

# ***Meeting the Holy Spirit***

## ***Who Is He, and Why Don't We Know Him So Well?***



# ***Meeting the Holy Spirit***

- *The Spirit Before Pentecost*
- *The Explosion at Pentecost*
- *New Life in the Spirit*
- *The Spirit and the Flesh*
- *Where the Rubber Hits the Road*
- *The Gifts of the Spirit (part 3)*



# ***The Gifts of the Holy Spirit***

- God supernaturally gifts His people for ministry through His Holy Spirit
  - Read 1 Corinthians 12:27-30
    - What is Paul's point here, as he sums up his argument about spiritual gifts?
    - What does that suggest about how the Corinthians (or even today's church) can abuse the Spirit's giftings?



# ***The Gifts of the Holy Spirit***

- God supernaturally gifts His people for ministry through His Holy Spirit
  - Read 1 Corinthians 12:27-30
  - Read 1 Corinthians 12:31
    - Why does Paul interrupt his whole discussion about spiritual gifts (which he picks up again in chapter 14) with this tangent into chapter 13—the “love chapter”?
    - How does he *end* verse 31 here—and why is that significant?





# ***The Gifts of the Holy Spirit***

- God supernaturally gifts His people for ministry through His Holy Spirit
  - Read 1 Corinthians 12:27-30
  - Read 1 Corinthians 12:31
  - Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3
    - Instead of thinking of this as the beginning of chapter 13, remember that originally, there were no chapter divisions, and try to think of it as just a continuation of the argument that Paul's been making
      - Try reading 1 Corinthians 12:29-13:3, adding in the implied "Because..." at the beginning of 13:1
        - How does Paul use chapter 13 to arguably put the Corinthians abusers in their place?
        - How can chapter 13 arguably put *us* in *our* place today?



# ***The Gifts of the Holy Spirit***

- Funky little teaching moment...
  - Forgetting modern Christian weddings for a moment, try to read 1 Corinthians 13:4-11 *solely* in light of Paul's context of discussing the Corinthians' attitudes about spiritual gifts (and each other)—
    - Love is patient, love is kind.
    - It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.
    - It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.
    - Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.
    - It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.
    - Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.
    - For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears.
    - When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me.



# *The Gifts of the Holy Spirit*

- Funky little teaching moment...<sup>2</sup>
  - Again, 1 Corinthians 13:8 is often cited as an argument that “sign” gifts such as prophecies, speaking in tongues, knowledge, etc., have ceased
    - Does Paul indicate in this verse when these gifts *had already* ceased being given by God?
    - Does Paul indicate in this verse when these gifts *will eventually* cease being given by God?
    - Does Paul indicate in verses 9-12 when these gifts will eventually cease being given by God?
      - Has this “perfection” or “completeness” come yet? (i.e.; do we see Jesus “face-to-face” yet?)
      - Why would gifts like prophecy, speaking in tongues, or knowledge logically cease being given when all Christians from all time are standing together in complete union—knowing fully and being fully known—in the presence of God Himself?
        - If all of this makes sense, then why have so many cessationists developed the doctrine that all “sign gifts” ceased at the death of the last Apostle? (i.e.; the *opposite* conclusion to the similarly unbiblical doctrine that *everyone* should step out in the *same* “sign gifts” if they want to be healthy Christians)





# ***The Gifts of the Holy Spirit***

- God supernaturally gifts His people for ministry through His Holy Spirit
  - Read 1 Corinthians 12:27-30
  - Read 1 Corinthians 12:31
  - Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3
  - Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-12
  - **Read 1 Corinthians 13:13**
    - Why do “faith, hope, and love” remain?
    - Why is the *greatest* of these still love?
      - Tricky question #1: Is Paul talking about faith, hope, and love as spiritual gifts, or is he talking about them—especially *love*—as the means by which we best make use of spiritual gifts?
      - Tricky question #2: If stopping in 1 Corinthians 13 to talk about loving each other better is *not* a *tangent*—then what does *that* suggest about why Paul is even bringing up the subject of spiritual gifts in chapters 12 and 14 in the *first* place?  
(How does that put things into a different perspective as we look at the idea of spiritual gifts at all?)

