**Outline:**

* Desiring the Gifts
* Zeal *with* Knowledge
* Motivation and the More Excellent Way
* Gifts Work Through Love
* Love Pursues Edification
* It’s for the Body!

**DESIRE**

*“12:31 But earnestly desire the greater gifts(Charisma).”*

Earnestly - zēloō:

**BLB:**

1. to burn with zeal
   1. to be heated or to boil with envy, hatred, anger
      1. in a good sense, to be zealous in the pursuit of good
   2. to desire earnestly, pursue
      1. to desire one earnestly, to strive after, busy one's self about him
      2. to exert one's self for one (that he may not be torn from me)
      3. to be the object of the zeal of others, to be zealously sought after
   3. to envy

**Strongs:**

**ζηλόω** **zēlóō,** dzay-lo'-o; from [G2205](https://www.blueletterbible.org/lexicon/G2205/nasb95/mgnt/0-1/); to have warmth of feeling for or against:—affect, covet (earnestly), (have) desire, (move with) envy, be jealous over, (be) zealous(-ly affect).

**Thayer’s:**

2. in a good sense, to imitate emulously, strive after

**The problem is “Zeal without knowledge”**

* Different Context (point of law), But **Romans 10:2**
* *For I testify about them that they have a* ***zeal*** *for God, but* ***not in accordance with knowledge*** *(epignosis).*
  + ***Ephesians 1:17*** *- precise and correct knowledge*

*The fact remains that we are commanded to be zealous, zealously desire, these gifts. End of story!*

* *The number of people that will sit there as Holy Spirit Police and pick apart what is allowed and what is not, and yet be totally fine if with no gifts ever manifested in the body (no desire) is staggering. Such a casual approach to “desire” and “pursue” while being so militant about mechanics (what’s in and what’s out) is* ***incongruent at best*** *and* ***downright disobedience and denial of the work of the Holy Spirit at worst.***

Trying to understand what Paul’s saying without understanding the condition of the audience:

***“Because you ARE zealous of…”***

* 14:12 So also you, since you are zealous of [h]spiritual gifts

**MOTIVATION**

1Co 12:31 NASB95 - 31 *But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still* ***more excellent way.***

We know 1 Corinthians 13 = Love

“More excellent way” - hyperbole

ὑπερβολή - hyperbolē

English - over the top language

* Me and mahomes

1. a throwing beyond
2. metaph.
   1. superiority, excellence, pre-eminence
   2. beyond measure, exceedingly, preeminently
   3. beyond all measure

Then in Chapter 14, right into verse 1: Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts

* Does 13 cancel out 12 and 14 because love is superior? NO! Rather it enhances them and gives them deeper meaning

**1 Corinthians 13!**

But the **goal of our instruction is love** from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. - 1 Timothy 1:5

**1 Corinthians 16:14 AMP**

Let everything you do be done in love [motivated and inspired by God’s love for us].

**Gifts Work through Love**

Don’t even operate in the gifts just to be obedient - love for Him and People (underlayment)

* Go out and love you literally can't fail

Whatever is not done in faith is sin - Romans 14:23

Without faith, it is impossible to please Him - Hebrews 11:6

Faith moves mountains - Matthew 17:20-21

Faith works through love - Galatians 5:6

*If you want to move mountains, you have to start with love*

* I'm not getting words of knowledge or prophecy- are you loving?

Romans 5:5 - and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

1 John 4: 7-14

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is [a]born of God and knows God. 8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 By this the love of God was manifested [b]in us, that God has sent His [c]only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. 13 By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

\*\*\*And that love proves to me that the Spirit that I have within me is indeed the Spirit of God, because you can't love that way apart from God's Spirit.

**Edification - 7x**

* Those that earnestly desire the gifts, motivated by love, seek to abound for the edification of the church
* 3 But one who prophesies speaks to men for **edification** and exhortation and consolation.
* 4 One who speaks in a tongue **edifies** himself; but one who prophesies **edifies** the church.
* 5 Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues, but even more that you would prophesy; and greater is one who prophesies than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may receive **edifying.**
* 12 So also you, since you are zealous of [h]spiritual gifts, seek to abound for the **edification** of the church.
* 17 For you are giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not **edified**.
* 26 What is the outcome then, brethren? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for **edification.**
* 1 cor 10:23 “All things are lawful, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful, but not all things **edify.**

**“My Gift” problem**

* We present the idea of **what is my gift over and over again instead of what is the spirit enabling me to do**
* one puts the emphasis on me, one puts the emphasis on the spirit
* Unfortunately, what happens with the “**my spiritual gift”** thing is that we get **pigeonholed**
* **you have ones that you operate in more**
  + When it becomes MY, force it into situations it doesn’t belong - prophecy
  + **it's the prescription for the moment**

*The holy spirit's the great pharmacist. He knows exactly what each person needs and the operation of the gift is based on the need of the moment, not the boxes I checked whenever I took a spiritual gifts assessment.*

When we get pigeonholed, unfortunately, as we go to minister, we start to think that the **only thing God could prescribe in a moment is the thing that I'm comfortable with** or the gift that I'm used to operating in and we **cut off what he wants to do based on how we view what we're supposed to do**

**It’s for the BODY!**

14:12 So also you, since you are zealous of [h]spiritual gifts, seek to abound for the **edification of the church.**

* Common property

12:7 -But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.