

1 Corinthians 12:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

Analysis

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man—Phanerōsis tou Pneumatos (φανέρωσις τοῦ Πνεύματος, "manifestation of the Spirit") means the Spirit's invisible presence becomes visible/tangible through gifts. Every believer (**to every man**, hekastō) receives some manifestation—no Christian is gift-less. This democratizes spiritual ministry against the Corinthians' elitist spirituality.

To profit withal (pros to sympheron, πρὸς τὸ συμφέρον) defines gifts' purpose: corporate benefit, not personal gratification. The phrase means "for the common good" or "for mutual advantage." Paul will argue (ch. 14) that unintelligible tongues-speaking without interpretation violates this principle since it doesn't build up others. Gifts are stewardships held in trust for the body's benefit. The criterion for evaluating any gift-use: Does it profit others? Does it build up the church?

Historical Context

The Greek concept of sympheron (common good) was central to civic life—citizens were expected to use wealth and abilities for the polis's benefit. Paul applies this civic virtue to the church: spiritual gifts serve the corporate body, not individual glory or experience.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does knowing 'every believer' has a Spirit-manifestation change your view of yourself and others?
2. What gifts might you be neglecting that would 'profit' your church community?
3. How can churches evaluate whether gift-use truly serves 'the common good' or merely entertains?

Interlinear Text

ἐκάστω	δὲ	δίδοται	ἡ	φανέρωσις	τοῦ	πνεύματος
to every man	But	is given	G3588	the manifestation	G3588	of the Spirit
G1538	G1161	G1325		G5321		G4151
πρὸς	τὸ	συμφέρον				
to	G3588	profit withal				
G4314		G4851				

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 14:19 (Parallel theme): Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue.

1 Corinthians 14:12 (Spirit): Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.

1 Corinthians 14:17 (Parallel theme): For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.

1 Corinthians 14:5 (Parallel theme): I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.

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