

1Corinthians 18-08-12b

Which we will now continue as we return to 1st Corinthians chapter 12 1st Corinthians chapter 12 and we've seen that Paul has Laid what he is about to say On a foundation and the threshold of the door into this whole next section is The centrality of Jesus Christ. He says now we're going to talk about spiritual things But we're not talking about the Spirit we're talking about Christ Have I made that sufficiently evident and clear It's so easy to get lost in well What are the gifts of the Spirit and how do I know the Holy Spirit Spirit this spirit that spirit the other? Look at what Paul lays the foundation on Other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid and it's not the Holy Spirit We're so blessed to have the Holy Spirit appreciate him Couldn't do it without him, but the foundation is Jesus Christ So we keep that in mind as we move forward. I make known to you that Jesus Christ is Lord this is the message of the Holy Spirit and if you're not accustomed to orienting your life To the communication of Christ and from Christ through the Holy Spirit Paul says let me remind you that's the key.

It is the truth Via the Holy Spirit about the Lord Jesus Christ that brings us to the Father and gives us eternal life. That's at the core that is the center around which everything revolves Having said that verse four, let's read these next six or so actually eight verses There are diversity of gifts, but the same Spirit there are differences of ministry, but the same Lord and There are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all See how that flows all three persons it is a Unified spirit with a unified message. You're not going to get two different truths From the Holy Spirit.

There's one spirit and he is going to speak one truth and anybody speaking a different truth. It's not the truth And he doesn't have the spirit differences of ministries, but the same Lord there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all Well, let's begin here at the beginning looking at your Text there are diversities of gifts this is Charisma tone we have the English word charisma, which generally means that somebody has sort of a Impressive presence and personality they walk into a room and everybody's Gaze and focus shifts to them there. There are individuals that that have this even in a televised presence.

I remember some years ago being at the Southern Baptist Convention and President George W Bush Made a live appearance via screen big Jumbotron to the assembled messengers there and I I was in the room and the Presidential seal was on the thing and then you know faded out and here is the president live he's got a little bug in his ear to hear the Ambience of the room whether people are applauding or cheering or whatever and then he is speaking but it's it's live via television But I cannot tell you the electricity That was given off by the man himself It wasn't just the occasion. It wasn't just the atmosphere One of the reasons George W Bush was elected and and it hasn't always come across and it hasn't always been appreciated But he has tremendous personal charisma, and I've heard this from people who know him And I know people who know him and they say he's he's always that way. He just has that Personal magnetism there are other

people who who have this and it's almost palpable the the Ionic charge in the atmosphere changes when one of these people appears its charisma.

That's not what's being talked about here It's an interesting phenomenon. We use the word for it, but it it derives from this it is a gift It isn't something you can necessarily cultivate. I can't make myself into a charismatic Magnetic Person some people just have that Effect it's innate.

It's something Difficult to pin down but it says here that there are diversities and This sounds worse than it is in Greek in Greek this is diarresis there's a there's a Diarrhea of gifts that that's not necessarily What it what it means? This is the the preposition dia which means through and and I recess I wrote to to lift up and through this is to this is Stuff that's all over. It's all different kinds Diarrheas of gifts It means to a portion to distribute In secular Greek it meant to to break up Like when Jesus took bread and broke it this is to break with the purpose of distributing or to To have something go a lot of places because it's no longer in one piece. You could have your flotsam on the beach And you remember the difference between flotsam and jetsam, right I Think I mentioned that recently, but there is a difference.

There's the reason why you have two words, it's pretty easy to remember just remember a Flotilla or that which flots on the surface of the water it floats Stuff that's floating and that you can see that's your flotsam jetsam is The hidden stuff that's down on the bottom when you're trying to walk into the lake and you step on a Pepsi can that's jetsam Somebody threw it off the boat and it's come there and stuck in the mud So you get your flotsam and you got your jetsam. You got your seen and your unseen you're above and you're below But here when something breaks apart like a shipwreck this would be dia irises or die irises But When you break something down you break it into its individual parts I'm breaking down Paul's argument here and showing you the different parts. So when we say there are diversities, it really doesn't Catch what Paul is saying here.

He's saying not that there's lots of different kinds of gifts but he's saying that the distribution of These different parts of what is a whole? It is One it's got one purpose. It's got one source. It's got one target it is a manifold collection That is distributed, but it is from one source and one whole thing.

You see what we're getting at here. It's it's not a Destructive breaking apart. It's more like you've got a wonderful task that you're going to accomplish Your family is getting ready for Christmas and so a couple of kids are wrapping and a couple of kids are labeling and a couple of kids are decorating the tree and somebody else is out putting the Lights on the bushes and it's all in the service of one wonderful goal but you've you've broken it into its different component parts and it's getting done efficiently because of Diarisis, you've got this Distribution that that is still all unified in a sense So they are not separate and apart and you get the idea here that that When he gets further down in the chapter and he says it's one body He's he's heading that way even with this word, you know The the eye and the ear and the hand are not from different people.

This is not like an explosion in an awful destructive Tragic accident where many people are maimed and scattered this the parts of the body are Connected and whole and and Unified even though they have different functions in different locations. These gifts are the same way diarsis. So diversity Gets one aspect one facet, but it doesn't really Catch, it'd be great if we all spoke Greek There are there are diversities.

There are many parts of this whole in terms of the Charismata the gifts the the distribution of tasks. There's lots of different some are administrative. Some are clerical some are Physical some are maintenance some are repair some are this some are that now when you've got a business or an organization You got lots of people doing lots of different jobs, but they're all part of one thing.

That's what die. Oh diarsis is diversities of these functions these Useful task accomplishments But it is the same spirit and this is outoss Outoss it is the same Spirit there are Differences of ministries. This is the very same word diarsis again They translate it diversity and difference, but it's not concentrating on the difference.

It's really concentrating on the connection between the different things there are diarsis of Diakonia of deacon functions so Your gift is more of a potential. This is sort of like dunamis Dunamis is power with an emphasis on its potential. I am a piano tuner Am I tuning a piano right now? But I am a piano tuner I Am a licensed driver am I driving right now? I Am an Amateur electrician am I wiring anything right now? I Am many things I have many capabilities That that are a part of who I am, but they don't necessarily function all the time, but they are Assignments they are capabilities they are functions that I perform at the right place at the right time That is charisma charisma is you know, he's a gifted musician.

He's a gifted artist He's a gifted Fixer he's a gifted Horticulturalist she's gifted at Plants or she's gifted at decor or she's gifted at helping. She's gifted at at comfort she's gifted at At bringing children along and and teaching them and and nurturing them So you can have a lot of things you may not do that all the time, but it's your it's your area where you excel it's something you're good at and So there are lot of different kinds of those but they all are are a Part of and integral to they come from guided by enabled and empowered by the same spirit Notice he doesn't say they come from the same spirit or they reflect the same spirit He says there are diversities of gifts, but it is the same spirit in every sense Those gifts are nothing come from nowhere do nothing can't Be guided or fruitful without the spirit. The spirit is in every part of it the gift It's an inherent if you've got the spirit you've got that gift somewhere in you You're going to be good at something that benefits the body and it is because of the presence of God He will enable it.

He will empower it. He will guide it. He will turn it on and off He will show you and help you perceive when where and how and why? It's the same spirit and that same spirit guides all of the gifts and so the gifts hear me now Have to be sensitive to one another.

What did we just have in the preceding chapter? It's not I've got to find where my I got to name it. I got to know where it is I'm worried about whether it's functioning or not the best way for your gift to Be fruitful and functional and do what it's supposed to do is quit worrying about it and look at and remember that the same spirit is energizing sourcing gifting all of them and Cultivating the presence and power of the Holy Spirit is the key The spirit knows what all of the gifts are doing the spirit is it's like our mentality coordinating our hands and our feet and our shoulders and our backs and our necks and our lips and our Filtering when and where do I want to hear when I'm talking? I'm typically not listening. I Just heard a noise in the back and I don't know what that was Normally, I would just brush that off sometimes when I'm concentrating Patty will say, you know dinners ready I don't hear it.

It isn't that my ears have quit functioning or I no longer have ears, but they've been shut off because My little hamster can only run one wheel at a time and he's busy doing something over here and I just I'm tuned out. I was tuning a piano speaking of Day before yesterday in the most cacophonous, I think this one sets a new record there were Construction men on the outside running saws and grinders. There was a guy inside doing drywall There was another guy pounding on something with hammers in a room.

I didn't see the garage door was open the dog was in a crate and couldn't see its mother and was howling and barking and yipping and There was a fan there was street noise outside the street is right. I've I've never had such a a cacophony and So I just tuned it out. All I need to hear is the two strings that I'm making match and I was Amused That I really could tune that out and just focus on what I needed to hear and I was able to successfully and and wonderfully tune this little spin it despite all of the noise because my Mentality knew how to shut off everything else and give me what counts you do this when you talk in a in a noisy room You can hear bits and pieces of words and conversations, but you focus on The person you're speaking with and you kind of tune everything else out and it's a wonderful feature it can work Against us sometimes as well, but there is one spirit the spirit Organizes and coordinates all of these gifts.

That's why he doesn't say And use these singular pronouns here you notice how all of this is plural concerning spirituals brethren Brothers I do not want you all to be ignorant. You all know you were Gentiles However, you all were led I make note to you all that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed there are diversities of gifts He doesn't say you may have one particular gift He says there's a whole collection of these gifts that have been distributed But the same spirit be aware that there are other gifts that aren't yours But the spirit is working in them as well respect that be sensitive to it Be in tune with it Don't think that you're an island unto yourself there are diarrheas there are differences of Diakonos now this is Functions the deacon you know diakonos was the table waiter. He's the guy that comes up with the towel over his arm and says Would you like a beverage do you want ice can what would you like to order? Here's the menu? Oh, you need gluten-free whatever it may be that's the diakonos the waitress or the waiter and they are engaged in the physical Communication and delivery that makes your meal happen in a

in a restaurant So there are differences of potentials and what you're good at That the spirit knows and coordinates there are differences of Functions this is the other end when you actually accomplish something with your gift Where it hits a target it? It's a hammer that pounds a nail.

It's a screwdriver that drives a fastener Diakonos, but the same Lord notice. He doesn't repeat that it's the same spirit. What's the difference? Spirit provides the ability the energy the guidance He's like the nervous system He's the one that connects your particular Usefulness With the rest of the body and to the source of guidance which is ultimately the Lord when it comes to function It's the Lord Where two or three are gathered in my name, he doesn't say the spirit is in your midst.

He says I am in your midst The Lord Jesus is actively involved in our lives the Holy Spirit has specific functions So does the Lord Jesus now if we do not love him? We will not have and keep his words If we do not have and keep his words because we do not love him He will not be present Right, you remember that from John maybe we should take a look at it flip back over to John this is right before the Lord Jesus is Crucified Look at chapter 14 Verse 21 John 14 21 Why does Paul say there are diversities there are Diarises there is a whole collection of different ministries diakonos, but the same Lord He began the chapter saying the Spirit says that Jesus is Lord The same Lord verse 21 John 14 he who has my commandments and keeps them it is he who loves me Not he who says he loves me he that has my words has my commandments and keeps them Has them and keeps them he who loves me he who loves me will be loved by my father and I will love him and manifest myself to him If you love the Lord Jesus Enough to have his words and keep them so that you love him indeed he will come to you and Manifest himself to you the other Judas said to him Lord. How is it that you will manifest yourself to us and not to the world? Jesus answered and said to him if anyone loves me. He will keep my word and that what he just said it's like You know you're you're you're the other Judas there are two Judas's here Well, there are going to be two statements of the very same thing if anyone loves me He will keep my word my father will love him and we will come to him and make our home with him The father will love him the Lord Jesus will love him and they will come and take up residence Take up residence God loves the world Jesus loves the church right corporate love love for the The overall group this is individual I was thinking about this because when we were looking at the term Savior And I thought well is there a fourth one because Jesus is the Savior to Israel.

He's the Savior to the church He's the Savior to the world, but is the is he the Savior to an Individual you know people say you've got to claim Jesus as your personal Savior. We have this phrase personal Savior I'll leave that to your own investigations You can easily find the ten passages in the New Testament where Jesus is referred to specifically as Savior and see if any of those suggest to you Personal Savior You can read it in I think several places we to wait for the Savior from heaven and so on But in what sense is he a personal Savior if at all? Look at the scriptures. We don't have time to cover it right now, but look at this anyone loves me He will keep my word my father will love him.

We will come to him and make our home with him verse 24 He who does not love me does not keep my words and the word which you hear is not mine But the father's who sent me when you Diminish the Lord Jesus you lose touch with the father Because he is the connection to the father So the spirit assigns us a charisma a beneficial Contributory capability something we're good at in the spiritual realm It is assigned it is energized it is enabled by the Holy Spirit, but its function its Impact if you will where it touches and benefits the body is directed by the Lord Jesus himself because he is present and It is only going to function and it is only going to be effective for those who love him because otherwise he's not there To make it happen. It is as though the body with all of its capabilities is asleep It's got reflex. It's got life in terms of not dead But unless you are conscious and you say hand lift up take that Bible open it to John chapter 14 The hand has perfect function.

It's perfectly able, but it has not been directed. It hasn't been assigned a an actual function a diakonos Serves a function and a purpose and the Lord Jesus governs that himself. It's his body He's not taken over by the Spirit now this bears directly the Spirit doesn't take over the body of Christ and just start getting into ecstasies or Enthusiasms the Lord Jesus is the Lord.

It's his authority. It's his plan. It's his purpose It's his service to the father that guides and directs the body So keep it straight people that get too spirit-filled are Losing contact with the Lord Jesus.

He's the one that assigns us our deacon function Not the Holy Spirit Holy Spirit provides the identity and the energy but Jesus directs it the Lord Jesus And you find that they're emphasized in John back to to 1st Corinthians chapter 12, so there are Differences diversities of gifts diversities of deacon function, but the same Lord and There are diversities verse 6 of activities Same word die I recess of Actions These are Energema You know Energeia. We've talked about the five power words in Greek and you've got Dunamis which is in its potential and iskeros, which is strength and you've got Authority here. This is Energeia Energeia is what moves a thing I Put all of my energy into that effort.

I pry with a bar. I push on a Rock I dig with a shovel Energeia is effective motive force We talk about kinetic energy, it's that which Cracks the triangle of pool balls and drives them against the bumpers and they roll and roll until their energy is Expended but while they have energy they are moving so there are Diversity parts of a single whole distributed of gifts of ministries and of Energeia now Let's say I have a living Healthy hand here. That's my Holy Spirit assignment This hand has been given to me and it is a hand it knows it's a hand it functions as a hand It's got dexterity It sits still when I hold it still it moves when I tell it to move So it's it's got that potential that's Diversity of gift it has got diversity of Function it is a grasping thing.

I don't unless I am Having to use alternate ability maybe I'm blind or I'm deaf, you know, you can you can read with your fingers with practice Special skill you can you can read Braille and such but generally it is a grasping moving tool on our body So that's its identity and I can say I grasp and I pick up this Bible and I have now Done a diakonos, I've done a I've done a Service I've

picked it up. What about the energy? Why did I pick it up? What? What good is accomplished when I pick up this Bible? well with the Diversity of my eyesight my speech my ability to read my ability to think my ability to turn these pages my ability to keep My computer running and this by the way is my backup because the primary one Died this morning some sort of click death in the hard drive, but I have a diversity of abilities that enable me to improvise adapt and overcome but the Energia the energy is the result. This is the goal that is accomplished you can think of the gift as the potential you can think of the ministry as the action and the activity and You can think of the Energia as the purpose and goal that is actually accomplished Remember earlier when Paul said I boxed but not as one beating the air I've got hands and boxing gloves and I can move them But I'm not beating the air the Energia means it's been directed in such a way that there's a goal that is accomplished I discipline my body and bring it into subjection not just because I'm a Masochist or a sadist or I I just want to control myself for its own sake.

There's a reason I watch what I eat for a reason and when I keep from outgrowing my clothes I've accomplished a goal if I pick up a shovel. I don't just dig random holes. I'm not like a I mean even a Armadillo you think well these are random holes in the in the lawn.

They're not random. He's he hears a grub down there They've got incredible Senses for vibration and they can hear grubs in the soil. They can smell them I don't know how exactly they sense them But when you see an armadillo hole as we're beginning to see out here It's because there's a grub under there and he's not digging to no purpose.

He's not random searching He's digging down there and getting a thing you want to get rid of armadillos get rid of the grubs They got nothing to eat. They won't be there So that's the Energia here. So You can't judge somebody else's potential as it is assigned by the Holy Spirit.

You can't judge someone else's Functions as they've been directed by the Lord Jesus nor can you judge? Whether a goal was or was not accomplished in the interest of God the Father It is the same God who works all in all it is the same God Notice it says there are diversities of works, but it is the same God who works the first one is the noun there are these These Energia It's translated activities here, but they are inner gametone It's the noun form, but it is the same God who Energia is them God the Father Establishes the goal the Lord Jesus Christ is the Functional means by which those goals are carried out and it is in the power of the Spirit You've heard this many times. This is where it comes from passages like this Holy Spirit is is the means the Lord Jesus Christ is the The action and God the Father has the motivation the goal the reason for it all So You've got all three members of the train a very strong trinitarian passage here But verse 7 the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for profit Manifestation here is Phonerosis it comes from the verb phonero and this means to appear or to reveal so You have the gift all the time You're able to perform the function all the time the Lord Jesus may in fact be resident and present with you and God may have a long-term goal and a purpose in your gift and in your function that he is going to bring about When is it revealed when does it appear? Well, it's not always in evidence you don't always see it you don't always feel it You don't always experience it.

You don't always know it.

You don't always Find it in somebody else or in yourself the revelation the appearance the manifestation here the phonerosis of the Spirit When it does appear When it is evident When it accomplishes its function and fulfills its purpose it is given to each one For the profit and you notice of all is in italics there this is Soon Pharaoh Pharaoh ph e r o is to bear or carry it's part of The word for endurance to to bear up under to carry a load Here it is soon Pharaoh, and it means to bear with to You've got pallbearers all of whom are Lifting the weight of a of a coffin You have a team of workers who are all framing construction or you have several guys all But getting your oil changed one is under and one is above and one is doing the paperwork, and they're they're all accomplishing a same goal so the appearance the manifestation the revelation of the Spirit is given to each one each little part of this distribution for the soon Pharaoh Sim farron here and This is Everybody working together it is it's not quite symphony, but it's close Verse eight for two one is given the word of wisdom this is A wise word it's logos Sophia's logos Sophia It's a word of wisdom through dia the spirit What did he begin talking about you were with these dumb idols and the first one? He gives you here is the word of wisdom is given to one through the spirit Word of wisdom to another is given a word of knowledge This is logos gnosis Now what's the difference? What's the difference in a word of wisdom and a word of knowledge? What's the difference in wisdom and knowledge Do people know that something is bad for them, and they do it anyway The people know that they ought to be doing a thing But they're just not doing it or they should quit doing a thing, but they don't stop do they know better Knowledge is information, right? Wisdom is Properly Applying your knowledge and by proper. I mean it's either morality or it's constructive in this context it Manifests love it is the manifestation of the spirit For the common bearing that the the bearing of the load I saw a guy That you know they have these Johnny Carson reruns and sometimes I bubble gum for the brain at night I'll turn on Johnny And he had a had a physics professor come on and he did the old bed-of-nails thing where he had a Had a board with all of these nails sticking on it and the guy took his shirt off and laid down on it put another bed of nails upside down so that all the points are pointing into his back and into his chest and then Ed McMahon came over and Johnny Carson stood on the top board and the guy is sandwiched between these boards of nails and Of course when he got back up. He was not pierced Because he'd carefully calculated you know how many pounds per scurrians can can skin He had lots of little indentations, but nothing was bleeding You know you could he said now if I'd if I'd spaced four nails six inches apart.

It'd be a different story but there's a lot of nails and because there's so many no one of them can can pierce the skin and It's a very graphic demonstration of soon Pharaoh all of the nails bearing the weight No one of them You know does this destructive thing it is there it is their harmony is it is they're working together Under the guidance and wisdom of a physics professor who knows and he does this for you he was telling Johnny He's sort of famous for these unorthodox demonstrations to his classes, and they remember very vividly This rather dry material because he illustrates it He would dress up and has all kinds of wild demonstrations in his classroom this

course is 30 40 years ago But the nail thing was one he could do on the stage, and he did it and of course it stuck stuck in my mind It'll probably stick in yours it didn't stick in his hide, but it sticks in our mind, but soon Pharaoh everybody doing their job Extraordinary things can take place They all bear the the load the responsibility But I would cross out of all each one. It's given for profit. It's not just the the profit of other people.

It's it's God's overall goal Which was just their God working all in all? So word of wisdom This is going to be somebody standing up and saying you know this is a this is the path That we should follow with regard to this issue or this situation the word of knowledge this would be Information about the Lord Jesus information about doctrinal truth Promises principles those who sleep in Jesus are going to be raised first A word of if Paul is not there to write a letter Somebody can give them the same information that we have in the epistles But it comes directly God the Holy Spirit prompts a minute, and it comes to them when they need it Word of knowledge and to another faith by the same spirit we say ah I'm a Calvinist now The faith is given to us by the by the Holy Spirit This is in fact Pistis Given by the Spirit, what does it mean? What is our context here? Are we talking about people getting rescued from? Trip to the great white throne judgment and into the lake of fire in the assembly of Believers one has a word of wisdom one has a word of knowledge one has faith. How does that work? Here's somebody that says here is a piece of information that bears on our challenge Someone else says based on that information here is the wise course. This is what we should do well, I find that too hard I I don't we just can't do that.

It's all going to collapse. It's all going to come apart I know you what you tell me is true This knowledge is accurate, and this is in fact the wise course, but we don't have the strength to do it We don't have the ability to we don't have the resources We don't have the the endurance our people will never go along It's all going to come unglued and apart at the seams the gift of faith says we have the knowledge we have the wisdom and Here's how we can trust God for it. It will come to their mind Old Testament examples.

It will come to their mind Recent examples it will come to their mind a way to persuade and bring people along to trust God They will exhort they will encourage they will comfort they will strengthen The trusting side of it bringing it into application by faith sometimes we need Help with that and there are people who are gifted at helping us trust Now was it a temporary gift Possibly so I think the word of knowledge and the word of wisdom were temporary was the gift of faith temporary Perhaps I don't really know I do know that this gift of faith was a Part of the Sun Pharaoh so that everybody you don't want your nails Falling out or going through a loose hole And you've only got 12 nails instead of the 36 that you need to hold the guys wait If some of the nails don't do their job who's going to keep everybody on board who's going to get the group to trust and individuals to hold the fort It's a gift of faith it is a it is a gift of trust and your example of trust and your reasons for trusting and your explanation of your hope Enables others to trust with you and gives them a worthy example. It is a gift of faith You're just somebody who knows how to lean on the Lord and rely on the Lord And it is an inspiration to those around you it helps the

group to another gifts of healing by the same spirit gifts of healing my temptation to think that the gift of faith was temporary is Based on the fact that all of the gifts that surround it were manifestly temporary word of knowledge word of wisdom healing this was to Demonstrate the presence of the spirit and where healing and miraculous Revelation is taking place from the spirit Then the knowledge and the wisdom that is spoken by that same spirit is validated How do you know if somebody just made up a truth? there's a woman that's a Catholic and she's written a whole bunch of revelations of Additional details about the New Testament of Jesus and Mary and she's written like a third testament That she got revealed to her by the the Blessed Virgin or something. Well, how do you know if that's right or not? Well in the early days of the church you get particularly have a problem because you don't have a canon of Scripture to compare it To and if this guy is saying something other than what Paul says He's wrong.

Let him be accursed. Well, you don't have that this Catholic gal I've got a complete New Testament and what she says is just hair-raising Lee strange so I can Disabuse myself of that but in the early days you needed manifestation of the spirit. Here's the spirit and that same spirit Makes this alternate gospel false So healings by the same spirit.

Well, that's verse 8 and verse 9 and We're going to pick up at verse 10 with the working in miracles prophecy discerning spirits and tongues Which is going to get us to the real problem in the Corinthian Church because that was the popular one Everybody wanted to get hilarious in the name of the Spirit and in the name of the Lord Jesus But what is the upshot of all of this? What do we come away with? What is the focus and the emphasis who we are and what we can do is? Defined by energized by guided by and purposed by the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit if we want to be who we were meant to be do what we are supposed to do and Glorify the God who rescued us from darkness and sin We will do What the Lord Jesus said in John 14 and that is love him How is that love defined and manifested? We have his words. We have his commands and we keep them We don't need a word of knowledge to tell us what the commands are. We have them in the pages of Scripture We don't need a special manifestation of the Spirit to tell us how to apply them because the Spirit is always present within us We don't have to have a special word of faith to Get us over the top of the hill of trust Because we are able to trust We have the full orb'd ministry of the Spirit within us we have the ability to have and keep the words of the Lord Jesus so that he is present with us and Because we love him the Father is going to come and make his home with us as well and With the presence and power of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit in us There is nothing we cannot do and what we do will be toward God's purpose I'm a very interesting passage.

We're going to look at here before long in 2nd Corinthians, you remember we were talking about no testing has befalling you but such as is common man And with everyone God will make that we've seen it as either a way of escape or the outcome But you remember the heart of that we say well Nothing will come that's above your ability to bear right, isn't that the the main idea that we cling to just for a Thought starter here for the coming week flip a few pages over to 2nd

Corinthians chapter 1 And when we get there, you'll see how I ran across this I didn't actually think about it when we were doing the No temptation above what you're able to bear passage. I got it because of the Lord passages Look at verse 8 2nd Corinthians chapter 1 verse 8. We do not want you to be ignorant. How many times has Paul said that? This is one of those I do not want you to be ignorant passages So I was just reviewing all of those because that's what he says at the beginning of chapter 12 Think about this in the coming week.

We do not want you to be ignorant brethren of our trouble which came to us in Asia That we were burdened beyond measure above strength so that we despaired of life. I Corinthians you couldn't be tested above what you're able to bear in Greek. This is even stronger We were burdened beyond the pale Be more than you can measure.

It wasn't just to the limit of our strength. It was over it It was past being able to measure was past the end of my measuring tape. It was past the end of my rope above strength beyond our ability We were burdened so that we despaired of life.

Can you imagine the Apostle Paul? despairing of life Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves. We thought you know, this is it. It's over.

We're going down for the third time But look at the rest of verse 9 There's your answer in order that In order that What did he come to the limit of what did it go beyond the measure of our strength our ability our hope for the future But we had this sentence of death in order that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God who does what? Raises the dead He says you know what even we despaired of life, but even if we're killed God's just gonna bring us back But it's an interesting thought isn't it That the one who said you'll never be tested above, you know, I'll always be able to he said look we were completely crushed We we had no we despaired of life itself, but God had a purpose in it He had an outcome in it three times. I asked at my thorn in the flesh be taken away. But what did God say? My strength my strength is sufficient for you.

He didn't say your strength is sufficient for the test He said my strength is made manifest in your weakness it's the same thing there in Corinthians anyway I was a little free no charge extra There well, let's close in order prayer. We'll pick up looking at the remainder of these gifts next time father Thank you for this wonderful Opportunity to learn more and to grow and be fruitful in our own Function within the body of Christ we thank you for the clarity of the presentation We thank you for the emphasis on its purpose the focus on the Lord Jesus Christ and we pray that as we reflect on these things our appreciation for him will be enhanced our understanding of our Privilege to be in him and to represent him and to function With your goal in mind is will be enlivened and enhanced That our lives will reflect your glory and the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior. We pray these things in his name.

Amen