

## The Divine Call to Every-Person Ministry

Rom. 12:3-8

### Part 5

(Review and reflections on the “gifts of the Spirit” in the “Body of Christ”)

1. In Paul’s writings we have three listings of the “gifts of the Spirit” (Rom.12:3-8; 1Cor. chapters 12-14 and Eph.4:7-13)

#### 2. First: The “gifts of the Spirit”

In every case where Paul addresses the subject of the spiritual gifts in detail, he, without exception, lists the gifts in the context of the “Body of Christ” and the “Fruit of the Spirit” which is listed in Gal.5:22-23.

3. It is only when addressing the “gifts of the Spirit” in detail, that Paul mentions the “Body of Christ” and the “fruit of the Spirit”

1. Passages where the “Body of Christ”/“Church” is mentioned apart from the “Gifts of the Spirit” (Eph.5:22-33; Col.2:19)
2. A passage addressing the “Fruit of the Spirit” apart from the “Gifts of the Spirit” (Gal.5:13-6:5)

4. Why does Paul when addressing the “Gifts of the Spirit” in detail, always mention, the “Body of Christ” and the “Fruit of the Spirit”?

1. In terms of the “Fruit of the Spirit” (“love joy peace...”) (Gal.5:22-23)
2. In terms of the “Body of Christ”
3. Diverse spiritual gifts within the “Body of Christ” (especially the so-called, “supernatural gifts” as opposed to the more common spiritual gifts), can easily stoke the fire of pride

#### 5. Second: The aptness of the “Body of Christ” analogy (Rom.12:4-5)

1. Paul draws an analogy between our physical bodies and the spiritual “Body of Christ” (the church) (Rom.12:4-5; 1Cor.12:12-30; Eph.4:4,15-16)

2. Ephesians tells us that there is only one, universal “Body of Christ” (Eph.4:5; Rom.1:7; 1Cor.1:2)

3. Every Christian is part of the “Body of Christ” through the “Baptism of the Spirit” (1Cor.12:13)

4. Every Christian has a spiritual gift given by Christ (Eph.4:11) and made manifest through the Holy Spirit (1Cor.12:7)

5. Every gift is a grace gift (it is not earned or merited)—it is allocated by the Spirit, on the basis of grace, alone (Rom.12:6)

6. The gifts allocated to each Christian are completely determined by God (1Cor.12:11)

7. Every Christian (being part of the Body) has an important function to perform in the “Body of Christ” (1Cor.12:6-8)

8. It is impossible for every Christian to have the same gift, for that would undermine the “Body of Christ” analogy (1Cor.12:12-31), and,

9. Each Christian is in a vital and interdependent relationship with all the other Christians /parts (organs) of the "Body of Christ" (Rom.12:4-5; 1Cor.12:25-26)

10. Each Christian is called upon to identify with a local church (where possible) and exercise their spiritual gift or gifts (Rom.12:6-8)

11. Note how God the Trinity views the Body of Christ; is committed to the Body of Christ; and is involved in, the "Body of Christ"/the church

#### 1. The Father

1. The Father planned the "Body of Christ" (the church) from all eternity (2Tim.1:9b; Eph.1:4; Jn.17:2,6,9,24)

2. The Father graciously, and sovereignly, chose a people for Himself to be the holy Body of Christ through justification (Eph.4:1; Rom.8:29-30,33)

#### 2. The Son

1. Jesus was "chosen before the creation of the world" (1Pet.1:20)

2. The Son in obedience to the Father's choice of a people, purchased the "Body of Christ" (the elect) with His own blood (1Pet.1:1,18-19)

3. Made the Lord Jesus the Head of the "Body of Christ"/church (Eph.1:22; 4:15; 5:23; Col.1:18)

4. To eternally secure the establishment of the "Body of Christ"/church, Christ is also the foundation of the "Body of Christ"—the church (1Cor.3:11; Eph.2:20)

5. He is the Rock on which the "Body of Christ"/church is built and nothing in the world will can prevail against it (Jn.6:19; 10:28)

6. Christ, and the "Body of Christ" His church, are inseparable (Acts 26:14)

#### 3. The Holy Spirit

1. The Spirit was sent to bear witness to the Person and work of Christ (Jn.15:26, 16:14,15)

2. The Spirit's witness to Christ will result in people becoming aware of their sin (Jn.16:8)

3. The Spirit sovereignly works in those the Father gave the Son, and brings about the rebirth in their lives (Jn.17:2,6; 3:8; Acts 13:48)

4. The Spirit was sent by the Father and the Son at Pentecost to secure the "Body of Christ" for the "last days." (Acts 1:5,8)

5. The indwelling of the Spirit within the "Body of Christ" makes Christians the temple of the Holy Spirit (1Cor.3:16; 6:19)

6. The Spirit who lives within the "Body of Christ" guides; empowers; sustains and gifts the church (Jn.14:16-17a; 1Jn.2:20; Acts 1:8; 1Cor.12:7)

7. The indwelling Spirit in the "Body of Christ" is God's guarantee of our being sustained in life, and to secure our eternal destiny (2Cor.1:21-22; 5:5; Eph.1:13-14)

4. Through the work of the Trinity, the "Body of Christ"/the church, the "Bride of Christ," is being prepared for the Son (Rev.20:7-8; 21:2,9)

## Conclusion