

Foundations of Church for “Body Life Ministry” – Part 3

Romans 12:1-8

10/11/2015

NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP

<http://NLFJI.org/teachings>

Romans 12:1-8

Therefore I **urge (beg, beseech, plead with)** you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies **A LIVING AND HOLY SACRIFICE**, acceptable to God, which is your **REASONABLE SPIRITUAL SERVICE OF WORSHIP**. ²And **DO NOT** be **CONFORMED** to this world, but be **TRANSFORMED** by the **RENEWING OF YOUR MIND**, so that you may **PROVE** what the will of God is, that which is **GOOD** and **ACCEPTABLE** and **PERFECT**.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you **NOT** to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with **SOBER JUDGMENT**, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and **INDIVIDUALLY MEMBERS ONE OF ANOTHER**. ⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, **LET US USE THEM**: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

What we learned from Romans 12:1-8 in part 1&2:

1. **Full Surrender to God** to be a Living and Holy Sacrifice as a Worshiper of God ...
→ Living for God alone – Full Humility before God
2. **Saturating** our minds and hearts with God’s Word (renewing my mind) so that God can transform us ... we are no longer living for the world and its approval ... we are no longer allowing the world for press us into its mold (don’t be conformed to this world, any longer)
3. **Humility** among our fellow believers - not to think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think
4. **We, each, exist in the Body of Christ** to serve others for Christ’s sake, for the Gospel’s sake
5. **We, each, need to use the gifts God has given us** for others, **not** to glorify ourselves, but to Glorify Christ – prayerfully & lovingly. (1 Peter 4:7-11)

In the handout given to you, you will see all the gifts written about in the New Testament, that relate to the Spiritual Gifts. **1 Peter 4:7-11** ... gives us two very broad categories of giftedness provided by the Holy Spirit ... Understanding these **TWO broad categories** helps us understand how God has wired us to Serve Him by serving others within the Body of Christ.

Speaking Gifts

teaching, prophesying, Words of Wisdom, Words of Knowledge, Speaking/Interpretation of “tongues”

→ **Prophecy** (according to the Apostle Paul → 1 Cor. 14:1-5 → the gift of Prophecy is the “superior gift” of all the gifts... hard to argue with the apostle ... read the rest of the chapter)

“that you would prophesy” → **προφητεῖη**

Root → **προφητεύω** → Strong’s Concordance Greek number 4395 <http://biblehub.com/greek/4395.htm>

Think of the Old Testament Prophets, think of Agabas, the New Testament Prophet.

What was common with “prophesying” in all of their speaking? Was it foretelling the future?

Maybe, mostly. But, in most cases, especially in the Old Testament, it was warning people to turn from their sins, to Repent, and Turn back to God. Their speech was confrontive, forceful, never “gentle” ... it brought into the light, that which was in the dark. Overall, their speaking made the

hearers uncomfortable, it stirred them up for action, and was not JUST INFORMATION.

It always calls the readers/hearers to action, to serve God, to step up to maturity, etc.

It was cleansing and called people to a deeper walk in holiness with God.

Yes, many times there was some future view of something, but it was only given to Call the People to Action, to Repentance, to Holiness, to Cleansing, to Follow God and to Obey God.

It is better to say that it BUBBLES UP (like a boiling pot) and Spills out (that is the root... boiling, bubbling forth...) → **There is much Pressure in the Speaking, Urgency, and A call to action.**

Here is a good study on the Gift of Prophecy: <http://iblp.org/questions/what-spiritual-gift-prophecy>

→ **“Tongues”** ... (only mentioned in the Book of Acts and 1 Corinthians 12 – 14)

This is the gift that most folks focus on when folks say “the Gift of the Holy Spirit” or “The Baptism of the Holy Spirit”. The parameters for how to use this gift within the Body of Christ, in a gathering are discussed by the apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 14. He spend a lot of time on it, because it was being abused by that church.

Just from the actual Greek words used, in their contexts, from Acts 2 and onward, and in 1 Cor. 12 - 14 ... “tongues” are known, living human languages. They are not normally known by the speaker. The speaker is not “fluent” in those languages. It is a miraculous event when it happens. There is NO indication that the speakers is hearing himself/herself speak in that unknown language. Again, it is a real, legitimate, living human language. When 1 Cor. 13 says “tongues of angels” ... all cases of angels speaking, as recorded in the Bible, they always speak normal human languages to the people they are talking to. So, real, normal, living, human languages. It is never “humdida humdida...” In all cases of Christians speaking in “tongues” in the Book of Acts, it is always in the context of hears of those, native languages. In Acts 2, the speakers, the believers were speaking in languages that they did not normally speak (this is obvious by the context). Those hearing them, did hear them in their own languages, perfect and fluent. This is in the context of EVANGELISM and Multiple Language hearers. That is the context when this GIFT is in use. Speaker and Hearer, in which the Hearer hears in his own native language, the Word of God. It is not something that the speaker has to go to language school to learn a new language. It is miraculous. Let me give you an example of my own personal experience.

Ministering Gifts ...

Helps/Mercy, Giving, **Miracles, Healings** ... Focus → **Miracles** ...

Miracles → Attesting Miracles (workers of miracles, servants who do miraculous things)

These are ... beyond normal, natural, physical ... God intervenes and does something “almost magical” ... they Point to Jesus Christ as Messiah, Savior, Master, and God.

God uses the Miraculous to CONFIRM His Holy Word to Point People to Jesus Christ.

²⁹ Now, LORD, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your Word, ³⁰by 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. (Acts 4:29-31) (they were filled with the Holy Spirit they did **not** Speak in Tongues, BTW ... but with Boldness to the lost around them in normal language)

²For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, ³how 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, ⁴God also BEARING WITNESS both with SIGNS AND WONDERS, WITH VARIOUS MIRACLES, and GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, according to His own will? (Hebrews 2:2-4)

Ministering/Serving touching lives – can be miraculous ... allow God to use you for His Glory

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The Gifts of the Spirit?

Romans 12:6-8:

1. prophecy
2. ministry or service or serving
3. exhortation or encouraging / encouragement
4. giving, generosity
5. leadership, leading
6. mercy, acts of mercy, shows mercy

1 Corinthians 12:7-11:

1. word or message of wisdom
2. word or message of knowledge
3. faith (the gift of faith - beyond "normal" faith - in context)
4. gifts of healings
5. workings or performing of miracles
6. prophecy
7. distinguishing of spirits (distinguishing of spiritual teachings - see 1 John 4:1-6)
8. speaking in various kinds of languages (i.e. "tongues")
9. interpretations of various kinds of languages

1 Corinthians 12:28-31: (leadership priorities and functional roles - parallel with Ephesians 4:11-16)

1. apostles (not a gift, but a gifted leader – sent ones – like missionaries)
2. prophets (not a gift, but a gifted leader – prophetic – calling people to Repentance and Obedience unto Christ)
3. teachers (not a gift, but a gifted leader) -- see Ephesians 4:11 (pastoring-teachers -- teaching-pastors)
4. miracles (not a gift, but a gifted leader – a miracle worker – touching lives)
5. gifts of healings (not a gift, but a gifted leader – various KINDS of Healings ... touching lives)
6. helps (helpers?) (not a gift, but a gifted leader – leading a team of helpers with mercy – touching lives)
7. administrations (managing – leader ... organizational ...)
8. varieties of languages (speakers and interpreters – reaching the lost – miraculous servants – **mission minded**)

It seems that this list (1 Cor. 12:28-31) relates to “**functional roles**” folks fit into, based upon their Spiritual Gifts (this **not** an exhaustive list, BTW) This list seems to be an **example** of the **functional priority** regarding the Mission and Internal Functioning of a local church family and her gospel mission.

1 Cor. 12:29-31 → not everyone has all of these gifts, or every gift.

Example: not every believer speaks in various languages (i.e. "tongues") nor **needs to** nor **should**.
not every believer is an apostle, a prophet, a pastor-teacher, etc...

1 Corinthians 12:28-31 is somewhat of a parallel to Eph. 4:11-16 → Leaders **who are gifts** to the church (gifted leaders given by Christ to the local church) ... In Ephesians 4:11 → **Four Gifted Leadership Categories**: apostles (missionaries --> "sent ones"), prophets, evangelists, pastor-teachers. The last category is **not** "pastors and teachers", which many think are two types of leaders: "pastors" and "teachers" ... the Greek is better translated “**pastors even teachers**” or “**pastoring teachers**” or “**teaching pastors**” or “**pastoral teachers**” or “**pastor-teacher**”

1 Peter 4:7-11:

1. **speaking**
2. **ministering, serving**

Peter is emphasizing **TWO BROAD CATEGORIES** of Giftedness within the body of Christ...

1. **Speaking-related types of gifts** of the Spirit
AND
2. **Serving-ministering types of gifts** of the Spirit (“hands on” touching of lives, directly or indirectly)

All the Gifts God has provided by His Spirit, in the body of Christ fit, some way, into these

TWO BROAD CATEGORIES.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS and Modern Hidden Meanings

When thinking of the “Gifts of the Holy Spirit”, today, many people may use **CODE WORDS** ...

Someone may say → That person is a “**Spirit-Filled**” Christian as a Qualifier instead of saying a “Christian”
There is a hidden meaning in that phrase. They mean something more than the words they are saying. **CODE WORDS**

Someone may ask: **Do you believe in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit for today?**

What they really mean is → do you believe that the gift of speaking in “tongues” is still OK for “today”?
or “do you believe that the gifts of healings and/or miracles are for today?” and so on... . . .

The **ROOT** of these **CODE WORDS** comes from an Ideological / Philosophical Religious set of Beliefs:
It is a Pentecostal / Charismatic set of beliefs ... which did not occur in History until around the 1700’s.
There is NO documented evidence of the following beliefs, written down, prior to that period of time.
It came to full fruition in the “Azusa Street” event or “outpouring” in the early 1900’s

1. A Person is Saved, or Born Again, based upon John 3; Romans 3:23, 6:23, 10:8-13; 1 Cor. 15:1-5
2. A Saved Person is OK, but that Saved Person needs to have a new Event in their life to Receive the Holy Spirit or to Receive **the Baptism of the Holy Spirit** so that they can receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.
3. To Determine if a Person has really received the Holy Spirit or **the Holy Spirit’s Baptism**, that person must give evidence by Speaking in Tongues
4. This 2nd Definite Work of the Holy Spirit is Distinct from Salvation as is in addition to Salvation, thus a person is now complete... whereas before this event, that Christian was living a substandard life in Christ, not living to his/her full potential. But, now that he/she has experienced this event of “the Baptism of the Holy Spirit”, that person can now live the Spirit-filled life ... thus he/she can now be called a “Spirit-Filled Christian” ... whereas before he/she could only be called a “Christian.
5. This “event” mostly occurs AFTER salvation (after being born again) but can occur at the same time, in rare instances.

This is how I learned it and used to teach it. I no longer teach it this way, having studied the Apostolic Fathers and Early Church Fathers ... this kind of teaching is ABSENT in all of their writings. If it was really a TRUE Doctrine of Teaching it would be in their writings, extensively. It was not. These early believers, the Apostolic Fathers, were the actual disciples of the Apostles of Jesus Christ, the FIRST Hearers of the Teachings of Jesus Christ through the Apostles. If this “Pentecostal” teaching were true, they would’ve written about it. They wrote about every doctrine that we find, plainly written in the Bible in the New Testament. But, this teaching is absent.

Then when I look at the passages of Romans 12:1-6; 1 Corinthians 12, 13, & 14; and 1 Peter 4:7-11 ... there is NO hint in those passages, in context, that a Christian has to have an additional Experience, a 2nd Definite Work of the Holy Spirit to Receive the Gifts of the Spirit or to Receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. In order for those passages to say that, I would have READ-INTO those passages something that is not there. That is called ISOGETING ... injecting Meaning into the passage that is not already resident in the words, phrases and meaning of the text in question. Thus, the best way of understanding this, is to understand what those passages say: A Born-Again Christian, Disciple of Christ receives various Gifts upon Salvation, and we need to EMPLOY them to build up others in Christ, in the Power and Leading of the Holy Spirit. And, according the Ephesians 5:18-21, we as Christians, may have many times and occasions of being Filled with the Holy Spirit after we are Born-Again.

Are the Gifts for Today? Of course they are... per the Holy Spirit’s direction. He is in charge. We are not to manufacture them or fake them. We are to follow Jesus Christ in serving others, and allow the Holy Spirit to “minister” through us per the Gift or Gifts He’s given to each of us. All Christians, all genuine Born-Again, Disciples of Jesus Christ are equal in standing. No Christians are more superior than any other. No Christians are inferior, substandard than any other. This erroneous Teaching that I just exposed, divides Christians unnecessarily and brings in Pride and Arrogance into the picture. Whereas, we need to humbly serve one another, in Christ, for the Gospel’s sake, in the Power and Direction of the Holy Spirit.

1. **Biblical Christian Doctrine** is **only** based upon **Romans through Jude**.
2. **The Gospels** present the Transition from the Old to the New Covenant through Jesus Christ – and how to be saved. The LIFE of Christ – He is our Salvation, etc. But, it is NOT a book of Doctrine like Romans through Jude
3. **The Book of Acts** presents more of the Transition leading up to and then **AFTER** the Day of Pentecost, when the Church was Born. It is a History of What God did in various situations in the Spread of the Gospel and the multiplication of Disciples ... the transition from the Jews to the Gentiles. It is NOT a book of DOCTRINE. It is a **Book of ACTS** ... what did happen, **not WHY**. We read/study **Romans through Jude for Doctrinal** Understanding of **what** and **why**.