

The Blessed Mess: Paul's First Letter to the Church at Corinth

June 4th, 2023

Jeff Bruce, Lead Pastor

1 Corinthians 12:7-11, 28; 14:1 – Practicing the Miraculous (Part 1)

1. Perceiving the Miraculous Gifts

2. Pursuing the Miraculous Gifts

3. Practicing the Miraculous Gifts

For Further Thought and Discussion:

Getting Started:

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?

Going Deeper

2. Read 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 (see also v. 28). What different miraculous gifts did the Corinthians receive? How are each of these to be understood?
3. Jeff made two points regarding spiritual gifts; (1) the gifts should be thought of primarily as *ministries*, rather than *abilities* (see Romans 12:3-6), and (2) some of these ministry callings are long-term, but others are situational (see 1 Corinthians 14:1). Why are these two points critical for us to keep in mind, especially when approaching the miraculous gifts?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 13:8-12. When does Paul say that the miraculous gifts will come to an end? Jeff noted that Christians divide into two camps on miraculous gifts. *Cessationists* believe that most (or all) of the miraculous gifts ceased sometime after the time of Christ and the apostles. *Continuationists*, on the other hand, believe that most (or all) of the miraculous gifts continue until Christ's return. How should we rank the importance of this issue, relative to other doctrinal issues? Which view do you hold (or lean towards)? What factors led you to your current view?
5. Paul says that the Holy Spirit gives believers "*gifts of healings*" (1 Corinthians 12:9). Why is it significant that Paul mentions "*gifts*" (plural) of "*healings*" (plural) rather than a singular "*gift of healing*"? How should this shape our understanding of the gift?

Application:

6. Jeff made a number of points regarding the theology of healing. Which of these stood out to you? Why?
7. Jeff made a number of points regarding the practice of healing ministry. Which of these stood out to you? Why?
8. Jeff made a number of cautions regarding healing ministry. Which of these stood out to you? Why?
9. What's one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?