Epilogue (1)

Epilogue on Spiritual Gifts and the Kingdom Church

In this chapter, we will end this exhaustive course on Spiritual Gifts and the Kingdom Church by examining 8 issues which were cited in various chapters.

Philippians 3:1 (KJV) 1 Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe.

1. Liberty and Order. These are powerful principles in the Kingdom when rightly understood and practiced! Saints need to enjoy Liberty to flow by Holy Spirit as He inspires and moves them. For that reason, we must make sure the spiritual gifts are not quenched but rather they all come forth for the edification and blessing of all and sundry.

2 Corinthians 3:17 (KJV) 17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

1 Thessalonians 5:19 (KJV) 19 Quench not the Spirit.

Ephesians 4:30 (KJV) 30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Yet, saints are required to do all things decently and in order, so Satan and demons do not take advantage of fleshly display of spiritual gifts to invade the ministry or congregation. We need to hear whatever our Father wants to tell us through both the gift of Prophecy and all revelatory gifts including the gift of communicating with Tongues.

1 Corinthians 14:39-40 (KJV) 39 Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues. 40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

Liberty and Order are balanced by Authority! Authority is from Elohim and saints are called to receive and submit as proof of genuine spirituality (Romans 13:1-8; Hebrews 13:7, 17).

2. We should know no man after the flesh: Debunking the Nimrodic and Levithical war against womanhood. When spiritual gifts are embraced as the sure foundation of true Kingdom ministry, our ages, races, ethnic groups, gender and socio-economic status do not matter as variously stressed in this Course of study. Paul says we should come to the point when we know no man after the flesh. With spiritual gifts, we know people according to what Elohim has made them to be; what He wants to use them for in His Kingdom and receive them as such.

2 Corinthians 5:16 (KJV) 16 Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more.

In so doing, no one will ask if a saint ministering is a man or woman. The reason is Holy Spirit is imparted into and received in the realm of the human spirit (the Heart or Belly). It is also from this realm spiritual gifts flow out to touch others.

John 7:37-39 (KJV) 37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. 38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. 39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Since the beginning of time, Satan has been in an unending war against womanhood. In this, he finds great allies in religion and religious leaders. In the Nimrodic priesthood, strength is might and ministry is for strong men who use women as sex objects and cash cows. In the Levitical order, the priesthood is an exclusive male clergy caste to minister to a dormant laity (of mainly passive women).

To distinguish themselves from the laity, the clergy needs special robes and is trained in how to handle certain rites in services. With this mind-et, they find it difficult to see women as fit for ministry. Such people, who would discriminate against women and have them out of ministry because of their gender essentially are held captive by this concept of Church as a religious organization people join; who go to 'church' on certain days of the week or year to obtain ablution for their sins and quieten their consciences. For them, one of the proof scriptures is this passage:

1 Corinthians 14:34-35 (KJV) 34 Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience as also saith the law. 35 And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.

Scripture must be rightly divided to understand the mind of Elohim. The instructions for women to keep quiet in church were for dealing with peculiar situations which arose in first century congregations. In those days, women were like house hold chattel. Those who gave their lives to Yeshua were experiencing a degree of freedom and liberty that was unimaginable during their years in Judaism. Some women evidently misused that scope of liberty and literally interrupted preachers in public worship services to express their differing opinions or utter 'tongues' or 'prophecies' in ways that were totally out of order, disruptive and disrespectful to congregational leadership. They were commanded to keep quiet and submit to the knowledge of their husbands at home.

The overall thrust of the revelations granted to Paul in 1 Corinthians chapter 12; Romans Chapter 12 and Ephesians chapter 4:1-16 essentially amplify and explain what Peter said of the Royal Priesthood in 1 Peter 2:9-12. The Royal Priesthood after the Order of Melchizedek - which Yeshua Himself inaugurated and modelled - is about ministering by Holy Spirit from the realm of the spirit-man. The spirit-man of saints, where Holy Spirit resides and from where He manifests or 'shows up' the spiritual gifts is neither male nor female.

Galatians 3:26-29 (KJV) 26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

This subject matter is extensively explored in **GSoM Course 122: *Women in Ministry***. It is important that as we walk with the Father in and by Holy Spirit, we do not give room for the Flesh (Soul + Bodily realms) to overtake us. This is the bane of many Pentecostal ministries. That tendency did not start today as Paul the apostle experienced in Galatia .

Galatians 3:3 (KJV) 3 Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

3. Question: Let us ask the question: Is the presence and exercise of spiritual gifts enough basis for success in ministry? If not, what are the essentials needful to fulfil ministry?

Answer: The answer is clearly no. There are some other factors which combine with spiritual gifts to equip saints to be all Elohim ordained them to be and accomplish all they were brought into this world for. Collectively, these factors make up what is called the Spiritual DNA of saints. This is a mix of factors which combine to make each saint unique in the Divine family and in the general society. They include Character/Fruit of the Spirit, Natural Talents, Personality, Education/Training; Skills acquired; opportunities and attitude to life. A full teaching on these factors will be provided in the Course and Book titled ***Ministry: Discover, Pursue, Fulfil***.

4. Judgement Day is real. There is a day of judgement coming for those in Yeshua Jesus. It is the day He will take account for how saints used the spiritual gifts they were endowed with to occupy until He returns. Various parables of Jesus clearly spell out this reality (Luke 19:10-27; Matthew 25:14-32; 2 Corinthians 5:10).

Those who sit on their gifts waiting for the day Yeshua will return are doing themselves a great disservice. They are clearly unfaithful! Those who in the name of the Kingdom denigrate or devalue the soon return of Yeshua have made themselves Apostates. They are playing into the hands of the wicked one.

2 Peter 3:3-4 (KJV) 3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, 4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

The plan of Elohim is to release a measure of the Holy Spirit into and through us to manifest His glory and proclaim His Kingdom in Power. The scriptures we examined in this course: Romans 12:1-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-28; Ephesians 4:1-16; 1 Peter 4:9-11 make it clear ALL saints in Yeshua, Jesus – His very Body: male and female; young and old - have been blessed with several spiritual gifts. As it is, the least any saint has is one spiritual gift which should be discovered and deployed to serve others and the Head.

Assignment

(1). Please summarize any 3 of the 5 points in this chapter that have perfected your understanding of Spiritual Gifts.