**Cross Street Bible Study – Other Spiritual Gifts – D Balsdon 26/10/23**

The focus for this Bible Study is spiritual gifts other than the 9 listed in 1 Cor 12:8-10

ARTISTIC GIFTS

It is within Paul’s letters that we learn so much about Spiritual gifts, yet we get glimpses of spiritual gifts being used in the OT as well, but not just prophecy and healing. In Exodus 35:30 – 36:5 we read about Bezalel being filled with the Spirit of God and given artistic gifts for the creation of the tabernacle. Bezalel was ‘*filled with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts.*’ In v34 we read that Bezalel and Oholiab were both given the ability to teach others their artistic abilities, and that God ‘*filled them with skill to do all kinds of work as craftsmen,…’* That indicates that they were also given the gift of teaching. We need to pass on our learning and experience so that our ceiling can be the floor of the next generation.

VISIONS & DREAMS

In the OT and the NT there are various examples of dreams and visions. In Joel 2:28 God promises to pour out His Spirit on all people; that they will prophesy, and have dreams and visions. Most of our dreams are due to what we have consumed, yet some of our dreams may be from God. I still recall a brief dream which I sensed was from the Lord, and when I shared it with the person who I had seen in my dream, that helped them open up to God and experience His healing touch upon their lives. Some Christians seem to be gifted in dreaming, they often get messages from God while they are asleep. Sometimes we may need to share our dream with a trusted Christian friend, who will help us interpret it, especially someone who has the supernatural gift of interpretation. After Pentecost, I don’t think there are any examples of God speaking through dreams, perhaps after that God’s people spoke of visions rather than dreams.

By ‘vision’ I’m thinking of something which we spiritually see, a still picture or a moving picture that we may even see with our eyes shut. Some of what we see may be fairly ordinary, yet there is usually supernatural content as well. Main biblical examples are Ezekiel 37, Daniel, Acts 10 and Revelation. The person experiencing the vision often has communication with the Lord, and explanation from the Lord, during the vision. Lots of information and experience can be received in a very short space of time. Several years ago, through a vision of my hurting heart, the Lord gave me inner healing, and through recalling that vision, I still receive healing.

MARTYRDOM & GIVING TO THE POOR

In 1 Cor 13:3 Paul mentions giving to the poor and surrendering our bodies to the flames. It is highly unlikely that Paul intended martyrdom to be seen as a spiritual gift. His point is that even if someone goes as far as dying for the sake of the gospel, it is of no value unless it is done because of love. Giving to the poor is similar to Roman’s 12:8, the gift of contributing to others. In 1 Cor 13 Paul’s point is similar as with martyrdom, that even if someone gives all they possess to the poor, but have not love, they gain nothing. Nevertheless, there do seem to be some Christians who have a gift of giving, some are very generous, and at times their gifts are very timely and poignant. On one hand, we may be concerned that if God gives to us the gift of giving, we may have less for ourselves! But on the other hand, if God gives to us the gift of giving, He’s going to have to give us an abundance so that we are able to give abundantly.

ENCOURAGING

When Paul included the gift of encouraging in Rom 12:6-8, perhaps he had Barnabas in mind. Acts 4:36-17 tells us that Barnabas means ‘son of encouragement’. He is the 4th most frequently mentioned follower of Jesus is Acts, and seems to live up to his name. We all need to encourage others, yet some seem to be ‘gifted’ in encouraging others.

Administration

In 1 Cor 12:28 Paul mentions ‘*gifts of administration’*. In this 21st century, for churches and charities to run effectively requires a lot of administration, including financial and computer skills. Lots of people can learn to do these tasks, yet some people are gifted in such areas, they have God’s calling and equipping for administration.

MUSIC

Paul does not mention gifts of singing, playing instruments, writing song or composing music, perhaps this is because those gifts were already well established in church life. The first reference in the Bible to singing and to instruments comes as early as Genesis 30:27, and the Psalms are all songs to the Lord, and often mention instruments as well. Church History reveals that fresh moves of God’s Spirit have facilitated a plethora of new songs.

Technology

Understandable the Bible doesn’t mention technology gifts. Today computers, sound systems, live streaming, video creating, graphic designing, etc, are all important parts of church life. Quite often these roles are fulfilled by volunteers who learn to do what is necessary, yet there are also people who are spiritually gifted to do such things.

Prayer

Every Christian must pray, yet some are gifted in prayer, with a specific calling to intercession, spiritual warfare, or another aspect of prayer. Rm 12:12. Prayer is a wonderful gift.

Natural Gifts, Nurtured Gifts, Supernatural Gifts.

All that leads on into something else that I think it’s worth considering. I think there are 3 types of Gifts, Natural Gifts, Nurtured Gifts and Supernatural Gifts. Andrew has provided excellent teaching on Supernatural Gifts.

Natural Gifts

Natural Gifts are abilities that we are born with. Even these gifts have come from God’s grace. They still need training and developing, surrendering to the Lord and the anointing of His Spirit so that they can be used for the advancement of His kingdom. With natural gifts, it is all too easy to go on using them when actually the Lord wants us to be using supernatural gifts. Sometimes it can be harder to let the Lord work through our natural gifts than through our supernatural gifts. With supernatural gifts, we know we can only use them with the Spirit’s anointing, but with natural gifts, we can all too easily use them in our own strength, and for our own glory. Sometimes natural gifts are given a new focus once people are born again, Peter’s ability to fish was changed to fishing for people.

Nurtured Gifts

There are many abilities that we have learnt to do over the years. They are not natural abilities that we were born with, nor supernatural gifts given by God’s Spirit, but abilities that we have developed over the years, and these can also be from God’s grace, as he has provided the opportunities to nurture them. If these are surrendered to the Lord, and anointed by His Spirit, they can become spiritual gifts. Col 3:23 tells us to do work with all our heart for the Lord.

Conclusion

With our Natural Gifts, Nurtured Gifts and Supernatural Gifts, we need to surrender them to the Lord, seek the anointing of His Spirit upon the gifts and upon ourselves, and seek to use the gifts for His glory, so that His Kingdom will advance. In 1 Cor 12:27 Paul writes ‘*Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is part of it.*’ May each one of us play the part, use the gifts which the Lord calls us to use.

Pause for a few moments and prayerfully consider:

1 - What natural, nurtured and supernatural gifts has the Lord given to you?

2 – Are those gifts surrendered to the Lord, anointed by His Spirit, and being used for His glory?