

# S.O.H.L.

## WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

*Pronounced "Soul"*

May 19, 2014

## The Keys to Life

**EPHESIANS 4:12 NKJV** – (12) *for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,*

The purpose of the spiritual gifts *to edify the Body of Christ, wherever and whenever needed.*

I have numerous of keys on my key ring. Each one serves a purpose, however none serve the same purpose. Each key opens a different lock. By opening that lock, it helps me to accomplish the task for which I was called. For example, I have a key to my church office. This key unlocks the door so I can get into my office and complete a task or two at my desk. Another key is for my desk. This key unlocks my desk where I keep important papers. My task is to sign these important papers to complete another task. The tasks that are the desk is paper work that must be signed by me to get another task completed. By doing my part, the church grows closer to completing tasks and helping someone who is in need.

We are right to say that spiritual gifts come from the Spirit (1 Cor. 12:4-11). However, we often think of spiritual gifts in terms either of giftedness (human ability to do things skillfully and well) or of supernatural novelty (power to speak in tongues, to heal, to receive messages straight from God to give to others, etc.). We have not formed the habit of defining gifts in terms of Christ, the head of the body, and his present work from heaven in our midst. In this we are unscriptural.

Paul makes it clear that spiritual gifts are given in Christ; they are enrichments from Christ. 1 Corinthians 12 assumes the Christ-oriented perspective that 1 Corinthians 1:4-7 established. It is vital that we see this, or we confuse natural with spiritual gifts to the end of our days. Nowhere does Paul or any other New Testament writer define a spiritual gift to us. But Paul's assertion that the use of gifts' edifies (1 Cor. 14:3-5, 12, 17,26; Eph. 4:12), shows the rightful understanding of gifts. For Paul it is only through Christ, in Christ, and by learning of and responding to Christ, that anyone is ever edified. Therefore, spiritual gifts must be defined in terms of Christ as actualized powers of expressing, celebrating, displaying, and thus, communicating Christ in one way or another, either by word or deed.

### SCRIPTURE READING

1 PETER 4:10-11

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

A hug is the perfect gift- one size fits all and nobody minds if you exchange it.

May 1, 2014

