

LSR2, Session 206

Character

- 1 Co 12:1, “Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.”
 - “spiritual gifts” (Gk, *pneumatikos*, adj): (1) from the spirit, pertaining to the spirit; (2) spiritual; (3) of spiritual conduct, a pattern of life controlled by spirit; et al
- vv 7-11, “⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.”
 - Do you see that all these things originate in the spiritual realm?
 - v 11, “he gives them to each one, just as he determines.”
 - “give” (Gk, *diaireo*): divide, distribute, apportion
- Lk 15:12, “The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided (*diaireo*) his property between them.”
 - After the father divided his property between his sons, to whom did the property belong?
 - If the Holy Spirit divides, distributes or apportions abilities to us — like the ones in 1 Corinthians 12 — to whom do those abilities then belong?
 - Is it possible non-Christians have secular — unredeemed — forms of these abilities?
 - How much of humanity did God create in his own image and likeness?
 - How much of humanity was affected by Adam’s sin?
 - How much of humanity does God want to be saved?
- Jn 3:16-17, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”
- Acts 17:31, “He has given proof of this *to all men* by raising him from the dead.”
- Acts 22:15, “You will be his witness *to all men* of what you have seen and heard.”
- Tit 2:11, “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared *to all men*.”
 - Is it clear that God’s desire for man’s salvation is universal?
- Mt 5:45, “He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and

sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.”

- Fox paraphrase: “God gives everyone what they need to be successful in life, knowing that some will even abuse what he gives them.”
- 1 Co 12:11, “he gives them to each one, just as he determines.”
 - I believe 1 Corinthians 12 contains a representative list of spiritual abilities; not an exclusive list
 - Administration, Apostleship, Celibacy, Craftsmanship, Deliverance, Discernment, Encouragement, Evangelism, Faith, Fine Arts, Generosity, Healing, Helping, Hospitality, Intercession, Interpreting of Tongues, Leadership, Mercy-Giver, Miracle-Worker, Missionary, Pastoral Care, Prophetic Insight, Self-Sacrifice, Serving, Speaking in Tongues, Teaching, Voluntary Poverty, Word of Knowledge, Word of Wisdom
 - God knows the world needs people with these abilities, with their secular and spiritual expressions, so he gives them generously to both the evil and the good, the righteous and the unrighteous
- Humanity — not just the church — is the pinnacle of God’s creation; we’re the only beings God created in his own image & likeness
- Conclusion
 - Your spirit is fully equipped with what you need to be successful in life; in particular, to do what God has destined you to do.

Spiritual Development

- 1 Co 14:4-5, “⁴ He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. ⁵ I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy.”
 - “speak” (Gk, *laleo*): to speak, make sound with one’s mouth
 - “tongue” (Gk, *glossa*): (1) a tongue, body part; (2) language, either known or unknown; (3) speech or what is said
 - “speaking in tongues” — sometimes called “glossolalia” (from Gk words) — refers to someone speaking extemporaneously in a language they don’t know
 - “edify” (Gk, *oikodomeo*): (1) build, construct; (2) make more able, strengthen
 - What part of a person does speaking in tongues build up? Spirit, psyche or body?
 - “would like” (Gk, *thelo*): (1) purpose, will, decide, intend; (2) desire, want to; (3) enjoy; (4) be of an opinion, think something to be so
 - Paul describes **personal** benefits of speaking in tongues and states he **really wants** every believer to speak in tongues
- 1 Co 14:18, “I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of

you.”

- Why would Paul make such a statement?
- 1 Co 14:14-15 “For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind.”
 - When you pray in unknown language, where does language/speech originate?
 - Does your mind know what you are saying?
 - How does this affect the relationship between your mind (psyche) and spirit?
 - Praying in tongues is a spiritual activity with specific benefits
 - submits your psyche to your spirit, allows your spirit to be dominant
 - increases your spirit’s activity level
 - This is how/why praying with your spirit builds up your spirit.
- Speaking in a tongue is not same as gift of tongues
 - 1 Co 14:2-4, “For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit. He who speaks in a tongue *edifies himself.*”
 - 1 Co 12:7, 10, “Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given *for the common good...* to another the ability to speak in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.”
- Conclusion
 - Praying or speaking in tongues is a spiritual activity that builds up your spirit.

Spiritual Experiences

- Do your spiritual senses shut down when you sleep? Does your psyche?
- Is it possible for your spirit to communicate with your psyche while you sleep?
- Is it possible for God to do that?
- Dreams can be from God
 - Mt 1:20, “But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.’”
 - other examples: Mt 2:12, 13, 19, 22; 27:19
- God uses dreams for such things as:
 - conveying an important message to you
 - preparing you for a future experience
 - revealing either a strength or weakness of yours
 - giving you insight
- Visions

- Acts 9:10-12
 - In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, “Ananias!”
 - “Yes, Lord,” he answered.
 - The Lord told him, “Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight.”
- Acts 16:9, “During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, ‘Come over to Macedonia and help us.’”
- levels of vision
 - internal vision, spontaneous inner picture
 - light & gentle; seen within yourself (mental image)
 - usually “superimposed” on normal sight
 - external vision, your spirit seeing outside yourself
 - as though you were actually there
 - they’re also called “open” visions, are like watching a movie
 - trance, or vision while in a trance
 - Acts 10:9-11, “About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners.”
 - also, Acts 22:17-21
 - all levels of vision, including trances, are equally spiritual and valid
- Conclusion
 - God can speak to us through dreams, visions and trances; when he does, it can be life-changing.

Blessing

- May you become increasingly aware of your spiritual qualities and develop them, so you can become more active in the spiritual realm.

Daily Activities

- Journal about your aptitudes or spiritual gifts; refer to the list on this worksheet if necessary. Ask Father for his perspective of their value, how he plans for you to use them and how they relate to your life purpose.
- Ask Father for spiritual dreams. Record them in your journal and ask him to interpret them for you.
- Pray in tongues at least twice daily, focusing your thoughts on God’s goodness and love for you. Occasionally sing in tongues (i.e., with your spirit).