

**Outline of
the Messages for the Full-time Training
in the Fall Term of 2023**

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
THE CRUCIAL POINTS OF THE TRUTH IN PAUL'S EPISTLES—
FIRST CORINTHIANS**

Message Thirteen

**The Manifestation of the Spirit—
the Divine Trinity in the Divine Operations, Ministries, and Gifts**

Scripture Reading: 1 Cor. 12:1-12; 6:17

- I. The manifestation of the Spirit is the dispensations of gifts, ministries, and operations—1 Cor. 12:1-6:**
- A. Chapter 12 is mainly on the Divine Trinity in the divine operations, ministries, and gifts; these three are the Trinity in expression, not the Trinity in existence.
 - B. Verse 4 says, “There are distinctions of gifts, but the same Spirit”:
 - 1. The gifts in 12:4 refer to the outward gifts, the abilities or enablings for service.
 - 2. Some of them are miraculous, and some are developed out of the initial gifts mentioned in 1:7.
 - C. First Corinthians 12:5 says, “There are distinctions of ministries, yet the same Lord”:
 - 1. The ministries here are services.
 - 2. The gifts in verse 4 are for these ministries, in which the operations in verse 6 are manifested.
 - D. Verse 6 says, “There are distinctions of operations, but the same God, who operates all things in all”:
 - 1. *Operations* here is literally “effects of operations” and refers to the result produced by the divine power’s energizing of the gifts in their activities.
 - 2. This result is the operation (Eph. 4:16) manifested by the gifts.
 - E. In 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 Paul speaks of the Trinity:
 - 1. He speaks of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12:4, the Lord in verse 5, and the Father in verse 6.
 - 2. The gifts are by the Spirit; the ministries, the services, are initiated by the Lord and are for the Lord; and the operations are of God.
 - F. The gifts are for the ministries, and the ministries are for the operations:
 - 1. The exercise of the gifts carries out the ministries, and the ministries accomplish the operations.
 - 2. These operations are for the carrying out of God’s administration, which is for the fulfillment of His eternal purpose—Eph. 3:9-11.

**II. The manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for what is profitable—
1 Cor. 12:7:**

- A. *For what is profitable* means for the growth in life of the members of the Body of Christ and for the building up of Christ's Body.
- B. The word of wisdom is the word concerning Christ as the deeper things of God, predestined by God to be our portion—v. 8; 1:24, 30; 2:6-10.
- C. The word of knowledge is the word that imparts a general knowledge of things concerning God and the Lord—8:1-7.
- D. The word of wisdom is mainly out of our spirit through revelation; the word of knowledge is mainly out of our understanding through teaching.
- E. According to 1 Corinthians, the word of wisdom is the word concerning Christ.
- F. If we would speak Christ, we need the word of wisdom.
- G. In 12:10 Paul mentions prophecy; this is to speak for God and to speak forth God.

III. Being one spirit with the Lord is having the highest spirituality—6:17:

- A. The word *joined* in 1 Corinthians 6:17 refers to the believers' organic union with the Lord through believing into Him—John 3:15-16; 15:4-5.
- B. The expression *one spirit* indicates the mingling of the Lord as the Spirit with our spirit:
 - 1. The spirit, which is the mingling of our spirit and the Lord's Spirit into one spirit, is both the Spirit of the Lord and our spirit—1 Cor. 6:17; 2 Cor. 3:17.
 - 2. All our spiritual experiences, such as our fellowship with the Lord, our prayer to Him, and our living with Him, are in this mingled spirit.
- C. The union of God and man is a union of the two spirits, the Spirit of God and the spirit of man (1 Cor. 2:11-14); the union of these two spirits is the deepest mystery in the Bible.
- D. The focus of God's economy is the mingled spirit, the divine Spirit mingled with the human spirit; whatever God intends to do or accomplish is related to this focus—Eph. 3:5, 9; 1:17; 2:22; 4:23; 5:18; 6:18.
- E. By being one spirit with the Lord, we can experience Him as the all-inclusive One—1 Cor. 1:2, 24, 30; 2:8, 10; 3:11; 5:7-8; 10:3-4; 11:3; 12:12; 15:20, 45, 47:
 - 1. We enjoy Christ by being joined to Him as one spirit.
 - 2. We can experience Christ and take Christ as everything because we have become one spirit with Him.
 - 3. When we are one spirit with the Lord, we enjoy the fellowship of God's Son, Jesus Christ our Lord—1:9.
 - 4. For everyone who is one spirit with the Lord, the supply is inexhaustible.
- F. The mingled spirit is a spirit that is one spirit with God and that is the same as God in His life and nature but not in His Godhead—1 John 5:11; 2 Pet. 1:4:
 - 1. The divine Spirit and the human spirit are mingled as one within us so that we can live the life of a God-man, a life that is God yet man and man yet God—Gal. 2:20; Phil. 1:19-21a.
 - 2. The God-man living is the living of the two spirits, the Spirit of God and the spirit of man joined and mingled together as one.