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Spiritual Gifts

1 CORINTHIANS 12:1, "Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed." (ESV)

- Spirits/Prophecy not new to the Gentiles
  - Oracles and sacred prophecies very much a part of the culture
    - These may have outwardly looked similar, but Paul does not want them to be confused
  - Spiritual realm very real
    - Paul wants to ensure that they are being led by the Holy Spirit and not other spirits

1 CORINTHIANS 12:3, "Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit." (ESV)

- Blasphemy
  - How can the Corinthians tell the difference?
    - First, the Holy Spirit will never blaspheme God

1 CORINTHIANS 12:7, "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." (ESV)

- The gift of the Spirit exist for the "common good"
  - Not status or selfish gain!
- These are all from One Spirit
  - Not many, as the Gentiles previously believed

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1 CORINTHIANS 12:8-10, "For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues." (ESV)

- WISDOM
  - Stephen in Acts 6-7
    - "But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking." (Acts 6:10, ESV)
    - Exactly what needs to be said or done in a moment
- UTTERANCE OF KNOWLEDGE
  - Wisdom and Knowledge not the same
    - Supernatural knowledge requires wisdom to know when it should be shared
    - It also requires discernment to know if such supernatural knowledge is of God
- FAITH
  - Beyond that which every Christian must exercise
  - The gift of faith can actually stand in the gap for a brother or sister
    - Romans 1:12
- HEALING
  - Peter & John
    - Acts 3

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- MIRACLES
  - This power is directly connected to Jesus
    - Power = δύναμις
    - Luke 8:46
- PROPHECY
  - Not the same as preaching
  - Prophecy = προφητεία
    - Specific to prophecy and ≠ preaching
- DISCERNMENT
  - Knowing and discerning between good and evil spirits
    - Evil spirits can use something "good" to deceive
      - 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10
- GIFT OF TONGUES
  - Prayer Language
  - Intimate and personal
  - Can be intercessory
- Interpretation of Tongues
  - If the message is meant for communal benefit

1 CORINTHIANS 12:11, "All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills." (ESV)

- God determines the gifts
- Cessationists
- Bapticostal and a biblical balance

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: Bruce W. Winter, After Paul Left Corinth, Timothy Brookins, Corinthian Wisdom, Stoic Philosophy, and the Ancient Economy, N.T. Wright, The New Testament in Its World