Messy Grace **– wk 16 – Gifted - 1**

**I love the diversity of religious backgrounds in our church. Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Church of Christ, Catholic, Pentecostal. It brings diff experiences to the table. It can be healthy for us.**

**We are in a letter written by the Apostle Paul to a church he planted 5 yrs earlier. Weird stuff was getting back to him.**

**This is a corrective letter.**

**Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth to correct their craziness**

**A challenge for them to grow up (1 Cor 1:5-5, 3:1-2)**

**A Follower of Jesus is given the Holy Spirit to mature us and empower us to share the Good News and be His hands and feet. But Corinth was neither mature nor growing up.**

**1 Cor 12:1 Now about the gifts of the Spirit, (the word “gift” is not in the original – “spiritual things” – “the supernatural”) brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. (ignorant - we need to know this)**

**We are not to be ignorant about spiritual gifts**

**In reality I think most Christians are ignorant of spiritual things such as spiritual gifts and how they operate today.**

**2 dangers with regard to spiritual gifts: misuse and non-use**

**Simply**

**A Spiritual Gift is God fulfilling his mission through his disciples**

**One God using different gifts in different people, for His Glory/ purpose**

**The mission for followers of Jesus Christ to take the message of the Gospel to the World. His work thru you = spiritual *gifts***

**Don’t Be Ignorant – Spiritual Gifts Basics**

**1 Cor 12:1 Now about the gifts of the Spirit, I do not want you to be uninformed. 2 You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. (why say this in the middle of this passage?)**

**In their church services – they were being influenced by pagan and deceptive practices – with exciting experiences**

**1. Emotions and feelings can counterfeit true spirituality**

**Not every spiritual experience is the H.S. at work. Sometimes it is the flesh – getting emotional creating an experience…**

**This is a reason it may seem that someone has backslidden from Jesus. Perhaps what hey had was merely emotional or feelings - when life got tough or feelings faded – they left…**

**Not every spiritual experience is the H.S. at work. Sometimes it is the flesh and emotions - and sometimes it can even be demonic in nature.**

**There are many spiritual experiences outside of Christianity**

**Cults, false faiths and religions, demons, manipulation, imagination, emotions, feelings – all offer experiences. But they are a counterfeit for the real thing. An experience does not = an authentic spiritual experience**

**Emotions and feelings make great counterfeits.**

**However, God does work through and uses our emotions and feelings.**

**How do you know a person is legit?**

**\* Teaching (their theology) (1 John 2:23, 4:1-6, 2 John 1:7,1 Cor 12:3)**

**\* Trials (1 Pe 1:7, Ro 5:1-5, Jo 16:33) They only preach good feelings, blessings, healing, and prosperity**

**\* Time (Luke 8:15, Mark 4:8, Mat 24:13) Sometimes you just to wait and see**

**We can feel sense God’s power – God gives us emotions and feelings to connect us to him and to each other – but it can also be a counterfeit.**

**1 Cor 12:3 Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus be cursed,” and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit. (the only way to Jesus)**

**2. Spiritual gifts are more about submission than exhibition**

**Spiritual gifts reveal the Lordship of Jesus. If a person desires ministry but they do not affirm the Lordship of Jesus, then they do not have the Holy Spirit and not under God’s authority.**

**We see this in the world and church – gifted people not under true submission to Jesus.**

**The mark of one who is truly operating in the Holy Spirit is one that focuses on the Lordship (submission) of Christ. All about Jesus.**

**Regardless of the gift they display - The evidence of the Holy Spirit in a person is their love and submission to Jesus.**

**1 Cor 12:4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit (H.S.) distributes them. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. (J.C.) 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God (Father) at work. (You see every person of the Trinity involved)**

**3. Spiritual gifts are given by God alone (the Godhead- totally God!)**

**The spiritual gifts are not of human origin or doing – the are God’s in origin and God’s in giving and for the purpose of God’s will and glory.**

**1 Co 12:4 – the word “gifts” here is - Charismata = gifts**

**This is where the term charismatics come from.**

**1 Cor 12:4 There are different kinds of gifts… (Spiritual gifts) 5 There are different kinds of service… (ministries) 6 There are different kinds of working (miraculous displays) … (One giver – different gifts)**

The "Gift's" of God - **four groups – all by the same Spirit**

**Mastery Gifts - Skill gifts 1 Cor 12:4-6, 1 Pe 4:10**

**Given by God when we are physically born. Personality traits, abilities, aptitudes, and differences. Things you’re good and that come naturally for you. Yours to develop & mature. Can change over time.**

**Examples of mastery gifts – abilities / personalities / skills**

**Motivation Gifts – Spiritual gifts - Romans 12:6-8**

**Given by God when we are spiritually born. Spiritual gifts at work in us. Yours to develop and mature in. They are the driving motivations in us. We are different and all needed.**

**Examples – serving, compassion, giving, encouragement, etc.**

**Ministry Gifts - Spiritual gift roles Eph 4:11-12, 1 Tim 4:14, 2 Tim 1:6-7**

**Given at God’s calling to those in ministry. These are the spiritual gifts God give to leaders to lead the church.**

**Given by God and to be developed by the recipients.**

**Examples – pastor, teacher, evangelist, overseer, missionaries**

**Manifestation Gifts - Supernatural gifts - 1 Cor 12:7-11, 13:1-13**

**Given by God at different times to accomplish His purpose. A person does not own or keep them. They can come and go.**

**Paul in the next few chapters spends a lot of the time on these.**

**Examples – healing, miracles, prophecy, tongues**

**1 Co 12:7 - Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given…**

**4. Every Christian believer has at least one spiritual gift.**

**Referring to our motivational gifts & abilities, God has given each of us something that is unique to us. Not given as a reward, they are a gift.**

**This is not just for the super spiritual people, but for every Christian. That means you belong, and you are needed.**

**God loves to use the ordinary for His extraordinary.**

**Christian when you are born again – are given a spiritual gift.**

**Sometimes working with our personality and sometimes in spite of our personality. (Introvert public speaker)**

**\*\* Discovering our gifts is part of the journey towards maturity We are accountable for the gifts God has given us.**

**Even those with similar spiritual gifts, use them differently. We are not limited by these gifts we must be willing to serve where needed**

**There are a variety of Gifts given to every Christian – and every one of those gifts are given by God – and they all matter!**

**No matter who you are, you matter - vital. More on this later.**

**1 Co 12:7 - Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. (Christians are each given gifts to serve each other)**

**5. Spiritual gifts are given to benefit others**

**Whatever the gift, the purpose of the gift is to build up the entire church (others), not just the individual using the gift.**

**God’s giftings given to us are ultimately for His purposes not for our wealth and gain but for the glory of God.**

**1 Co 14:26 …all of these must be done to build up the church…**

**Eph 4:12 …to equip Christians for ministry and build up the body…**

**1 Pet 4:10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. (for example) 11 If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.**

**That ability – that skill – your voice – athletic – intelligence**

**music – passion – heart - that drive you have if for His Glory.**

**6. Spiritual gifts are appointed by God**

**1 Co 12:11 - All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines. (not as we demand)**

**They are not according to the will of Man but the will of God**

**We do not choose our gifts – but God chooses them for us.**

**If you don’t like how God has gifted you – you are in a way complaining about God not giving you what you wanted.**

**Like a spoiled kid unwrapping a present only to complain… We must be careful to not compare ourselves to other Christians.**

**Spiritual gifts are given to fulfill the purpose of God in this world / Supernatural gifts are given by God as needed to serve his purpose in this world. We cannot control the Spirit of God.**

**7. Spiritual gifts are not a sign of maturity**

**1 Cor 3:1 Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. 2 I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready.**

**That preacher, teacher, author, leader – may be skilled and display what appear to be spiritual gifts – but they are not necessarily in submission to Christ or mature.**

**Matthew 7:21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ 23 And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’**

**Your / their gift is not a sign of maturity – are they using it for God’s glory and are they using in the body?**

**Paul then lists some of the spiritual and supernatural gifts**

**1 Co 12:8To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9to 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.**

**With that in mind – next week we will tackle those gifts**

**A lot of confusion and division over those verses.**

**Do they still happen when and how?**

**Know this: God is so good and gracious**

**He gives us the gift of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ**

**He gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit to mature us and encourage us**

**He gives us the gift of family & community through the body of Christ**

**He gives us spiritual gifts to enable and equip us to live our mission**

**THANK YOU LORD!!**

**We are in a letter written by the Apostle Paul to a church he planted 5 yrs earlier. Weird stuff was getting back to him. This is a corrective letter.**

**Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth to correct their craziness**

**A challenge for them to grow up (1 Cor 1:5-5, 3:1-2)**

**In the last chapter…. 1 Corinthians 11:17 In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. (Your gatherings are the worst - I have nothing good to say of them) 18 In the first place… (selfish, segregation, slush people – dishonoring the cross)**

**Then - 1 Cor 12:1 Now about the gifts of the Spirit, (the word “gift” is not in the original – “spiritual things” – “the supernatural”) brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. (don’t want you to be ignorant, we need to know)**

**You are acting in an uninformed way**

**The issue of Body parts temple of** **Asclepius god of healing / medicine**

**Corinth where no one was raised up in a Christian home or culture - Healing deities in Corinth**

**Paul then lists some of the spiritual and supernatural gifts**

**1 Co 12:8To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9to 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.**

**With that in mind – next week we will tackle those gifts**

**The longest passage no spiritual gifts – we are going to take some time through them**

**18+ gifts mentioned in the NT – to name a few – the challenge with Spiritual gift tests – they exclude some gifts altogether.**

**The Bible doesn’t define the gifts – it just says these are some**

**It is possible there are gifts not mentioned that God gives.**

**Some of those gifts function differently today**

**A lot of confusion and division over these verses – still today.**

**Do they still happen when and how?**

**There are literally millions of ways God can use one – this is not the exhaustive list – (See other notes) in an uncountable scenarios and settings – we must be careful to not put God and his abilities in a box.**

**Clarification of *4 views about Spiritual gifts***

**Cessationist – Charismatic (supernatural) gifts (tongues, prophecy, healing - etc) ceased with the death of the last apostle – they’ve ceased**

* **They functioned only in the early church and not today**

**Charismatic – Charismatic (supernatural) gifts are for every generation - and contemporary revelations are equal to scripture**

* **Emphasis on the spiritual gifts (most Christian TV)**

**A new word of God today is equal to scripture – can at times lead to abuse of authority.**

**Pentecostal – Charismatic (supernatural) gifts are given to every generation – but only those who speak in tongues are filled with the HS**

* **Emphasis on tongues as the primary evidence of the HS**

**Full disclosure – I got saved in a Pentecostal environment (Assemblies of God) Was a minister / youth pastor in a spirit filled Charismatic church for over a decade. I know both sides.**

**My experiences… Prayer lines for the Holy Spirit – coaching, healing lines, slain in the spirit, gold fillings, spirit dust, barking like a dog, roaring like a lion, throwing up in a bag, HG car wash**

**What is Livingway?**

**Continuation-ist – (Charismatics with seat-belts on – with guard rails)**

**Charismatic (supernatural) gifts are given to every generation for the ministry of the kingdom to be practiced according to the limits of scripture, as God determines not our demands**

* + **The official view of Livingway is the New Testament view**
	+ **Livingway strives to have biblical balance.**

**Don’t allow imbalance to guide your opinions on this – allow scripture. Without a biblical view and guidelines things can quickly get cold and spiritless or out of control and strange.**

**This is a corrective letter – the church was divisive – segregating people – in sexual sin – getting plastered at church events – things were wild – and… their worship was out of order too.**

**A problem in coring was – they were wanting the demonstrative gifts – the more visible gifts – so their services were bananas as they tried to out doo each other.**

* **There are different spiritual gifts listed in the NT**

**None are a complete list of all gifts. (1 Co 12:8-10; Ro 12:6-8; Eph 4:11; 1 Peter 4:11 – all contain a variety of spiritual gifts)**

**Churches do not generally split over serving, mercy, encouragement… but they do over healing, miracles, tongues**

**1 Co 12:11 - All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines. (not as we demand)**

**We do not choose our gifts – but God chooses us.**

**Prayer lines for the gift of speaking in tongues (as God determines – not as we demand)**

**1. Every believer has at least one spiritual gift. (v7)**

**Paul spend the next few chapters about how their services were looking like a circus. He talks about the misuse of the Supernatural gifts.**

**1 Cor 12:8 To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a 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 distributes them to each one, just as he determines.**

**12 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by[c] one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 14 Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.**

**15 Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body.**

**21 The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” 22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, 24 while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, 25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. 26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.**

**27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 28 And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues[d]? Do all interpret? 31 Now eagerly desire the greater gifts.**

**We are to be thankful for our gifts**

**We are to use our gifts**

**We are to use them in the church**

**I use my gifts in life – at work – in school – in outreach – a primary reason you have that gifts is - “For the common good of the body – for building up of the body” – for your local church.**

**Different Church cultures**

**Pentecostal (movements) – the fastest growing movements in the US.**

**Pentecostalism - emphasizes the work of and spiritual gifts of the H.S. (poured out on the Day of Pentecost Acts 2)**

**Pentecostalism - birthed from the holiness 2nd blessing movement in the 1800’s (the Baptism of the Holy Spirit) 1901 – a student at Charles F. Parham's Bethel Bible School in Topeka, Kansas, says he spoke in tongues ("Chinese") for several days. Parham moved to Texas and began a spiritual revival in 1905 – we are in the last days. A Black student of his William Seymor left and moved to LA, California where he started the Apostolic Faith Gospel Mission on Azusa Street. 1906 - He fathered the first Pentecostal movement. Giving birth to denoms.**

**Pentecostalism – is vibrant and experience driven – to be in God’s presence is more important than teaching.**

**Full disclosure – I got saved in a Pentecostal environment (Assemblies of God) Was a minister / youth pastor in a spirit filled (Pentecostal) churches for over a decade. I know both sides… but the scripture defines me now.**

**Emotions and feelings (the flesh) – can counterfeit spirituality.**

**1 Cor 15:27 For he “has put everything under his feet.” Now when it says that “everything” has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. 28 When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all. (this not saying Jesus is not God – but rather the eternal submission in his role. He is forever now a body – the image of the invisible God)**

**(this is in regard to not believing in our resurrection ) 33 Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.” 34 Come back to your senses as you ought and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God—I say this to your shame.**

**Paul is challenging them - Don’t be an obstacle for the gospel**

**build bridge bridges, don’t create walls – the good news is more important that our preferences and prejudices.**