAN IN LOVE MAKES FOR A CHURCH AT WORK
EXPECT TO RECEIVE YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT(S)

1a.) It's the confirmation of you being a believer

1 Corinthians 12:6-7

And there are **diversities of activities**, but it is the same God who works all in all. :7
But **the manifestation of the Spirit** is given to **each one** (*believer*)
for the **profit of all**: (*local church*)

1 Corinthians 12:11-12

But one and the same Spirit works all these things, **distributing to each one** (*believer*)
individually as He wills. :12 For as the body (*local church*) is one and has many
members, (*believers*) but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body
(*local church*), so also is Christ.

THE CHRISTIAN IN LOVE MAKES FOR A CHURCH AT WORK
EXPECT TO RECEIVE YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT(S)

1b.) It's the prerogative of the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 12:8-11

:8 for to one (*believer*) is given the **word of wisdom** through the Spirit, to another the
word of knowledge through the same Spirit, :9 to another **faith** by the same Spirit, to
another **gifts of healings** by the same Spirit, :10 to another the **working of miracles**,
to another **prophecy**, to another **discerning of spirits**, to another **different kinds of**
tongues, to another the **interpretation of tongues**. :11 But one and the same Spirit
works all these things, **distributing to each one** (*believer*) **individually as He wills**.

THE CHRISTIAN IN LOVE MAKES FOR A CHURCH AT WORK EXPECT TO RECEIVE YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT(S)

1c.) It's the reason why you are here

Not Only Here Right Now, But Here On Earth – Alive!

We humans suffer from what is called “Self-Life”.

It's an egocentric, self-centered awareness of “I” and it's the grossest of all sins because it is the root of our sin. “What's in it for me?”

Ephesians 2:10

For we are His workmanship, {meaning He has the blueprint} created in Christ Jesus for good works, {specific things to accomplish} which God prepared beforehand {preprogrammed} that we should walk in them. {engaged}

What if I were to tell you that this time next week we will all be....
{fill in the blank}

But I can tell you this with certainty.

We who are following Jesus are enroute to heaven.

Until then, we're to be advancing the kingdom of God. That kingdom is not of this world. It's not of this politic or universe. It's a divine, eternal, spiritual kingdom.

But have you ever paused long enough to ask – what for?
Why is all this Jesus stuff important **now**?

This “**now**” and how you live it - **will define your future** “then” in heaven.

Ephesians 4:1-7,11-15

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to **walk worthy of the calling with which you were called**, :2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, **bearing with one another in love**, :3 **endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**

THE CHRISTIAN IN LOVE MAKES FOR A CHURCH AT WORK *WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER!*

2.) Discovering the use of your spiritual gift(s)

THE CHRISTIAN IN LOVE MAKES FOR A CHURCH AT WORK DISCOVERING THE USE OF YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT(S)

2a.) Requires you to be willing

There is much, much more to attending a church.

Somewhere in our minds we've come to think that a church exists for our benefit and entertainment. We sample churches like Goldilocks sampled porridge.

Mark 8:34-36

When He had called the people to *Himself*, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. :35 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. :36 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?"

As much as you are willing

The Lord would have you be involved at work, making a difference in your local church. I understand that some of you live where there are no Bible teaching churches and so you're here – great. But you must not exclude yourself from discovering and using your spiritual gift.

THE CHRISTIAN IN LOVE MAKES FOR A CHURCH AT WORK DISCOVERING THE USE OF YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT(S)

2a.) Requires you to be active

Romans 12:1-2 NLT

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Matthew 9:16

No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch tears away from the garment, and a worse tear is made. :17 Neither is new wine put into old wineskins. If it is, the skins burst and the wine is spilled and the skins are destroyed. But new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved."

**THE CHRISTIAN IN LOVE MAKES FOR A CHURCH AT WORK
DISCOVERING THE USE OF YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT(S)**

2c.) Requires you to be intentional

The Demoniac Possession

Mark 5:18

And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him. :19 However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you." :20 And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him;

**THE CHRISTIAN IN LOVE MAKES FOR A CHURCH AT WORK
*WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER!***

3.) Fulfilling the purpose for your spiritual gift(s)

**THE CHRISTIAN IN LOVE MAKES FOR A CHURCH AT WORK
FULFILLING THE PURPOSE OF YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT(S)**

3a.) Must be led by Jesus Christ

John 14:16

And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever - :17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. :18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

**THE CHRISTIAN IN LOVE MAKES FOR A CHURCH AT WORK
FULFILLING THE PURPOSE OF YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT(S)**

3b.) Must be empowered by the Holy Spirit

The ministry of the Holy Spirit has not become obsolete nor has He become weary or tired of ministry - - its that there are so few people and ministries these days devoted to seeking hard after God.

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

The Holy Spirit is a Person. God the Holy Spirit.

The Second Person of the Holy Trinity of Scripture. He is Everything and All of Who the Father is and Who the Son is.

Many Today Need to Be Reacquainted

With Him and His Will for their lives.

John 16:13

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.

There's a warning in scripture that specifically applies

to our days and the seriousness of it will increase with time.

1 Timothy 4:1 & 2 Timothy 3:5

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons {note: they remain "spiritual"}... **2Tim. 3:5 having a form of godliness** but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

**THE CHRISTIAN IN LOVE MAKES FOR A CHURCH AT WORK
FULFILLING THE PURPOSE OF YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT(S)**

3c.) Must be fruitful to the glory of God

John 15:4-5,8,16

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. :5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing... :8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples... :16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

2 Timothy 4:6

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, {so are you} and the time of my departure is at hand. {could be any day now for you} :7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. {above all else. Keep the faith}

Concerning Kingdom Living Here and Now

Matthew 25:21

His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many

“GIVE THEM THE CROSS”

“TO THE COURT”

End of Study

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A List of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Red indicates a verbal gift. **Blue** indicates a serving gift

1. **Apostle** (Greek: *apostolos*).

One sent forth---as God sent forth his Son, Jesus---into the world with the message of salvation (Heb. 3:1). Jesus, in turn, sent forth His twelve apostles, empowered by the Holy Spirit with the good news of salvation (Matt. 28:19-20), and universal authority in matters of doctrine for His disciples. These twelve apostles became the first building blocks to be placed on the firm foundation of Jesus Christ (Eph. 2:20: 4:11,12). They were also given the responsibility to equip saints for ministry within the church as well as minister to their surrounding community. Each new generation has submitted to the authority of Jesus Christ, His apostles, and their writings up to this very hour. Paul was the last apostle to be placed on the foundation of Jesus Christ eliminating any need for new apostles (1 Cor. 15:9). He became a prime example of a man who discovered his gifts and wrapped his life around them; "...I was appointed a preacher, and an apostle and a teacher" (2 Tim. 1:11).

2. **Prophecy** (Greek: *propheteia*).

The spiritual ability to speak forth the mind and counsel of God. Prophets in the Old Testament were used by God to speak to Israel about current and future events. Jesus was the prophet to come (Deut. 1:8-18; Acts 2:22-23). The prophets in the body of Christ were called to speak forth the word of God about present and future events (Acts 2:17-18; 11:27-28), equip the saints for ministry (Eph. 4:11,12), as well as edify, comfort and encourage believers within the body of Christ and reveal the secrets of men's hearts (1 Cor. 14:3, 23-25). **Agabus** (Acts 21:10-11) and the **four daughters of Philip**, the evangelist, were given the gift of prophecy among so many (Acts 21:9).

3. **Evangelist** (Greek: *eulangelistes*).

The spiritual ability to communicate the good news of Jesus Christ's redemptive story to a dying world lost in their sin and shame (Romans 3:23). Jesus modeled this gift of evangelism with Nicodemus (John 3:16). The good news is, in the words of Paul; "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved" (Rom. 10:9,10). The evangelists were also called of God to equip others to develop their spiritual gifts (Eph. 4:11,12). **Philip** was known as an evangelist (Acts 8:4-13, 21:8).

4. **Pastor-teacher** (Greek: *poimen didaskalos*).

The spiritual ability to shepherd the flock of God (guarding, guiding, encouraging, warning, etc.), feed them the Word of God, and equip them to find their gifts so that they, too, can do the work of ministry (Eph. 4:11, 12). **Peter** (John 21:15-17; 1 Peter 5:1-15).

5. **Serving** (Greek: *diakonia*, the root for **deacon**).

The spiritual ability to meet the physical needs of people within a given community of believers or unbelievers. One of the first examples of the serving gifts in action was recorded in Acts 6:1-6 when the apostles selected seven men out of their group to minister to the poor Hellenistic Jewish widows who needed food. This in turn set the apostles free to minister with their spiritual gifts Phoebe, Acts 16:1).

6. Teaching (Greek: *didaskalos*).

The spiritual ability to take the truth from the Word of God and explain it clearly so that the flock of God can understand it and apply those spiritual truths effectively to their daily lives. It appears that one can have the spiritual gift of teaching without being a pastor- teacher, but one cannot be a pastor without being a teacher . The natural gift of teaching can communicate any subject but yields just understanding of that subject. The spiritual gift of teaching communicates biblical truth and motivates men and women toward a life of godly obedience to that truth. **Apollos** and **Paul** had the spiritual gift of teaching (Acts 18:24-28, 2 Tim. 1:11).

7. Encouragement (Greek: *parakaleo*).

The spiritual ability to come alongside a person who may be hurting spiritually or emotionally and offer them **a word of comfort** concerning the past and a word of encouragement, admonishment (truth in love), and challenge so that they will be able to walk in the steps of the Spirit in the future. A man named Joseph was renamed **Barnabas** (son of encouragement) by the apostles because of his ministry to the early church in Jerusalem (Acts 4:36-37).

8. Giving (Greek: *metadidomi*).

The spiritual ability to give financially or materially to the needs of others within the body of Christ or the community in which they live. They express this spiritual gift in simplicity to the glory of God without drawing attention to themselves. **Barnabas** sold a field and gave the money to the apostles for the good of the church (Acts 4:36-37).

9. Leadership (Greek: *proistemi*).

The spiritual ability to stand before a group of people and lead them in a deep walk with the Lord, or mission project, the building of a new community of Christians, or an elders meeting, etc. The apostle **James** gave leadership to the council of Jerusalem (Acts 15).

10. Mercy (Greek: *eleos*).

The spiritual ability to manifest pity and give aid to those who are physically, emotionally or spiritually help- less. The ability to express compassionate loving action and lift up the one who is downtrodden and to do it joyfully. **Tabitha**---"...this woman was abounding with deeds of kindness and charity, which she continually did" (Acts 9:36f).

11. A word of wisdom (Greek: *sophia*).

The spiritual ability to perceive life and truth from God's perspective and then apply that wisdom to specific situations. Wisdom can be discerned by its fruit. *But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere* (James 3:17). **James** used his spiritual gift of wisdom at the Jerusalem council (Acts 15:31-21). was given a vision, while living in Asia Minor, to preach the gospel in Europe (Acts 16:6-10).

12. A word of knowledge (Greek: *gnosis*).

The spiritual ability to communicate spiritual truth which has been acquired through the investigation of God's word. Stephen was a great example of a man of spiritual wisdom and knowledge when he spoke before the Supreme Court and broke open the scriptures to show them that Jesus was their Messiah (Acts 7:1-53).

13. Faith (Greek: *pistis*).

The spiritual ability to see what isn't, believe it to be, and trust God to do it in His way and time. Faith to move mountains. Paul was given a vision, while living in Asia Minor, to preach the gospel in Europe (Acts 16:6-10).

14. Healings (Greek: *iaomai*).

The spiritual ability to heal one who is sick. Note that Paul called it the gifts (plural) of healings which may mean this gifted person could make one who is sick whole---either spiritually, emotionally, or physically. Physical healing is a symbol of how God wants to heal all of us spiritually. An example: **Peter** and **John's** experience with the lame man at the temple gate (Acts 3:2-10).

15. Miraculous powers (Greek: *dunamis*).

The spiritual ability to do works of a supernatural origin and character, such as could not be produced by natural agents and means. **Philip** (Acts 8:13), and **Paul** (Acts 13:9-12).

16. Discerning spirits (Greek: *diakrisis*).

The spiritual ability to discern from God's word between the spirit of evil and of God, the flesh and the spirit, and truth and error, before the fruit is evident. **Paul** had this experience with Elymas the magician (Acts 13:9-12).

17. Helps (Greek: *antilepsis* or *antilempis*).

The spiritual ability to come alongside others and support them and their ministry in physical ways. See Paul's list of friends in Romans 16:6,12.

18. Administration (Greek: *kubernesis*).

The spiritual ability to give guidance, pilot, or steer. The spiritual ability to be a helmsman for a local church in helping direct its life and order. One who deals with people and not paper. The idea of governing as seen in the ministry of **Stephanas** (1 Cor 16:15-18).

19. Tongues (Greek: *glossa*).

The spiritual ability to speak an unknown foreign language without learning it beforehand. The gift of tongues is to be used publicly to bring praise to God (1 Cor. 14:2), to edify the body of believers (1 Cor. 14:5), and to be used as a sign of judgment against unbelieving Jews (1 Cor. 14:21-22).

20. Interpretation (Greek: *hermeneis*).

The spiritual ability to interpret, the foreign language of the person speaking to the audience listening. The one who does the interpretation of that foreign tongue would be able, by the spirit, to interpret without learning the language beforehand (1 Cor. 14:27)