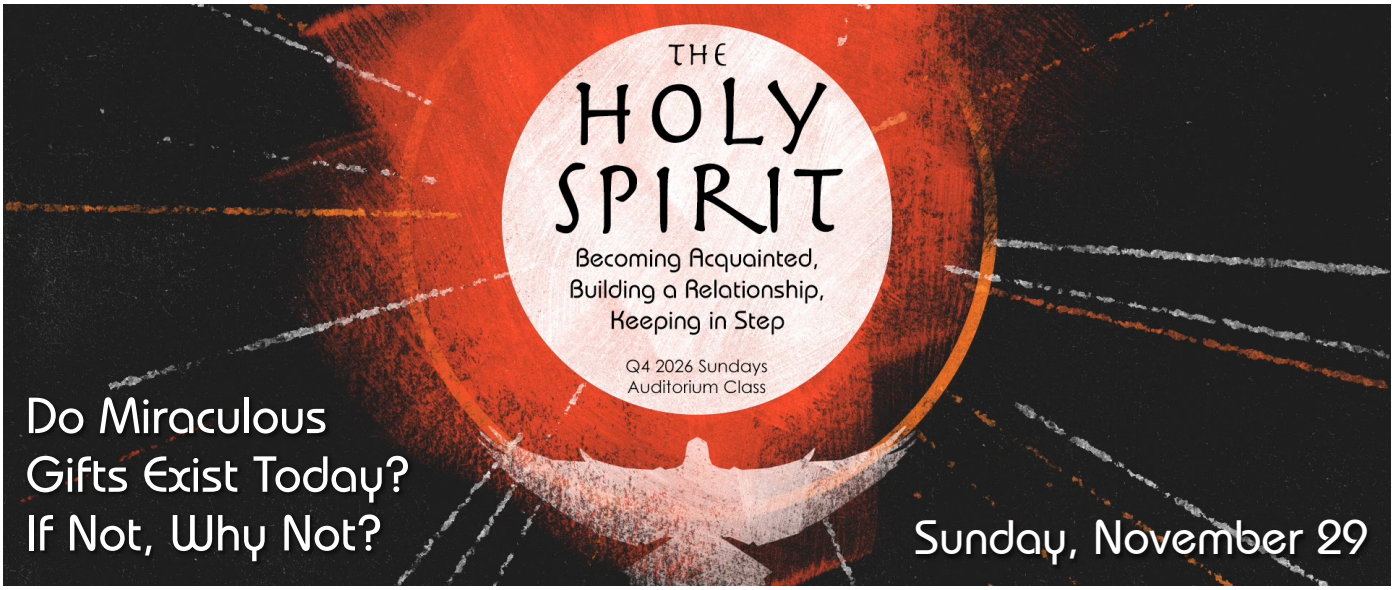

In our last study we noted that the Bible describes differing "measures" of the Spirit.

- Jesus had "the Spirit _____ measure" (John 3:31-35; 1:32-34; Col 1:19).
- The apostles were provided a "baptismal measure" of the Spirit (Acts 1:4-5; 2:4; John 14:26).
- Others enjoyed a "laying on of the apostles' hands measure" of the Spirit (Acts 8:9-19; 19:1-7).

In 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, Paul describes miraculous spiritual gifts in detail.

- These "manifestations of the Spirit" were given "for the _____ good" (12:7).
- "All these are empowered by one and the same _____, who apportions to each one individually as _____ wills" (12:11).

Are these miraculous spiritual gifts still available to saints today? If not, why not?

- Jesus, who had "the Spirit without measure," baptized the apostles with the Spirit.
- The apostles could impart gifts of the Spirit through "the laying on" of their hands.
- But in the absence of any Biblical record of those "laid hands on" being able to pass along the Spirit to others, what should we conclude?

"I will show you a still _____ excellent way" (1 Cor 12:31).

Love: the still more excellent way (1 Corinthians 13)

- 13:1-3: the exercise of any spiritual gift is _____ in the absence of love.
- 13:4-7: the fundamental _____ of love.
- 13:8-13: the _____ (and thereby the superiority) of love.
  - ~ "As for _____, they will pass away" (13:8a).

- "As for _____, they will cease" (13:8b).
- "As for _____ (12:8), it will pass away" (13:8c).
- "For we know in _____ and we prophesy in part…" (13:9).
  - "in part" – *ek* (in, of) *merous* (part, share, district).
  - Paraphrase: "via miraculous knowledge and prophecy, we have a portion of the whole."
- "…but when the _____ comes, the partial will pass away" (13:10).
  - "the perfect" – *to teleion* (the mature, the full, the complete).
  - Paraphrase: "when the completion is realized, the portions will be done away with."
- The age of miraculous spiritual gifts was a kind of "childhood" era for the church (13:11-13).

Miraculous spiritual gifts in the larger (historical) context

- Remember, no record exists of those "laid hands on" being able to pass along the Spirit to others. So what should we conclude? What happened when those people passed away?

As we continue to grow in our appreciation of the Spirit's work and even focus on building a relationship with the Spirit, how would you describe or summarize what he has done to make that relationship possible?

Notes: