

I Corinthians 12 (Gifts)

by Hans R. Waldvogel

To be eligible for the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we must enter through the strait gate and be transformed by the renewing of our mind.

Scripture: Romans 12:1

Topics: "Spiritual Gifts", "Transformation"

Description

Hans R. Waldvogel emphasizes the necessity of being transformed by the renewing of our minds to access the gifts of the Holy Spirit. He challenges the congregation to recognize their own insignificance and to present themselves as living sacrifices to God, which is essential for receiving divine gifts. Waldvogel points out that true transformation requires a deep commitment to God's Word and a willingness to serve humbly, even in unnoticed ways. He highlights the importance of being conformed to the image of Christ and the need for spiritual discernment in our lives. Ultimately, he calls for a return to the foundational principles of faith and service to unlock the gifts that God has for His people.

Transcript

Selected Verses:

Romans 12:1-2. I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Philippians 2:5. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.

Opening:

Where are these gifts? Where are the apostles? And where are the prophets, and where are the gifts of healing, and where are the gifts of faith, and where are the gifts of government, and where are all these gifts? Why don't we have them? Well, it's because we haven't entered through the door. "He that entereth by some other place is a thief and a robber." There's only one door to enter into this glorious temple of the Living God, and being a stone, a living stone, in the temple of God.

And God shows us the door: "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus." We had that thought yesterday in connection with women wearing a veil. Why is the Apostle Paul so hard on the women--why

in the world? Why, men are bad enough, in fact, men are sometimes worse, but there's a reason why he says, "I suffer not a woman to teach." Let her learn to ferme la bouch. Let her be veiled. There's a reason for that. As soon as God begins to bless, why, the weeds spring up like everything. We've had that difficulty in Pentecost. Somebody said to me, "Why is it, in the beginning of Pentecost, in these Pentecostal papers, all the prophets were women--all the leaders were women? Why is that?" Why, it's because a woman is more easily abandoned to the Holy Ghost, and some of them have been wonderful prophets, and wonderfully used of God.

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Selected Quotes:

Only as we enter in through "the strait gate" are we eligible for the gifts of the Holy Ghost: when you get to the place where you recognize that you're nobody--absolutely. Oh, we say that, but we don't believe it until the Holy Ghost has been able to put you into the crucible, and to burn out that self-esteem. That's what we need.

...

Be transformed--"transformed by the renewing of your mind." I will not be a vessel unto honor, until that mind of mine has not only been purified, but transformed--until I have the "mind that was also in Christ Jesus" that'll give me a passionate desire to be the servant of all, to be despised by all if necessary, to be persecuted, to be misunderstood. And Paul said, "I glory in my infirmities, in imprisonments, in stripes, in being defamed--that the power of Christ may rest upon me." He knew that as long as there was anything of self functioning within him, Jesus Christ would be locked out. Oh, this wonderful "strait gate!"

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Oh, to be "conformed to the image of the Son of God"! Beloved, it requires a great deal more than we can pump up. It takes a waiting upon the Lord, and more than that: "Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind." That's what God gave us the Bible for. We need the Bible. We need the word of God. We need the reproof, and not only the reproof, but we need to turn at His reproof, then He'll pour out His Spirit upon us... And here Christ wants to come in and speak His word, manifest His power, build His temple, clean out the moneychangers, and make it a house of prayer for God and His Father... I need that reproof, I need that rebuke, I need that correction, I need that instruction in righteousness, and not by books, but by one Book. I need it from heaven--I need Bread that comes down from heaven. I need Water of Life that becomes within me a fountain. I need that "sword of the Spirit," not a sword that I turn at somebody else and say, "Now, you're the fellow!" but that tells me I am the man. Oh, God, that sword of the Spirit that becomes "a discerner of the thoughts and of the intents of the heart"!

You'd be surprised what men and women get away with. Well, get away with it! Go ahead, that's your privilege! ...Men that speak in tongues; they'll lie, they'll deceive, they'll fool. How is it possible?

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What would Jesus do if He were me--the least of all? I can't prophesy. I cannot heal the sick. I cannot cast out devils. But I can smile. I can say, "Praise the Lord..." When you "present your body a living sacrifice" and you say, "My God, I don't belong to myself. What can I do to serve You, and serve Your cause?" Oh, I can do something, if it's only to come to prayer meeting half an hour ahead of time and pray the place up

so then when others come they feel presence of God there. What a job! You won't get a button for that! But you might get a crown. But those things are far from us--as far as the east is from the west. We don't think of serving God that way.

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"Oh to be nothing, nothing, only to lie at His feet," to be "transformed by the renewing of the mind," I need this word, I need this discerning of my thoughts and of my intents, and that's why God in His great mercy gives us this word of life. And the righteous delights himself in the law of the Lord that reduces him, that pronounces the sentence of death upon all that is of the flesh and the world and the devil. Oh, to enter in through that gate would soon make us all eligible. And God would pick out people. Maybe you'd never have a gift that would make you shine, but there would be a blessing emanating from your life everybody could feel.

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"Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy." I've heard some of them prophesy, at times. But we don't stay there--we don't become "set in." We're too careless about God's call.

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When I hear our ministers speak, I know that God is giving wonderful light. You don't get that in schools of learning, and theological seminaries, or out of books. You don't get it there. You've got to get it in the garden of Gethsemane, where you watch and pray with the bleeding Lamb of God, at His feet. Jesus the Head--He knows what He wants you to be, and what He wants you to do, and He alone can do it in you, and be that in you.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/hans-r-waldvogel/i-corinthians-12-gifts/>

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