Messy Grace **– wk 17 – Gifted 2 (Flares or Trophies)**

**I love the diversity of religious backgrounds in our church. It can be healthy and a challenge. But sometimes church can weird…**

**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)**

**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 – nothing good to say) 18 In the first place… (selfish, segregation, slushes – dishonoring the cross. Then he starts in another… 1 Cor 12:1 Now about the gifts of the Spirit, (the supernatural) brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. (you are being ignorant and out of order – about to correct them)**

**I think most Christians are ignorant of spiritual gifts and how they operate today.**

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

**The mission of followers of JC is to take the message of the Gospel to the World. *God does this thru spiritual gifts.***

**1 Co 12-14 is the longest passage on spiritual gifts – next few weeks…**

**Last week – Spiritual Gifts Basics - found in the first 6 verses**

**1 Cor 12:2 You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. (Emotions & feelings can counterfeit true spirituality) 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. (S.G. are about submission not exhibition) 4 There are different kinds of gifts, (charismata = spiritual gifts) but the same Spirit distributes them. 5 There are different kinds of service, (ministry gifts) but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, (miraculous gifts) but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. (S.G. are given by God alone)**

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

**Mastery Gifts - 1 Cor 12:4-6, 1 Pe 4:10 (abilities, skill, personality)**

**Given by God when we are physically born. Yours to develop & mature.**

**Motivation Gifts Ro 12:6-8 (leadership, serving, mercy, giving, exhorter)**

**Given by God when we are spiritually born. Yours to develop & mature.**

**Ministry Gifts Ep 4:11-12, 1 Ti 4:14, 2 Ti 1:6-7 (pastor, teacher, evangelist)**

**Given by God to those in ministry leadership. To develop & mature.**

**Manifestation Gifts 1 Cor 12:7-11, 13:1-13 (miraculous demonstrations)**

**Given by God at diff times to accomplish His purpose - come and go.**

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

**6 diff spiritual gifts list’s in the NT (18+ gifts mentioned) they are not complete lists. (1 Co 12:8-10; Ro 12:6-8; Ep 4:11; 1 Pet 4:11)**

**Challenge w/ spiritual gift tests - they often exclude some gifts.**

**It is possible there are gifts not mentioned - and it’s possible there are new gifts - and some gifts that function diff today.**

**There are lit. millions of ways God can use one in uncountable scenarios and settings – God can do whatever He wants.**

**The gifts in - 1 Cor 12:8 to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another interpretation of tongues. (A lot of confusion and division over these. Bible doesn’t define - just says here’s some)**

**Survey - Do they still happen when and how? Churches do not generally split over serving, mercy… but they do over these.**

**4 views about the Charismata (Supernatural) gifts**

**Cessationist – They ceased with the death of the last apostle.**

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

**Charismatic – They are for every generation and should be sought after**

* **HS is given to a Christian separate from salvation**
* **An emphasis on the Charismata gifts and blessings (Christian TV)**
* **For many contemporary revelations are equal to scripture**

**Pentecostal – They are necessary and follow every true Christian**

* **HS is given at salvation and the evidence of the HS is tongues**
* **An emphasize on tongues - pointing to Acts 2 day of Pentecost**

**Charis. / Pente. churches are the fastest growing movements in the US. Both Charis. & Pente. church cultures are vibrant experience driven.**

**To be in God’s active presence is more important than teaching.**

**Remember emotions and feelings can counterfeit spirituality**

**Experiences do not authenticate a God spiritual encounter.**

**Full disclosure - I got saved in a Pentecostal environment (Assemblies)**

**Was a minister in spirit filled charismatic churches for over a decade.**

**I know both sides intimately and even taught it…**

**but scripture has reshaped me and brought balance.**

**What is Livingway? We strive to have charismata biblical balance**

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

**Charismata gifts are given to every generation for the ministry of the kingdom to be practiced according to the limits of scripture.**

**This is an open-handed issues - We may not agree - make it a biblical reason not just an opinion or your background reason.**

**Don’t allow imbalance to guide your opinions, allow scripture.**

**Without a biblical view and guidelines, churches can quickly become cold and spiritless or out of control and strange.**

**Let’s define the supernatural gifts listed – We can’t define biblical words w/ English definitions. They do not necessarily mean the same.**

**The Charismata of 1 Corinthians: The supernatural gifts**

**Flares: Here you need this, now throw it back. They saw is as trophies.**

**Word (message - NIV) of Wisdom – Acts 7, 23**

**Unique ability to timely speak the wisdom of God in important situations according to God's word. Supernatural understanding.**

**Supernatural understanding and insight of a situation.**

**Can quickly distinguish between what's Biblical or not.**

**“What do you think I should do?” Gifted biblical answers.**

**Word (message) of Knowledge – Acts 27:10, 27:23-26, 1 Cor 14:25, Acts 8:23**

**The unique ability to understand and know what could only be revealed supernaturally (always backed by scripture & confirmed by the person)**

 **“I feel lead to tell you…” “How did you know that?” Knowledge of a situation – “that spoke right to me.”**

**On both – if anything modifies or contradicts God's already revealed truth – it isn't from God, for His truth doesn't change.**

**Faith – Matthew 14:22-33, Acts 3:6-16, James 5:15, 1 John 5:14**

**The unique ability to trust God and encourage others regardless of circumstance. To have great spiritual confidence for a situation.**

**Special faith. Vision eyes – “Prayer of faith” Missionaries walk this out daily. Moments of prayer for a job, provision, etc.**

**Healing – Acts 4:16, 14:9, 28:8, James 5:14-5, Luke 10:8**

**The unique ability to be a vessel of God's powers to see the sick recover. Like faith - this person has moments of great assurance to see healing - by God's power not theirs.**

**Moments of prayer for healing – times I know it will be done**

**Miracles (dynameis, acts of power) Ac 3:1-8, 12:1-18, 14:8-10, 16:16-40, Gal 3:5**

**The unique ability to call on God to do supernatural acts to testify of God and his word. When God overrides the laws of nature**

**Like faith they are used by God to do the miraculous**

**4 Errors regarding miracles and healings:**

**E1- People who promote miracles to exalt themselves/ ministry = false**

**E2- People who chase signs, wonders, and miracles are called wicked.**

**Luke 11:29 As the crowds increased, Jesus said, "This is a wicked generation. It asks for a miraculous sign…” (disciples never did this)**

**E3- People who expect a miracle in order to believe Jesus / God is real**

**Jo 12:37 After Jesus had performed so many signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him. (they don’t prove, they testify)**

**The purpose of miracles is not to prove to non-Christians that God is real – Truth is many will see and still not believe.**

**E4- People who think they’re guaranteed healing / miracle are misled**

**Paul prayed and saw healings and other times did not (1 Ti 4:18)**

**Perfect healing is when we see Jesus – these are snapshots**

**Not natural or normal – it is supernatural (18 in 30 yrs of Acts)**

**Prophecy – Acts 21:4, 10-11, Acts 27:21-26, 1 Thess 5:20-21**

**The unique ability to speak a "now word" in a particular situation. A powerful word from God according to His revealed Word.**

**Sometimes for-telling, but mostly forth-telling – always confirmed by scripture**

**Prophet is referred to in four ways: as a motivational gift, a ministry role, and a manifestational gift – and in the OT as an office of sear.**

**In the OT – The highest authority. A person chosen by God to be His mouth. They wore this with great awareness and burden.**

**OT prophets spoke warnings & encouragement to turn to God. They were never hired / paid to prophecy, had impeccable character, and were never wrong. No 2nd chances.**

**The NT – Not the same role as an OT prophet – no longer needed, a Christian has the HS. NT prophets are a support gift and ministry.**

**Most NT prophets references are as a warning of false prophets – who sometimes perform false miracles.**

**Prophecy in the NT: Three purposes**

* **Refers to a teaching / preaching ministry – 1 Co 14:6-7, 2 Peter 1:21**
* **Refers to a revelation future event in a church – 1 Co 14:24**
* **Refers to a word from God to an individual – Act 21**

**Discernment – Acts 8:18-23, 16:16-18, 1 John 4:1**

**The unique ability to determine if a message, person, or situation is of God or not. Moments of clarity concerning unseen spiritual activity.**

**Discerns good & evil and truth from lies. The devil is a liar!**

**1 John 4:1- Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the**

**This is needed for all the gifts as they are abused and battled over**

**Tongues and interpretation of tongues – Acts 2, 1 Corinthians 14**

**Unique ability to speak a language unknown to you, that you have not learned. Often considered the most bizarre charismata – next week!**

**The Charismata Truth**

**1 – They are not about ownership, but stewardship**

**None are permanent – but given at God’s discretion and will – not ours.**

**\*\* They are tools not trophies – they point to Jesus, not self.**

**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 or the times – but God chooses.**

**They are not something we keep and use as we wish. Unlike motivation gifts, SN gifts come & go - as needed by God.**

**Hebrews 2:4 - God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.**

**Praying for a healing and seeing it, does not make you a healer**

**2 – They are not reliable markers of a Christian**

**There are false signs, wonders, and miracles – false & fake (charlatans)**

**Matthew 24:24 For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.**

**(Paul warns the church) 2 Thessalonians 2:9 (NLT) – This man will come to do the work of Satan with counterfeit power and signs and miracles.**

**A preacher, prophet, physic or person who claims to have “power” - may not be from God. True evidence of the HS in a person is their love & submission to the true and only Lord Jesus. Don’t be fooled**

**3 - The Charismata will not contradict Jesus - ever**

**1 Corinthians 12:3 – The HS testifies of the authority of Jesus.**

**The Holy Spirit will never contradict Jesus, the revealed word of God. Every SN event or person should be weighed w/ the Bible!**

**If they display SN power, but deny good Biblical theology, they are a false teacher. This is considered demonic. Satan’s greatest tool is deception - that leads people from truth.**

**4 – They are not signs of maturity**

**1 Cor 1:5-7 Paul says they did not lack any of the Spiritual gifts. But then in**

**1 Cor 3 –** **you guys are immature babies – not living in the spirit.**

**These gifts are not the fruit (evidence) of the Spirit They are not the result of a closer or longer walk w/ God.**

**I’ve seen immature people gifted. (Gal 5 tells us what fruit is…)**

**5 - They are not given to only ministers & leaders**

**They are not given to the elite - any believer can experience and operate in the charismata. They have nothing to do with your abilities or talents – they are purely supernatural. Not natural.**

**They are used in spite of our personalities and natural abilities**

**6 – They are not the same in importance**

**While the motivational gifts are equally important – the manifestational gifts have different values of importance.**

**Some SN gifts are more important than others and are encouraged more. One is particularly more important…**

**1 Co 12:27 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, (proclaiming God’s word) then miracles, then gifts of healing, (testify of God’s word) of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. (last on list) 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? (church leaders) Do all work miracles? 30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? (no – not everyone will) 31 Now eagerly desire the greater gifts. (proclaiming God’s word) And yet I will show you the most excellent way.**

**1 Corinthians 14:18 I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. (a lot) 19 But in the church, (in a gathering) I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue.**

**1 Corinthians 14:39 Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, (intelligible clear words from God) and do not forbid to speak with tongues. 40 Let all things be done decently and in order.**

**We should desire the intelligible gifts. (More on this next week)**

**And there is one thing greater than all the gifts – LOVE (chapter 13)**

**We are not to seek the supernatural gifts. We are to seek love**

**7 – They are not something to fear**

**2 Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. (to a believer the HS is not one of fear)**

**Churches spilt over this. People leave over this - and in some cases they should. As they are being used in the flesh or fake.**

**For some, they are a stretch of faith. Something you always thought were weird. But can use you as He desires.**

**THE ULTIMATE GIFT – AND GREATEST MIRACLE**

**Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**