

THE SPIRIT'S WORK

I Cor 12:1-31, 14:1-40; Eph 4:3-6

I. ABOVE ALL, for ALL: CONFESS JESUS IS LORD

- A. Common to all: He Is LORD—constant Christian confession, bedrock of faith
- B. Manifestly “endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling: one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all” (Eph 4:3-6)

II. ADDITIONALLY (as needed) VARIOUS GIFTS TO SPECIFIC PERSONS: wisdom; knowledge; faith; healing; miracles; prophecy; distinguishing spirits; tongues; interpreting tongues

III. FINALLY, for good of Church, VARIOUS PERSONS UNIQUELY GIFTED/CALLED

- A. Most Importantly: Big Three.
 - 1. Apostles—original 12 plus “apostolic successors,” ordained and commissioned
 - a. Proclaim Gospel—primary role evangelistic—Peter’s Pentecost message; ever central task
 - b. Plant churches—missionary task—Antioch; Rome; cities Paul visited;
 - c. Preserve deposit of faith—theological & ethical works; Councils of Nicea and Chalcedon
 - d. Illustrations:
 - 1. Catholic: Patrick to Ireland; Gregory I sends Augustine of Canterbury to Britain; Spanish missions in Americas notable success story
 - 2. Protestant: Moravians in 18th century; 19th century missionaries & 20th century harvest
 - e. *From Christendom to Apostolic Mission: Pastoral Strategies for an Apostolic Age* insists “the key battles our culture faces are intellectual ones” and we need renewed apostles
 - 2. Prophets
 - a. Forth-telling
 - 1. Telemachus, 404 A.D., helps end gladiatorial games
 - 2. Irish missionaries in Germany—Boniface & Danor’s Oak in 8th century Germany
 - 3. Cluniacs & reforms—celibacy; simony; lay investiture; Gregory VII exemplar
 - 4. Bartholome de Las Casas & Indians’ rights—no slavery, though serf-style system emerges
 - 5. Peter Clavier, priest in Columbia—“slave of the slaves” slaves
 - 6. Philipp Spener (*Pia Desideria*) & Pietists in Lutheranism in 17th century—purity of life as well as clarity of doctrine necessary
 - 7. Soren Kierkegaard in Denmark confronts Lutheran laziness & Hegelian complexities
 - 8. Dietrich Bonhoeffer in Germany (*The Cost of Discipleship*)—Confessing Church
 - 9. Hungarian cardinal Jozsef Mindszenty denounces Communism
 - b. Foretelling—scores of biblical prophecies k
 - 1. Adam Clarke re nation of Israel in 1948
 - 2. Second Coming messages—Hal Lindsey’s *Late Great Planet Earth?*
 - 3. Teachers (wisdom; knowledge)
 - a. Biblical exegetes, expositors: Chrysostom’s sermons; Aquinas’ *Catema Aurea*; Calvin’s commentaries; Adam Clarke’s Wesleyan perspective; Charles Spurgeon’s works
 - b. Theologians: Augustine; Aquinas; Calvin; Jonathan Edwards; Princeton school; Karl Barth
 - c. Apologists: Justin Martyr; Irenaeus; Tertullian; Hugh Ross; William Lane Craig; J.P. Moreland
 - d. Historians, preserving traditions; Eusebius; Henri Daniel-Rops; Jaroslav Pelikan
- B. Needed, if secondarily, Four Adjuncts
 - 1. Miracle workers
 - a. Ancient & modern; Craig Keener: *Miracles Today: The Supernatural Work of God in the Modern World*; Lee Stroble: *The Case for Miracles: A Journalist Investigates . . .*
 - b. Pentecostal examples: Amy Simple MacPherson? Oral Roberts? Katharine Kuhlman?
 - 2. Helpers—deacons
 - a. Education—cathedral schools; universities; Sunday schools; Christian schools
 - b. Health care—hospitals; visitation; hospice
 - c. Counseling—James Dobson; Association of Certified Biblical Counselors
 - 3. Administration
 - a. Pastors/Bishops as CEOs; staff or volunteer CFOs
 - b. District superintendents, general superintendents et al
 - 4. Tongues’ speakers & interpreters