**A HEALTHY CHURCH BODY**

**\*Series from I Corinthians 12-14**

**Introduction- A healthy body is a body that functions the way God intended. This series is about how to establish a healthy church body in how to understand and operate effectively in spiritual gifts. We will discover three distinct types of gifts. Every part of the body is vitally important. Growing into the image of Jesus, walking in agape love, and operating in the Sirit must happen in an atmosphere of humility.**

**Background of I Corinthians: It was authored by the Holy Spirit through Paul, the apostle. Paul established a church in Corinth on his second missionary journey around AD 50-51. He spent 18 months there establishing a functioning body with godly leadership. In the years that followed, he received reports about moral laxity and paganism entering the Corinthian church. Paul wrote a corrective letter to the Corinthian believers. The letter never seemed to arrive and has been lost. Soon after this became known, Paul sent a delegation to Corinth led by Chloe who reported back to Paul. He sent Timothy to them for much needed teaching and to remedy the situations of moral laxity, paganism, and divisions among them. He then wrote I Corinthians and expected to reach Corinth before Timothy. They were there together and taught the church the book of I Corinthians in 56 AD.**

**Basic content of this letter: This book consists of the Holy Spirit’s response through Paul to eight different issues. 1.) Sectarian spirit 2.) Sexual immorality 3.) Marriage and divorce 4.) Eating food offered to idols 5.) Wearing of the veil, 6.) Lord’s supper 7.) Spiritual gifts 8.) Resurrection of the body**

**Our focus:**

 **Chapter 12- Basic operation of spiritual gifts and a functioning body**

 **Chapter 13- Love must reign supreme as we operate in spiritual gifts**

 **Chapter 14- The use of prophecy and tongues**

**Today let’s look at I Corinthians 12:1-3 today**

**I. God does not want us to be ignorant of spiritual gifts vs. 1-2**

 **A. The gifts and their correct use is from Him**

 **B. The church of Jesus Christ is alive with the Holy Spirit at work**

 **1. Pagan dumb idols: demonic powers and influence [Psalm 115:3-8]**

 **2. We began in the Spirit, do not revert to religious flesh [Galatians 3:2-3]**

**II. The principle and the applications: No one can, except by the Holy Spirit vs. 3**

 **A. No one speaking by and filled with the Spirit can say “Jesus is accursed” [anathema]**

 **B. No one can say Jesus is (truly their) Lord except by the Holy Spirit**

**Conclusion- When we are born-again; have Christ dwelling in us, we are born of the Spirit. We have Him dwelling in us, but He wants to fill us to the uttermost. We need the infilling or as some places in the Scripture call it the baptism with the Holy Spirit. Then we need to understand and walk in the out-flowing of the Holy Spirit through our lives. Remember, “No one can except by the Holy Spirit.” I heard this teaching for the first time in early 1977. A Scottish pastor from Bella Vista came and spoke at John Brown University’s chapel service. I understood and prayed a simple prayer. “Holy Spirit, I do not want to live my Christian life anymore without You filling me inside and flowing out of me.” My life changed that day. I began a journey that continues until this day. I did not speak in tongues for another 8 months. What began to happen was this: I began to hear the Holy Spirit inside of me. He gave me a greater desire to study and learn more than ever before. I was a conservative Christian and began to get scripture verses to share with people, prophetic words which I did not know what the Bible called them, and began to pray for sick people who got well. The church where I was attending and serving rebuked me and told me to stop it. I shared the scripture verses and they shared traditions and man-made doctrines. God led me out of those circles and told me He was raising me up to be a teacher to the church and the nations. My head was spinning and I had absolutely no grid for that revelation. Within five years, I was regularly teaching a church of several hundred and in ten years began traveling to the nations. I have been to fifty-one nations and have spoken to people in another six nations teaching on line. Here I am forty-five years later…**