

Sunday, October 1, 2017—I Corinthians 12:4-7 The Manifestation of the Spirit

### **I Corinthians 12:4**

- **Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.**
- Verse 4 begins a paragraph that runs through the end of verse 11. After introducing the topic in verses 1 through 3 Paul is going to begin expounding upon it here in verses 4 through 11.
- Paul states that “there are” in the present or at the time of his writing “diversities of gifts.” The word translated “diversities” occurs only three times in the New Testament and they are all right here in I Corinthians 12.
  - Verse 4—“diversities”
  - Verse 5—“differences”
  - Verse 6—“diversities”
- Noah Webster’s *American Dictionary of the English Language* defines the word “diversity” as follows:
  - Difference; dissimilitude; unlikeness. There may be *diversity* without contrariety.
  - Variety
- So according to Paul, there was a variety of different gifts that were being given at the time of his writing. “But” note the contrast the “same Spirit” was giving them. Even though there was “diversities of gifts” they will only be given by God the Holy Spirit.

### **I Corinthians 12:5**

- **And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.**
- “And” or in addition to what he just said in verse 4 there are also “differences of administrations.” The English word “administrations” is a translation of the Greek word *diakonia*. This word occurs 34 times in the Greek text supporting the King James Bible and is variously translated as ministry 16x, ministration 6x, ministering 3x, and miscellaneous 9x.
  - Acts 1:17—“ministry”
  - Acts 6:1—“ministration”

- Acts 20:24—“ministry”
- Romans 11:13—“office”
- II Corinthians 3:7-9—“ministration”
  - *Diakonia* is used in three different ways to describe at least two different administrations in these three verses.
- I Corinthians 12:5—so while there are different ministries or administrations that God has given men to perform we note once again the contrast “but the same Lord.” In other words, there is only one Lord who can give a multiplicity of different administrations/ministries.

### **I Corinthians 12:6**

- **And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.**
- In addition to a diversity of “gifts” and “administrations” there was also at the time of Paul’s writing a diversity of “operations.” There is not much to go by in terms of understanding this word. The underlying Greek work occurs only one other time in the New Testament text.
  - I Corinthians 12:10—“working”
- Basically, it means a thing wrought. The English work “operation” means among other things “The act or process of operating; agency; the exertion of power, physical, mechanical or moral.” (*Webster’s 1828*)
  - Psalm 28:5
  - Isaiah 5:12
  - Colossians 2:12
- I Corinthians 12:6—note once again the contrast between the “diversities of operations” and the “same God” who is working “all in all.” In other words, God was working all manner of operations in all the saints who were working them.
- Notice who the entire Godhead is involved and active in this process.
  - Verse 4—Spirit
  - Verse 5—Lord

- Verse 6—God

### **I Corinthians 12:7**

- **But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.**
- At the time of Paul’s writing, God the Holy Spirit was manifesting himself in Corinth via the gifts. Note the connection between verses 4 and 7. Through the diversity of gifts the Spirit was manifesting himself to every man.
- The English word “manifestation” means “The act of disclosing what is secret, unseen or obscure; discovery to the eye or to the understanding; the exhibition of anything by clear evidence; display; as the *manifestation* of God's power in creation, or of his benevolence in redemption.”
  - II Corinthians 4:2
  - Romans 16:25-26—“manifest” equals “Plain, open, clearly visible to the eye or obvious to the understanding; apparent; not obscure or difficult to be seen or understood. From the testimony, the truth we conceive to be *manifest*.” (Webster’s 1828)
  - Colossians 1:26—“manifest”
- I Corinthians 12:7—the Spirit’s manifestation through the gifts was being “given” to “every man” at the time of Paul’s writing. Every individual believer was a part of this process according to verse 7.
- But mark well who the “manifestation of the Spirit” was supposed to “profit.” It was supposed to profit “withal.” The English word “withal” is a combination of the words “with” and “all.” It means “along with the rest; in addition; besides; moreover; likewise; as well.”
  - Colossians 4:3
- I Corinthians 12:7—the gifts were not given for the profit of the individual but for the profit of the entire body of Christ. A person’s individual gifting was to work in concert with everyone else’s individual gifts for the benefit of everyone. These gifts were not given for people to go into their own prayer individual closets and edify themselves. No they were gift for the “profit” and benefit of “withal.”