Sermon Outline

MEASURING SPIRITUALITY | Paul Harrington

Bible reading: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 What make someone spiritual?

1. Gifts as a measure of Spirituality?

1 Corinthians 1:7 Therefore you do not lack any gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.

1 Corinthians 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.

- The 'Spirituality' test

1 Corinthians 12:13 For we were all baptised by 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.

1 Corinthians 12:3 ...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.

- 2. But what about 'Spiritual gifts'?
 - a. Looking more closely

1 Corinthians 12:1 Now about the gifts of the Spirit... (NIV)

- Literally 'Now about Spiritual things/matters...' not until 12:4 that 'gifts' appears
- The only place in the NT where the phrase 'Spiritual Gift' occurs is Romans 1:11.
- b. Where do gifts come from?

Ephesians 4:11 Christ himself gave the apostles, prophets,, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers...

Romans 12:6 We have different gifts according to the grace given us (by God v1)

c. 'Spiritual gifts' v 'natural gifts'?

3. So what are Gifts for?
a. What they ARE NOT for
b. What they ARE for
1 Corinthians 12:7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.
1 Corinthians 12:12 Just as the body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.
1 Corinthians 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ and each one of you is a part of it.
1 Corinthians 13
Some implications
1. Are all the gifts mentioned here in 1 Corinthians 12 available today?
2. What does it mean to 'eagerly desire the greater gifts?' (1 Cor 12:31)
3. The true measure of Spirituality.