

## Let the Spirit Manifest

*“<sup>1</sup>But, brothers, I do not want you to **continue being ignorant** about **the things of the Spirit (pneumatics)**... <sup>4</sup>Now there are various kinds of gifts (**charismata**, gifts), but the same Ruach. <sup>5</sup>There are various kinds of service (**diakanion**, ministries), but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup>There are various kinds of working (**energeia**, operations), but the same God who works all things in all people. <sup>7</sup>But to each person is given the manifestation of the Ruach for the benefit of all. <sup>8</sup>For to one is given through the Ruach a word of wisdom, to another a word of knowledge according to the same Ruach, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Ruach, to another gifts of healings by the one Ruach, <sup>10</sup>to another workings of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup>But one and the same Ruach activates all these things, distributing to each person individually as He wills. (1 Cor. 12:1 CJB, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 TLV, emphasis mine)*

As *Shavuot* (Pentecost) approaches, we are all made aware of our need to be responsive to the Holy Spirit of God. Spiritual gifts and Spirit manifestations are a direct result of the operation of His Spirit (*Ruach*) among us. We would always want to grow in this area. If so (and I raise my hand with all of you) it is extremely important to fully understand what the Scriptures have to say about spiritual gifts and manifestations so we can more accurately pray and ask the Lord to manifest these in our daily walk.

### ***The Misconception about Gifts when they are really Manifestations in 1 Corinthians 12***

Many of us have heard about the “Nine Spiritual Gifts” growing up in Christian churches prior to coming to Messianic Judaism. There is a doctrine in Spirit-filled congregations about the nine spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12. The source of this doctrine is the incorrect rendering of the Greek text in the Authorized KJV or the NIV version of the *B’rit Chadasha*. Let us take a look at the KJV translation and compare it to the JNT or to a literal Greek translation (Interlinear Greek).

*“Now concerning **spiritual gifts**, brethren, I would not have you ignorant. Now there are **diversities of gifts**, but the same Spirit. And there are **differences of administrations**, but the same Lord. And there are **diversities of operations**, but it is the same God which works all in all. But the **manifestation of the Spirit** is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these works that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.” (KJV 1 Cor. 12:1, 4-11)*

The context of 1 Cor. 12 is given in verse 1. Paul does not want us to be ignorant about the things of the Spirit. The context is not gifts (*charismata*); the context is spiritual matters (*pneumaticas*). Why is this pervasive in the body of Messiah? The Lord does not give a gift and later take it away. Thus, if the list in 1 Cor. 12 are *gifts* then it would be correct to assume that if the Spirit ever gave you a *gift* of say, prophecy or healing or working of miracles, then if at some point in your walk you are not manifesting these so-called *gifts*, you’d have one huge guilt-trip in trying to figure out why did God take your *gift* away and how do you get it back. **But these are not gifts at all – they are manifestations of the Holy Spirit of God (Ruach HaKodesh/Elohim).** Even a cursory look at the JNT (I have submitted a correction to the TLV which will appear on the next printing) or the Greek Interlinear lets you see for yourself the danger in the mistranslation of the Greek word “*pneumatica*” into “*gifts*” when it should be “*Spiritual matters*.” If these nine manifestations of the Spirit were gifts, then someone could appropriate them and those people with those gifts would be people to be admired. There are so many ministers that claim to have the gift of healing or the gift of working miracles, among others, according to 1 Cor. 12. But the truth of the matter is that “...*But to each person is given the **manifestation of the Ruach** for the benefit of all.*” and the Bible does not support ownership of these nine manifestations. The Spirit retains ownership. The Spirit can choose any of the nine (it is His choice and it is His Will) for the common good of the congregation. If the Spirit chooses to use someone else to give a prophecy,

to give a Word of Knowledge or a Word of Wisdom, so be it! If that is the case you need to relax! God is not mad at you! He uses whomsoever He pleases. He is sovereign. He is in control. Let Him be the *Ruach Elohim*. Let Him be Lord of all!

### **The Grace of God**

The concept of grace (Hebrew *chen*, Greek *charis*) is not exclusively a *B'rit Chadasha* concept as evidenced by the two words which are translated “grace” in the Scriptures. There is a great disparity between the concept of grace in our *western* mindset and what is expressed in an eastern mindset, and in the writings of the rabbis, or even in modern Jewry. Rather than debating the merits of a Jewish mindset when reading this nice Jewish book we call the Bible, let me use the Bible itself to define grace for us. Grace is not simply “*unmerited favor*” as some have defined the term. Unmerited favor is a better definition of mercy than of grace. Neither is grace being funny (in Spanish the word *gracia* means funny and cute) or a greeting like Aloha or Sayonara or the Spanish thank you word (*gracias!*). What is it then? I’ll let the apostle Paul tell us himself (since he definitely had a Jewish, middle easterner mindset)”

*“<sup>10</sup> But by the grace of God I am what I am. His grace toward me was not in vain. No, I worked harder than them all—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.” (1 Cor. 15:10, TLV)*

*“<sup>13</sup> For the One working in you is God—both to will and to work for His good pleasure” (Phil. 2:13, TLV)*

*“<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not from yourselves—it is the gift of God. <sup>9</sup> It is not based on deeds, so that no one may boast.” (Eph. 2:8,9, TLV)*

Imagine the effect of saying “*For you have been delivered by unmerited favor.*” The hearer of such a statement would be correct in concluding ‘*why God must have favorites, why don’t I get some of that unmerited favor?*’ But based on Scripture, we can safely define grace like Rabbi Paul does: **“Grace is the desire and the power God gives believers to do His will.”** With this definition we are better equipped to continue our quest in understanding the Spiritual matters that we are not supposed to be ignorant about. BTW, grace is given to everyone (Ti. 2:11), it does not cost you a penny – it is free (Eph. 2:8,9), the more you use the more you are given (Phil. 1:21, 2:13), can be resisted (with HUGE negative consequences in Heb. 12:15), and “*is given to the humble*” (Jas. 4:6). If you need more desire and power to please and serve God, then “*Humble yourself in the sight of Lord, and He will lift you up...*”

### **Happiness in Life is Based on Fulfilling Our Purpose in Life – In Our Service to Him**

We often dance “*Ma Navu;*” the Scripture (Is. 52:7) quoted by Rabbi Paul in Ro. 10:15

*“<sup>14</sup> ‘How then shall they call on the One in whom they have not trusted? And how shall they trust in the One they have not heard of? And how shall they hear without someone proclaiming? <sup>15</sup> And how shall they proclaim unless they are sent? As it is written (Isa. 52:7), “How beautiful are the feet of those who proclaim good news of good things!” ♪How shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things, glad tidings of joy! ♪*

Since I have a purpose in life, I know why I exist. Because I know why I am here, I understand God’s purpose in allowing me to become part of His body, and I am greatly fulfilled and happy in His service. People are in unhappy spaces because they are not used in His service like they want to be. *Ye-shua* said: “*blessed is the man who gives*” and the more one gives to the Lord, the happier we become/are. Similarly, the less you give to the Lord, the more frustrated and depressed you become/are. The key to happiness is usefulness, which is being used while you are here in this world in serving the Lord. (To be continued...)