

CHARISMATA, MARANATHA AND THE CHURCH

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Charismata in Corinth

1. Paul wrote more about the gifts (Gk. *charismata*) of the Holy Spirit in his first epistle to the Corinthians than anywhere else in the New Testament
2. “Charisma” is a grace gift—the word is derived from *charis* = “grace”
3. NOTE: Gifts are not to be confused with *fruit* [see Galatians 5:19-21]

B. In the opening lines of 1 Corinthians, Paul encourages the church to lack no spiritual gift as they eagerly wait for the coming (revelation) of the Lord Jesus Christ:

1 Cor. 1:4-9 (NKJV): *⁴I thank my God always concerning you for the **grace** of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus, ⁵that you were enriched in everything by Him in **all utterance and all knowledge**, ⁶even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, ⁷so **that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ**, ⁸who will also confirm you to the end, that you **may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ**. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

1. Paul’s references to “the revelation (coming) of our Lord Jesus Christ,” “the end,” and the “day of our Lord Jesus Christ” make it clear that he has the Rapture of the Church in view in this passage.
2. Paul makes it equally clear that, in order for the Church to be ready for Christ’s coming, three things are required:
 - a) They must be eagerly waiting and expecting His coming
 - b) They must be kept blameless until Jesus returns
 - c) They must not come short in any spiritual gift

- C. In the closing lines of 1 Corinthians, Paul gives a final reminder concerning the importance of eagerly expecting the coming of the Lord Jesus:

1 Cor. 16:22 (KJV): *If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema **Maranatha**.*

1. “Maranatha” can be translated in two ways: “Our Lord will come” (AMP) or “Come, O Lord”).
 2. This sounds very much like the closing words of Revelation: “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus” (Rev. 22:20).
- D. *Come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ*—what a profound statement, found nowhere else in the Scriptures!
1. As lawlessness increases in these last days, and many are falling away from the faith [see Mat. 24:10-12; 2 Thess. 2:3; 1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Tim. 3:1-5], there are two disturbing trends occurring in many churches:
 - a) Rejection of the doctrine of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and the need for the gifts of the Spirit in the Church today
 - b) Very little emphasis on the soon coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and preparations for that great Day
 2. In this study, we will examine the importance of the Church having *all* of the gifts of the Spirit as she prepares herself for the Lord’s return...

II. NOT LACKING ANY SPIRITUAL GIFT

- A. Jesus spoke about an experience, promise or gift called the “Baptism in the Holy Spirit” that would empower each believer for life and ministry:
1. **Luke 24:49** (NKJV): *Behold, I send the **Promise** of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are **endued with power from on high**.*
 2. **Acts 1:4-5, 8**: *⁴On one occasion, while He was eating with them, He gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the **gift My Father promised**, which you have heard Me speak about. ⁵For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be **baptized with the Holy Spirit**... ⁸But you will **receive power when the Holy***

Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

- B. The Church was born on the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit was poured out:

1. **Acts 2:1-4:** *¹When the **day of Pentecost** came, they were all together in one place. ²Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴**All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.***

2. Jesus never started any churches while He was here on earth—that was to happen in the future:

Mat. 16:18: *And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock **I WILL build My church**, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.*

3. It is only in the Book of Acts, *after* the day of Pentecost, that we read about the Church forming:

a) **Acts 2:47** (NKJV): *And the Lord added to the **church** daily those who were being saved.*

b) **Acts 5:11** (NKJV): *So great fear came upon all the **church** and upon all who heard these things.*

- C. Christian life and ministry are IMPOSSIBLE without the power of the Holy Spirit:

1. **1 Cor. 2:4-5:** *⁴My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a **demonstration of the Spirit's power**, ⁵**SO THAT** your **faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.***

2. **1 Cor. 4:20:** *For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk **but of power.***

- D. Paul was confident that the Corinthian believers had been baptized in the Holy Spirit:

1 Cor. 12:13: *For **we were all baptized by one Spirit** into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and **we were all given the one Spirit to drink.***

- E. Paul was equally confident that “each one” had been given various gifts or manifestations of the Holy Spirit:

1 Cor. 12:1-11 (NKJV): ¹*Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:* ²*You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led.* ³*Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.* ⁴*There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.* ⁵*There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.* ⁶*And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.*

⁷*But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:* ⁸*for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,* ⁹*to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,* ¹⁰*to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.* ¹¹*But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.*

- F. Four times Paul exhorted the Corinthians to covet and earnestly desire spiritual gifts:

1. **1 Cor. 12:31 (KJV):** *But covet earnestly* [“eagerly desire” NIV] *the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.*
2. **1 Cor. 14:1 (NAS):** *Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.*
3. **1 Cor. 14:12:** *Since you are eager* [“zealous” KJV] *to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church.*
4. **1 Cor. 14:39 (KJV):** *Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues.*

- G. Tongues and prophecy edify the Church

1. **1 Cor. 14:1-5:** ¹*Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy.* ²*For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit.* ³*But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for*

their strengthening, encouragement and comfort. ⁴**He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.** ⁵**I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy.** He who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may be edified.

2. **1 Cor. 14:13-18:** ¹³*For this reason anyone who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret what he says.* ¹⁴**For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful.** ¹⁵**So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind.** ¹⁶*If you are praising God with your spirit, how can one who finds himself among those who do not understand say “Amen” to your thanksgiving, since he does not know what you are saying?* ¹⁷*You may be giving thanks well enough, but the other man is not edified.* ¹⁸**I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you.**

3. **1 Cor. 14:22-33, 39:** ²²**Tongues, then, are a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers; prophecy, however, is for believers, not for unbelievers.** ²³*So if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and some who do not understand or some unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind?* ²⁴*But if an unbeliever or someone who does not understand comes in while everybody is prophesying, he will be convinced by all that he is a sinner and will be judged by all,* ²⁵*and the secrets of his heart will be laid bare. So he will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, “God is really among you!”* ²⁶*What then shall we say, brothers?* **When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.** ²⁷*If anyone speaks in a tongue, two—or at the most three—should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret.* ²⁸*If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and God.* ²⁹*Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said.* ³⁰*And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop.*

³¹*For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged.* ³²*The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets.* ³³*For God is not a God of disorder but of peace...* ³⁹*Therefore, my brothers, be eager to prophesy, and **do not forbid speaking in tongues.***

- a) Their church gathering was not a free-for-all, but there was *freedom*—everyone was free to participate in an orderly way.
- b) NOTE: A meeting like that described above would be impossible in most modern churches that stick to the clock and rigorously adhere to a predetermined program—there simply is no room for the Holy Spirit!
- c) Everything was weighed carefully by those who were spiritually mature and all was to strengthen and edify the church.
- d) **1 Thess. 5:19-21 (AMP):** ¹⁹***Do not quench (suppress or subdue) the [Holy] Spirit;*** ²⁰***Do not spurn the gifts and utterances of the prophets [do not depreciate prophetic revelations nor despise inspired instruction or exhortation or warning].*** ²¹***But test and prove all things [until you can recognize] what is good; [to that] hold fast.***

H. Summary of the importance of gifts:

1. Gifts visibly demonstrate the invisible kingdom of God (Mat. 12:28)
2. They are signs that confirm the truth of God's word
3. Spiritual gifts help people put their faith in the power of God and not in the wisdom of men
4. They edify, strengthen, and encourage believers in the Church
5. Gifts are essential to prepare the Church as the Bride of Christ to be spotless, holy, and blameless at His coming—they are like adornments that beautify and prepare her for her husband:

Rev. 21:2 NKJV): *Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, **prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.***

I. Many churches and ministries that once believed in the baptism in the Holy Spirit have changed their position, (many have even officially joined the Southern Baptist Convention). Here are possible reasons why...

1. One of the reasons many churches have rejected any operation of the gifts of the Spirit is because they don't want public displays in the church that become "theatrics" or "show-offs."
 - a) The word "demonstration" used in 1 Cor. 2:4 is the Greek *apodeixis* which means to "show off, exhibit, manifest"—apparently the Holy Spirit *does* want to show off in the Church!
 - b) 1 Cor. 12:7 spiritual gifts are a "manifestation."
 - c) Elsewhere in Scripture, gifts are often referred to as "signs" [Gk. *sēmeion* = "a mark or indication; to signify"]:
 - (1) **Acts 4:29-31:** ²⁹"Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable Your servants to speak Your word with great boldness. ³⁰Stretch out Your hand to **heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders** through the name of Your holy servant Jesus." ³¹After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.
 - (2) **Heb. 2:4:** *God also testified to it* [His great salvation] *by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to His will.*
2. Many churches reject any charismatic demonstration of the Holy Spirit, saying they want to be a "Word Church," with emphasis only on the teaching of Scripture.
 - a) But it is not an either/or question—*both* are important!
 - b) Creation required both the moving of the Holy Spirit and God's spoken word:

Gen. 1:2-3: ²Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the **Spirit of God was hovering** ["moving" NAS] over the waters. ³And **God said**, "Let there be light," and there was light.

- c) Jesus promised all believers that miraculous signs would follow them, confirming His word after they preached it

Mark 16:17-20: ¹⁷*And these signs will accompany those who believe: In My name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.* ¹⁹*After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was taken up into heaven and He sat at the right hand of God. ²⁰Then the **disciples went out and preached everywhere**, and the **Lord** worked with them and **confirmed His word by the signs that accompanied it.***

- d) The Early Church prayed that they would be enabled to *speak the word* with boldness and also that *God would confirm His word with signs, wonders, and healings* (Acts 4:29-31).

3. Churches that reject the move of the Spirit may still have the appearance of godliness, but are in danger of rejecting the very power of God:

2 Tim 3:5: [People in the last days] *Having a **form** [Gk. *morphōsis* = “appearance, resemblance”] of godliness but **denying** [Gk. *arneomai* = “reject, refuse, contradict”] **its power. HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THEM.***

- a) NOTE: True godliness and holiness are NOT ATTAINABLE through Bible teaching alone (Word churches)—we need the power of the Holy Spirit—gifts of the Spirit “profit” and help everyone in the Church (1 Cor. 12:7).
- b) Jesus warned the Sadducees (who did not believe in resurrection) that they were in error because they did not know the Scriptures or the power of God:

Mat. 22:29: *Jesus replied, “**You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God.**”*

4. The flesh always wars against the Spirit—carnal people in the church will always resist the move of the Holy Spirit:
 - a) **Gal. 5:17** (NAS): *For the **flesh sets its desire against the Spirit**, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are*

in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

- b) **Rom. 8:5-9:** ⁵*Those who live according to the sinful [carnal] nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.* ⁶*The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind **controlled by the Spirit** is life and peace;* ⁷***the sinful [carnal] mind is hostile to God.** It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.* ⁸***Those controlled by the sinful nature [flesh] cannot please God.*** ⁹*You, however, are **controlled** not by the sinful nature but **by the Spirit**, if the Spirit of God lives in you.*

5. Perhaps the number one reason so many churches have rejected the Holy Spirit is this: The leaders and the people want to maintain *control*—they want things to run according to *their* plans, programs, and schedules.

- a) The Holy Spirit will not allow us to put Him in a box
b) The Holy Spirit wants to control *us* (Rom. 8; Gal. 5)
c) Don't despise prophecies or other "interruptions" of the Holy Spirit:

1 Thess. 5:19-21 (AMP): ¹⁹***Do not quench (suppress or subdue) the [Holy] Spirit;*** ²⁰***Do not spurn the gifts and utterances of the prophets [do not depreciate prophetic revelations nor despise inspired instruction or exhortation or warning].*** ²¹***But test and prove all things [until you can recognize] what is good; [to that] hold fast.***

- d) Let go and let the Holy Spirit break in like He did when He interrupted Peter's sermon at Cornelius' house:

Acts 10:44-46: ⁴⁴***While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came*** ["fell" NKJV] ***on all who heard the message.*** ⁴⁵*The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the **gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out** even on the Gentiles.* ⁴⁶***For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.***

III. MARANATHA

A. At the beginning of this study, we saw how Paul gave the Corinthian church two charges:

1. Lack no spiritual gift (charisma)
2. Eagerly wait for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ (maranatha)

1 Cor. 1:4-8 (NKJV): *⁴I thank my God always concerning you for the **grace** of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus, ⁵that you were enriched in everything by Him in **all utterance** and **all knowledge**, ⁶even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, ⁷so **that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ**, ⁸who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

3. Having examined the significance of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the first part of this study, we now turn our attention to the importance of waiting for the coming of the Lord.
4. NOTE: Many miss the connection between these two truths, but they are absolutely inseparable—the Church *cannot* be ready for Christ’s coming without the fullness of the Holy Spirit and all of the gifts of the Spirit.

B. We saw how Paul gave a final reminder to the Corinthians concerning the importance of eagerly expecting the coming of the Lord Jesus with one word—*Maranatha*:

1 Cor. 16:22 (KJV): *If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema **Maranatha**.*

1. “Maranatha” can be translated in two ways: “Our Lord will come” (AMP) or “Come, O Lord”).
2. This sounds very much like the closing words of Revelation: “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus” (Rev. 22:20).

C. Our Lord *will* come again in the Rapture:

1. **Heb. 9:28**: *So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and **He will appear a second time**, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him.*

2. **John 14:2-3:** ²*In My Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come back and take you to be with Me** that you also may be where I am.*
3. **1 Thess. 4:13-18:** ¹³*Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. ¹⁴We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that **God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him.** ¹⁵According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till **the coming of the Lord**, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶**For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.** ¹⁷After that, **we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.** And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage each other with these words.*
4. **1 Cor. 15:51-52:** ⁵¹*Listen, I tell you a mystery: **We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—** ⁵²**in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.** For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.*

D. Jesus and the apostles often spoke about the urgency of eagerly expecting and preparing for His second coming—the whole Christian life is to be lived “in view of His appearing”:

1. **Mat. 24:36-44:** ³⁶*No one knows about **that day** or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at **the coming of the Son of Man.** ³⁸For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; ³⁹and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at **the coming of the Son of Man.** ⁴⁰Two men will be in the field; **one will be taken and the other left.** ⁴¹Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; **one will be taken and the other left.** ⁴²**Therefore keep watch, BECAUSE YOU DO NOT***

KNOW ON WHAT DAY YOUR LORD WILL COME. ⁴³But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴**So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect Him.**

2. **Luke 17:26-35:** ²⁶Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. ²⁷People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all. ²⁸It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. ²⁹But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. ³⁰**It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed.** ³¹On that day no one who is on the roof of his house, with his goods inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. ³²Remember Lot's wife! ³³Whoever tries to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it. ³⁴I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; **one will be taken and the other left.** ³⁵Two women will be grinding grain together; **one will be taken and the other left.**
3. **Luke 21:34-36:** ³⁴Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. ³⁵For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶**Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.**
4. **2 Tim. 4:1, 7-8:** ¹In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and **in view of His appearing** and His kingdom, I give you this charge: ²**Preach the word...** ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which **the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for His appearing.**
5. **1 Tim. 6:13-14:** ¹³In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴to

keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

6. **Heb. 10:25:** *Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*
 7. **Tit. 2:11-13:** ¹¹*For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. ¹²It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.*
- E. As already noted, Paul had exhorted the Corinthians to be eagerly waiting for Christ’s return, but He added an important preparation needed to confirm them blameless until that day—*come short in no gift*:
1. **1 Cor. 1:5-8 (NKJV):** ⁵*You were enriched in everything by Him in **all utterance and all knowledge**, ⁶even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, ⁷so **that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ**, ⁸who will also confirm you to the end, that you **may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.***
 2. Paul seemed to be saying, “You will need the gifts and help of the Holy Spirit to get ready for Christ’s return—you cannot do it in your own strength!”
- F. This is made crystal clear in the final chapter of the Bible:
1. **Rev. 22:7, 12:** ⁷***Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book...*** ¹²***Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with Me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.***
 2. Our response, with the help of the Holy Spirit, is:
Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!
Rev. 22:17, 20: ¹⁷***The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life...*** ²⁰***He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.***