

SPIRITUAL GIFTS WITHOUT LOVE

I COR. 13:1-3

Introduction:

- A. The church at Corinth possessed gifts.
 - 1. Nine specific gifts are enumerated.
 - 2. They were gifts "spirituals."

- B. The church abused the gifts.
 - 1. They were babes, immature, carnal, ignorant.
 - 2. Their attitude hindered the church.

- C. Paul wrote to correct this abuse and to instruct them about the future of gifts.
 - 1. Not a new concept, one thing replacing another.
 - 2. Church age replacing the law age.
 - 3. Jews did not want to give up the law.
 - 4. Charismatics do not wish to give up the gifts.

- D. Paul detected a basic flaw in the charismatics.
 - 1. The gifts had come to possess them.
 - 2. They were without love!

- E. Paul reveals the emptiness of gifts without love.
 - 1. "sounding brass, tinkling cymbal." v1
 - 2. "I am nothing." v2
 - 3. "It profiteth me nothing."

- F. The kind of love Paul writes about.
 - 1. eros - erotic - sexual passion, physical love.
 - 2. phileo - to kiss, to love, but more human to human.
 - 3. philanthropia - highest form of love to Greeks, but only bestowed upon those who earned it.
 - 4. agape - bestowed love, no strings attached, from the will, or heart, self denying, not a swap-out or trade

- G. The reasons we need such love.
 - 1. We had no good in us for God to love.
 - 2. We must have a ground or foundation upon which we stand to be like God.
 - 3. The imperfectibility of man demands it.
 - a. Our relationship demands it.

I. THE GIFT OF TONGUES WITHOUT LOVE. U1

- A. "though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels."
 - 1. tongues = languages, further proof that tongues were not gibberish.
 - 2. men = anthropon = mankind, a man.
 - 3. angels = aggelon = angelic being.
 - 4. Though I have the gift of languages, men or angels, and have not love.

- B. "I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal."
 - 1. sounding brass = echos - a sound of any sort, not a musical instrument, noise in general.
 - 2. tinkling cymbal = alalakson = clanging - cymbal = kembalon - a hollow basin.
 - 3. Demonstration of cymbals.

II. OTHER GIFTS WITHOUT LOVE. U2

- A. "the gift of prophecy", (I am nothing).
 - 1. To speak forth in warning.

- B. "understanding all mysteries," (I am nothing).
 - 1. An ability to comprehend the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ.
 - 2. The greatest or highest exercise of the gift of knowledge.

- C. "all knowledge," (I am nothing).
 - 1. The gift of knowledge, insight, truth.

- D. "all faith, so that I could remove mountains," (I am nothing).
 - 1. The full power of faith.
 - 2. Luke 17:6.

- E. "and have not charity, I am nothing."
 - 1. The absence of love negates self profit.
 - 2. When such things are done without love, they are done for one's self.

III. ALL RELIGIOUS ACTS DONE WITHOUT LOVE DO NOT PROFIT THE DOER OF THE ACT. V3

- A. Giving away all of one's goods.
 - 1. "and though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor."
(It profiteth me nothing.)
 - 2. Matt. 6:1-4.
 - 3. The rich young ruler.

- B. "and though I give my body to be burned."
 - 1. This has reference to a religious sacrifice.
 - 2. There could be no greater show of devotion.
 - 3. It would be for self gratification.
 - 4. Love seeks to serve.

- C. "and, have not charity, it profiteth me nothing."
 - 1. profiteth = ophleo - to further help, to benefit, to be helped, to be of service.
 - 2. nothing = ouden - not one thing, none at all.

IV. THE GIFT OF LOVE IS NECESSARY TO ACCEPTABLE SERVICE TO GOD

- A. "We have been born of His Spirit."
 - 1. We are like Him in this respect.
 - 2. This does not mean we immediately love.

- B. We may be like Him in love.
 - 1. It is a gift.
 - 2. We cannot earn it!

- C. We may have this gift.