

# *Ignorance of Spiritual Gifts*

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Mike Miller

Straight Paths Bible Church

1 Corinthians 12:1-3 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant. Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led. Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

- I. Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.
  - A. In spiritual matters ignorance leads to superstition.
  - B. To be ignorant is to be destitute of knowledge, uninstructed, or uninformed of the facts.
  - C. If we are going to entertain spiritual thoughts and exercise spiritual gifts it must be according to knowledge and truth.
    - 1. Otherwise, it is simply superstition and mysticism.
  - D. There is much enthusiasm in those who conduct themselves in spiritual matters without knowledge.

## **Webster's 1828 Dictionary**

ENTHU'SIASM, n. enthu'ziasm. *Gr. to infuse a divine spirit, inspired, divine; God.*

1. A belief or conceit of private revelation; the vain confidence or opinion of a person, that he has special divine communications from the Supreme Being, or familiar intercourse with him. Enthusiasm is founded neither on reason nor divine revelation, but rises from the conceits of a warmed or overweening imagination.

2. Heat of imagination; violent passion or excitement of the mind, in pursuit of some object, inspiring extravagant hope and confidence of success

- 1. This is mysticism, and it is common to the occult and to professors of religion, including Christianity.
    - 2. They live in superstitious awe of strange things, or feelings, or abilities, or they live in pursuit of those things.
  - E. This is why the apostle starts out with the warning about ignorance.
  - F. These people came from a pagan, superstitious, idolatrous background and he wanted to make it clear to them that all that had to go and had no part in the spiritual gifts God imparts.
  - G. Lifelong habits, prejudices, and impressions of the supernatural are hard to shake from a superstitious mind that has always been ignorant of the facts of the spiritual world and the truth of God.
- II. Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led.
  - A. They were used to being led by people who claimed to have some spiritual power or understanding to believe that a dumb idol had some kind of spiritual power or life.
  - B. Spiritual matters were not something new to them, but their concept of things spiritual was all superstition that depended upon lies and deceit and fantastic shows of what was supposed to be supernatural manifestations.

- C. The warning here is clear that the spiritual gifts of God are nothing like that and their purpose is not the same as the heathen practices they had been around all their lives.
- D. The important point here is that the child of God understand the true character of the Divine influence and not be deceived by false spirits.
  - 1. Furthermore, to keep the atmosphere of the church such that would promote the liberty of the Spirit of God.
  - 2. And at the same time keep the atmosphere such that would prohibit the freedom of evil or unclean spirits to work or manifest themselves there.
- E. The facts are laid out by the apostle Paul right away in dealing with this matter:

1 Corinthians 12:3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

- 1. The Spirit of God is in control of the spiritual gifts that God gives.
- 2. They are not a special talent or ability that is natural or learned by an individual.
- 3. All the spiritual gifts are the Spirit of God working through a person who is yielded to God for his service.
- 4. This being true, the Holy Spirit of God is not going to cause a person to say or do things contrary to Jesus Christ, or God the Father, or the Holy Spirit of God.
- F. No spiritual gift from God is going to be used to fascinate people.

FAS'CINATE, v.t. *L. fascino; Gr.*

1. To bewitch; to enchant; to operate on by some powerful or irresistible influence; to influence the passions or affections in an incontrollable manner.

- 1. Yet this is what the church in Corinth was doing with these gifts, particularly the gift of tongues, just like the modern churches are doing.
- 2. The kind of spirit that is behind these kinds of things is the same kind of spirit that is behind seances, and Oija boards, fortune tellers, and soothsayers.
- 3. It is the same kind of spirit that is behind all the supposed miracle workers and faith healers, and word of prophecy charlatans of our day.
- 4. They all seek to stun and shock people with unexplained happenings or miracles, or scare them with their predictions of things to come.
- 5. They use slight of hand tricks, like magicians, to cause people to believe they have supernatural powers or abilities.
- 6. In this way they bewitch people into thinking they have been put into contact with the great beyond and with the powers that are supernatural.
- G. People have an eagerness and a willingness to believe all such nonsense, as long as there are no boundaries or guidelines with it.
  - 1. For this reason Paul is drawing lines around the spiritual gifts of God and the spiritual activity in and outside the church in the lives of God's people.
- H. So the spiritual gifts are under the control of the Holy Spirit and will always honor and exalt Christ and edify the church in love and truth.
- I. The gifts of the Spirit will never be for show or to exalt anyone but Christ.