

# *The Manifestation of the Spirit*

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1 Corinthians 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

## I. The manifestation of the Spirit...

MANIFESTATION, n. The act of disclosing what is secret, unseen or obscure; discovery to the eye or to the understanding; the exhibition of any thing by clear evidence; display;

- A. Whatever we know about the Spirit of God is not revealed to us in order to benefit ourselves, but the body of Christ.
- B. Spiritual gifts are a manifestation of the Spirit of God.
- C. They are never, ever intended to make something out of the one who exercises the gift.
- D. Spiritual gifts are never a natural skill or talent.
  - 1. Skills and talents may absolutely be used in the service of God, but they are not spiritual gifts, because they are not manifestations of the Spirit.
- E. Spiritual gifts are the working of the Holy Spirit through a person who is yielded to God.
- F. The vessel that the Holy Spirit uses must be sanctified to the Lord's use.
  - 1. He will not be seeking something for himself.
  - 2. Not prestige, or approval, or applause and admiration, or even assurance.
  - 3. Neither will be seeking after supernatural experiences.
  - 4. He will simply be yielded and willing to spend or be spent for whatever the Lord's will for him might be.
- G. The point of a spiritual gift is that others see the hand of God at work.
  - 1. Not necessarily the one who is exercising the spiritual gift.
  - 2. He may very well never know about how the Lord used him in certain situations.

## II. The manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

- A. The unity of the body depends upon us seeing God working in one another.
  - 1. Without the evidence of the Spirit of God working it becomes a social, carnal, earthly organization instead of the body of Christ.
- B. The spiritual health and well-being of the body of Christ depends upon the Spirit of God working in its midst.

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

2 Corinthians 3:6 Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

- 1. A church cannot be a church if it is just a worldly organization operating by rules and bylaws.
- 2. A church is the body of Christ and the Spirit of God makes it a living body.

- C. So in any church that is alive there will be the manifestation of the Spirit there in that place and among its members.
- D. That manifestation of the Spirit will not be recognized by skilled and educated speakers, musicians, and singers, or by entertainers who can tell stories to make you laugh or cry.
- E. The true working of the Spirit of God will not be manifested through high emotion.
  - 1. Excitement, enthusiasm, laughter.
  - 2. Patriotism or sentimental longings.
- F. The true manifestation of the Spirit of God will be in what we see in others as they are convicted of their sin, repent of their sin, believe in Christ, and turn from their sinful ways, and begin to live holy lives.
- G. The true manifestation of the Spirit of God will be when we see others growing line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little, and there a little, as they are brought into the image of Christ.
- H. The true manifestation of the Spirit of God is when we watch others who truly love one another in real-life practice, and forgive and forbear one another as we continue on this journey.
- I. The true manifestation of the Spirit of God will be when we behold the grace and peace with which our members have as they face sickness, grief, loss of loved ones, and as they pass into eternity themselves.
- J. This is the manifestation of the Spirit that God gives us to profit withal.
- K. This is the manifestation of the Spirit that edifies the body and makes it operate as one, and ties the cords of love in our hearts forever.
- L. This is what spiritual gifts are for and this is how they operate, no matter their diversity or the differences in their administration or operation; this is their purpose and end.