

THE BOOK OF FIRST PETER

"Spiritual Gifts"

1 Peter 4: 10,11

INTRODUCTION

1. It is sad to see some who fail to demonstrate that holy desire to go all the way with Him. Those who do must be careful to keep within biblical bounds.
2. The verses in the text concern submission in the local assembly and the contribution which a child of God may make in the local church.
3. The exercise of spiritual gifts certainly is one very important manner in which a believer may share in His local church.
4. Mark the four important items given about gifts in these verses:

1. An explanation of gifts.

The gifts are:

- a. Received. The Greek tense is in the aorist form of the verb. This enforces the fact that the "gift" was received at a peculiar point of time in the life of the believer. It was at the time of conversion to the Lord. This immediately distinguishes "gifts" from inborn abilities.
- b. Ministered. The original Greek verb is in the present tense and marks out continuous activity. It is the verb from which we get our term "deacon." A gift is received for use! Regular use!
- c. Accepted. The word "steward" refers to a householder or manager. Every gift must be understood as a trust from God; nothing about which to boast.
- d. Demonstrated. The word "manifold" suggests the infinite variety in which the aggregate of His grace may be known. Each individual has a portion of that lump of grace! Not fleshly demonstrated, but the GRACE of God.

2. An elucidation of gifts.

Out of the vast variety of gifts, Peter concerns himself with two general headings:

a. Speaking. Here such gifts as prophecy, teaching, speaking in tongues, etc. would be included.

The condition expressed in this verse is first class and assumed as a fact. Therefore, when one speaks, he must do so with the full remembrance that he is speaking the very utterance of God. In times prior to the written Word and in times since the completion of the Bible, this affirmation is utterly beyond computation in importance.

b. Ministering. Here such gifts as healing, miracles, etc. are in view.

Another first class condition refers to abundant supply from God as verb "giveth" was used of the act to defray expenses in bringing out choruses in ancient Athens. In both these instances, then, Peter urges that gifts can only be in the power of the Spirit. Speaking is GOD. Ministering is GOD.

3. An exhortation of gifts.

Here is a purpose clause followed by the usual subjunctive form of the verb. It expresses the objective of the remembrance in the elucidation of the gifts that all is of God.

The "all" things in the original may be masculine, hence "all men". Whichever is correct, God is to be glorified thru Christ. "Spiritual gifts" the related to the Spirit always concern "Christ". Watch this matter amongst groups which speak of "gifts."

4. An evaluation of gifts.

The final word is that the triune God should receive glory and power. The end of any gift situation is the Source from which they all come.

CONCLUSION

Beloved, let us "stir up the gift" which is in us and exercise it for His glory. Trust Christ as your Saviour.