

Holy Spirit, Batman! Part 4 - The Believers Utility Belt

2/25/07 - CCFG

- I. Batman had everything he needed on his utility belt.
 - A. Before he would leave the Batcave would would put on the suit and he would put on his utility belt.
 - B. Before going out into the world he would get equipped with the right tools. Batarangs, batropes, batbinoculars, batwhatever
 - C. We are in part four of our series called "Holy Spirit, Batman!" where we are learning about the Person, purpose, and power of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer.
 1. We talked about how as believers we have a new nature, like Peter Parker had the new nature of Spiderman.
 2. We talked about how the Holy Spirit is a Person like Jesus and the Father, how he is God, how He works in the world and works in our lives as believers.
 3. We talked about the baptism of the HS, how we need to keep on being filled with the HS, much like Clark Kent would have to go into the phone booth to change into Superman.
 4. Today we are going to talk about the believer's utility belt, the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the tools God gives us to go out into the world and do the jobs he has for us.
- II. What are spiritual gifts? 1 Corinthians 12:1-6
 - A. 12:1 literally spirituals, in the context is has to do with the Holy Spirit, not just referring to spiritual things. Paul doesn't want us to be ignorant which means agnostic or ignoramus. We are supposed to know, to understand, to be sure.
 - B. 12:2 carried away, to be led away as one led to trial, prison, punishment, as a prisoner, to be put to death. dumb idols, voiceless, incapable of speech,
 - C. Already seeing a contrast. Spirituals has to do with knowing, information, communication. Idols, anything but the HS has to do with not knowing, no information, no communication. Things of the HS aren't an emotionally driven thing, they involve the mind, the intellect, communication.
 - D. 12:3 make known to you, declare, certify, give to understand. "I want you to know and understand" Two things.
 1. No one speaking with the authority or power of God's Spirit will call Jesus a cursed or doomed man. God would not say that Jesus was a purposeless sacrifice. Possibly people going around speaking on behalf of God saying that Jesus was not the Messiah, that He was just a man who dies in vain. Not much has changed.
 2. No one can say and mean Jesus is Lord without the power, authority, conviction of the HS. Anyone can utter the words themselves, but you can't actually mean them, have them be real without the HS. This also has not changed.
 3. Conflicting messages, conflicting sources.
 4. Both instances try to make Jesus less than He is.

- E. 12:4 diversities/differences, different distributions of different things. Like scouts packing in all the different gear. gifts - graces. A free gift, something not earned or even deserved. same - the one HS is the source of the different and various graces, not many sources like there were many idols. Things given to believers by the HS that cannot be earned, worked for, or worked up. There are a variety of them and people are equipped with different ones. or more than one. No "one gift fits all" mentality.
 - F. 12:5 Different services are provided that come from the same Lord. Things that provide different services, meet different needs for people other than the one expressing the gift. No "one ministry fits all" mentality.
 - G. 12:6 Different workings, operations, activities, different ways in which these things are played out. All of these are worked by the same one God. Things that are active, worked out, or operate in a variety of ways and places. No "one practice fits all" mentality.
 - H. 12:11 These tools come from the one and only HS. There aren't different spirits that these come from, as some may have been teaching in Paul's day. His is the source of them all, and the one who works/operates/activates them. He distributes them to individuals as He wills. Some will have some, others have others.
- III. What do they do and what are they for? 1 Corinthians 12:7
- A. manifestation - to make visible or observable. Jesus was physically there doing the works, teaching the truths. The HS is with/in/upon us, but isn't a visible being like Jesus was. When spiritual gifts are exercised they are a visible and observable representation of the HS. What they do is show the HS.
 - B. for the profit of all - not profit in the sense of gain at the expense of another. profit in the sense of mutual benefit or advantage. for the helping of all.
 - C. They help the body function, grow. Rest of 1 Cor. 12 and Rom. 12.
 - D. They provide opportunities for communication and witnessing.
- IV. Where do they come from? 1 Corinthians 12:11
- A. These tools come from the one and only HS. There aren't different spirits that these come from, as some may have been teaching in Paul's day. You can't go to seminars to get them or other special places to get them.
 - B. Not only is He the source, He is the one who works/operates/activates them. We don't work them as we will. This is why I don't like the word gift.
 - C. He distributes them to individuals as He wills. Some will have some, others will have others.
- V. Take home points
- A. The gifts of the HS are the tools on our utility belts. God uses them through us to build others up, and to provide a service in the body.
 - B. The gifts of the HS are used to provide opportunities to communicate God's truth to everyone who needs to hear it.
 - C. The gifts of the HS come from the HS. They cannot be earned or manipulated from God. Simply ask God for all that He has for you.