Bible Answers to the Charismatic Movement
An Expositional Study of I Corinthians 12, 13, 14

1 Corinthians 12, 13, 14 are ONE UNIT of THOUGHT describing the true work of the Holy Spirit in order to combat the carnal Corinthians' desire to selfishly gain the spotlight and speak in tongues.

I. I Corinthians 12 – HOLY SPIRIT produced CHURCH UNITY with DIVERSITY

(God never intended that everyone of His children speak in tongues)

***Do not be ignorant about how the Holy Spirit works!**

How do I discern whether a message, gift, or movement is a work of the Holy Spirit or not? Take a look at the product of the Holy Spirit:

1. The Holy Spirit Preaches a SINGULAR Message (v.2-3)

When the Holy Spirit speaks…

a. His message is CONSISTENT (Never contradictory to His nature, His ways or His Word)

b. His message is CHRIST-CENTERED (Never promoting anyone except Jesus Christ)

2. The Holy Spirit Provides a VARIETY of Gifts (v.4-11)

a. Spiritual Gifts come from a common source (v.4-6)

b. Spiritual Gifts come for a common good (v.7)

c. Spiritual Gifts come through a common Spirit (v.8-11)

1) The Holy Spirit gives the Gifts (v.8-10)

2) The Holy Spirit operates the Gifts (v.11a)

3) The Holy Spirit determines the Gifts (v.11b)

3. The Holy Spirit Produces a UNIFIED Church Body (v.12-31)

A Unified/Diversified Church Body. Each & every member must see his/her vital role in the Body of Christ!

a. Every member is united by SPIRIT BAPTISM into the Body (v.13)

b. Every member has a DISTINCT FUNCTION in the Body (v.14-17)

c. Every member is placed by DIVINE DESIGN into the Body (v.18)

d. Every member should be viewed as NECESSARY to the Body (v.19-25a)

e. Every member should be CARED FOR in the Body (v.25b-26)

f. Every member should be SATISFIED with their particular gifts in the Body (v.27-30)

II. I Corinthians 13 – THE SUPREMACY OF LOVE

(God's people should not be seeking "tongues" but should be seeking Agape LOVE)

*** Biblical LOVE must be the supreme characteristic of your life.**

Why? 4 Reasons:

1. BIBLICAL LOVE IS AN ESSENTIAL VIRTUE (v. 1-3)

a. Without love your message accomplishes nothing (v. 1)

b. Without love your gifts (abilities) reveal you to be nothing (v. 2)

c. Without love your sacrifice profits you nothing (v. 3)

2. BIBLICAL LOVE IS AN EXALTED VIRTUE (v. 4-7)

a. Biblical love is not self-centered (v. 4b-5a)

b. Biblical love does not seek the harm of others (v. 5b-6a)

c. Biblical love seeks the well-being of others (v. 4a, 7)

3. BIBLICAL LOVE IS AN ETERNAL VIRTUE (v. 8-13)

a. Love will outlast gifts (v. 8)

b. Love will outlast present limitations (v.9-12)

c. Love will outlast some present spiritual virtues (v.13)

III. Corinthians 14 - WORDS that BUILD UP

(God's people should not speak in tongues that don't edify but use words that build up the church! (v.12)

5 Reasons why you should use your tongue to proclaim truth in an intelligible manner:

1. Our message should be CLEAR not cryptic (v.2-3)

Tongues: Mysterious Message *Prophecy (Preaching): Clear Message*

2. Our message should be OTHERS-CENTERED not self-centered (v.4)

Tongues: Ego-Centric *Prophecy (Preaching): Others-Centered*

3. Our message should EDIFY not mystify (v.5)

Tongues: Inferior Gift *Prophecy (Preaching): Superior Gift*

4. Our message should PROFIT not be detrimental (v.6)

Tongues: No Profit (w/o Interpretation) Prophecy (Preaching): Beneficial

5. Our message should be RATIONAL not illogical (v.7-17)

Tongues: Unintelligible Prophecy (Preaching): Understandable

5 Illustrations of the need for understandable communication:

a. **Musical Instruments** must communicate an understandable message (v.7-8)

b. **Language** in General must communicate an understandable message (v.9-11)

c. **Prayer** must communicate an understandable message (v.13-15a)

d. **Songs** must communicate an understandable message (v.15b)

e. **Praise** (Testimonies) must communicate an understandable message (v.16-17)