

# Concerning the Spirituals

1 Corinthians 12:1-3

Outline of 1 Corinthians:

- I. **Introduction (1:1-9)**
- II. **Problems Reported (1:10-6:20)**
- III. **Questions Raised (7:1-16:4)**
  - e. Spiritual Expression (12:1-14:40)

## A. Introducing the Topic: The Work of the Holy Spirit (12:1-3)

v1 – Transition

- Introducing a new topic: “Now concerning spiritual \_\_\_\_\_”
- Stated audience: “brethren”
- Stated goal: “I do not want you to be ignorant”

v2 – The believers’ past exposure to spiritual things

- “carried away”
- “dumb idols”

v3 – The first and most fundamental work of the Holy Spirit

- “speaking by the Spirit of God”
- “Jesus is Lord”

## B. Historical Record of Claims on the Holy Spirit’s Work

**Biblical Expectation –**

- 1 Corinthians 13:8 – prophecy, knowledge, and tongues will cease.
- Ephesians 2:20 – the apostles and prophets were used to lay the foundation of the church.
- 2 Peter 2:1 – false teachers are the danger now, not prophets.
- Hebrews 2:3-4 – the various miraculous gifts (like tongues) served as signs to confirm the revelation of God concerning our salvation.

## 1 Corinthians 12:1-3

- Jude 3 – it is now time to defend what has been revealed.
- Revelation 22:18 - forbids the addition of more revelation for the church.

### **Early Christianity –**

- Example #1 - Montanism (170 AD)
- Example #2 – Manichaeism (mid 200s AD)
- Few others claimed new revelation until the 1800s

### **Recent Concerns –**

- Mormonism, Seventh Day Adventist, and Jehovah's Witnesses (beginning in the 1800s)
- Early Pentecostalism (about 1900 - 1950)
- Many Pentecostal and Charismatic movements (1950 - today)
  - Shift away from the authority of Scripture in favor of the authority of spiritual experiences
  - Redefinition and mis-use of terms like “apostle” “prophecy” and “tongues”

## **C. Overview of 1 Corinthians Chapters 12-14**

- Chapter 12 – The foundational truth concerning the work of the Holy Spirit in the church
- Chapter 13 – The priority of love in the church
- Chapter 14 – The needed corrections in the Corinthian local church