

The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 2

*Spiritual Gifts Bring Unity to the Local Church and
Reflect the Trinity's Work*



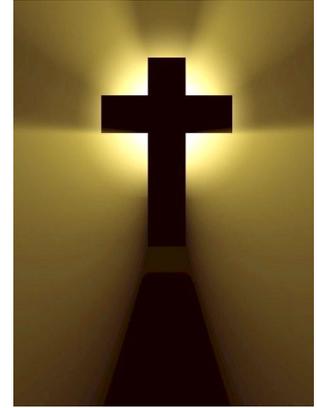
October 31, 2010

1 Cor 12:4 "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit."

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

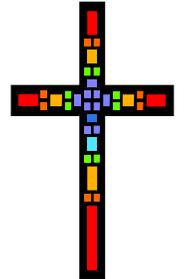
If YOU have never believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Simply tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sin of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven.

(Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved."
(John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave is One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."



Lesson

God is so great and so gracious to us. In His omnipotence and love He took the disaster Satan caused in the Garden of Eden and turned it into blessing for mankind!! He always makes it right, doesn't he? That blessing is the Cross of Christ...our so great salvation! Remember when "Jesus said 'if we want to come after Him we must deny our self and pick up our Cross and follow Him.'" He said this in Mat 16:24.



So how exactly do we follow Christ? Well one way is to study His Word...Bible doctrine everyday and then apply it to our lives...live the Word...imitate Christ when around family members and friends at home and in school and everywhere you go in the day and night. Treat people as you would like to be treated. Then when you have had lots of learning the Word and applying it, then you begin to realize that God has a specialized job for you in His personal plan for your life. That specialized job is called your spiritual gift and it is given to you at the moment you believed in Jesus as your Savior. The Holy Spirit gave it to you but you will NEVER know what it is until you grow up spiritually. Most of you will realize your gifts as an older teen or young adult especially since you've been in the Word as long as you guys have. This is following Christ!



We live in the dispensation of the Church Age. That is the age that started after Jesus died on the Cross, was resurrected, ascended, and was seated at the right hand of the Father in Heaven to be glorified for His fantastic victory over Satan. It actually started on the day of Pentecost! That was 10 days after Christ was seated at the Father's right hand. The Holy Spirit was sent down to the 11 Apostles on that day in the form of flaming tongues of fire. These tongues of fire were visible on the tops of their heads!!! Aren't you glad God doesn't do that today to you? You all would get everyone's attention, wouldn't you? Why you could witness to lots of people if you had fire on your heads. I don't know how long you would last before the fire department had to come and put you out!!! See God doesn't do things like that today and you should all know why...do you? Alright, I'll give you the answer...the Bible is completed and in writing now so God doesn't perform miracles like that anymore!!!! Sorry guys, no tongues of fire for your heads anymore!

The Holy Spirit does a lot for you though in the Church Age. It's part of the mystery doctrine that only we have. The Old Testament people never knew anything about this. We have the Holy Spirit permanently indwelling us or living inside of our bodies to not only make a home for Jesus to live, but also to guide us in all God's ways and in His plan for our lives. He helps us make right decisions and He directs us to be more like Jesus everyday.





Our Church Age is the dispensation when God the Holy Spirit is manifesting (showing) to believers the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross. And one of the most visible and powerful of the manifestations of this life of the Spirit in the church (believers) is the function of spiritual gifts in the local assembly! You see that? Do you see how the members of this church use their spiritual gifts to keep the church going as a local assembly (church)? We assemble each week in our church building as an assembly or congregation because of a desire to learn God's Word and to use the spiritual gifts each member has and uses to glorify

God and run the church! Of course God brought us all together and then the local church or assembly in turn demonstrates that the many members can function as one group or unit to worship and glorify God and to love one another. We unite in Christ every week.

You see the Trinity also called the Godhead or GOD is made up of three separate Persons or Personalities: Father, Son and Spirit. Each has His own job to do just like we each have a job to do in the local assembly with our spiritual gifts in God's plan. When the local assembly functions in its spiritual gifts, it is a powerful demonstration of what the Trinity is all about...loving One Another, working together to achieve a common goal, and One Member glorifying the Other. We believers are somewhat like the Trinity. When we believe in Jesus we are made up of three parts: body, soul and spirit...three in one just as God is three in one.

Pastor John teaches and believes the following passages in the New Testament show the Trinity at work and powerfully on display when the spiritual gifts are the subject in these passages. Let's look at them carefully. This is some heavy Bible doctrine but I know you're going to get it.

1 Cor 12:4 "Now there are varieties of (spiritual) gifts, but the same Spirit."

1 Cor 12:5 "And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord."

1 Cor 12:6 "There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons."

1 Cor 12:7 "But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

This series of four verses is just amazing. Pure divine genius. A thing of beauty. We have an awesome God! You have three verses dealing with our 3-in-1 God...the Trinity. Verse 4 deals with the Holy Spirit. Verse 5 deals with the Lord Jesus Christ. Verse 6 deals with God the Father! Do you see how each verse is made up to go from the many (varieties) to the one? In other words, the first part of each verse deals with the varieties of gifts...the many...that is found in the local assembly. Then the second part of each verse deals with the unity of these gifts found in God (that is the phrase "and the same"). Yet the second part of the 3 verses taken as a group show the variety in the Godhead since each verse deals with a separate member of the Trinity and what each of them does for us. They each have a special job just like we do.



The last verse (7) is the mirror verse. It has each member of the church (that's us) receiving a spiritual gift. There is a double unity, both in the source of the gift (from the Spirit) and the outcome (the common good of all believers in the local church.) The action moves from the one God to the many members of the church to the one common good of the church as a body. This is incredible...wonderful. This is the unity of the local church. God has it all in hand for us, doesn't He? All we have to do is give ourselves to Him and He works it all out for us. Of course you have to know the Word of God and take it in everyday in order to know what your gift is in the first place and in the second place in order for the Spirit to work in us. He cannot if we don't let Him.

Look at this passage in Ephesians to see what the Apostle Paul is commanding believers just like you and me to do in the Church Age and in our local church. He's talking about unity...unite together in Christ for the common good of all believers in your local church!! This is what you boys and girls are training for right now here in prep school.

Eph 4:1-7, 11-13 "Therefore I (Paul), the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called (spiritual gift) (2) with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, (3) being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (4) There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; (5) one Lord, one faith, one baptism, (6) one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all. (7) But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

Listen kids, I know most of you don't know what your gifts are yet...that's okay! You're in prep school. God is preparing your bodies right now for your spiritual gifts through the teaching ministry of God the Holy Spirit. Through your Bible teachers you are learning about God's plan and purpose for your lives. In a few years you will be the ones using your gifts in this local church under your right pastor/teacher. You can start now by watching carefully and observing what goes on in church before class starts, during class and afterwards. On Sunday you listen and sing along with the music...that's a spiritual gift in itself. You may want to do that someday or if you play an instrument you may want to join in by playing it in Lighthouse Bible Church music ministry!!! Some of our teens are learning the video end of the church scene so you see there are many gifts. Now let's see the spiritual gifts come on the scene in this Ephesian passage:



Eph 4:11-13 "And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors/teachers, (12) for the equipping of the saints (the teaching of the Word) for the work of service (using your spiritual gifts), to the building up of the body of Christ; (13) until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a (spiritually) mature man, to the measure of the stature (maturity) which belongs to the fullness of Christ."

We would not have a local church if it weren't for the spiritual gifts God the Holy Spirit gives out at the moment of personal faith in our Lord, Jesus Christ. The local church functions in these gifts. We'll lay it out even clearer to you by using our Lighthouse Bible Church as the example.

1. We have our leader, Pastor John Farley, who's gift is Pastor/Teacher of our church.
2. We have our deacons, Steve, Marc and Brian who are responsible for different areas of operation for the church.
3. We have our lovely ladies who keep our church super clean and nice for us. Don't forget to do your part too and clean up after yourself to make their job a little easier.
4. We have the people who buy all kinds of supplies for the church.
5. We have people who are in charge of repairs and upkeep.
6. We have the music ministry.
7. We have the media ministry...website, video, audio, books, mp3s etc.
8. We have the prep school ministry.
9. We have someone who takes care of the church finances.



This is what every local church does to keep the Gospel of Jesus Christ and God's Word going out to our local church congregation and all over the world! Isn't that great?

So in closing today, you can sit here and be assured that there is a place for each one of you in this church. Start volunteering a little bit of your time in some area that someone your age can help. Ask if you can do something for anyone. You already help in here and that's great. Get your feet wet. It's never too early to start trying each job in the local church. As you get older there will be more areas for you to volunteer for.

Remember like the Trinity, we want to be unified in our church and helping each other and loving one another. This will surely please God! This makes the body of Christ reflect Him on earth. Let's do it.

Close in Prayer

Prepared from Pastor John Farley's lesson notes of Thursday, August 19, 2010

Lighthouse Bible Church

