

16 07 23

Divide Pt 2 –The word of God divides and we divide it

This is our second study of the word “divide”. In our previous teaching we established three points – (i) God divides, (ii) there was division among the people because of Jesus, and (3) a house divided against itself cannot stand.

This week we establish additional three points– (i) the Spirit divides the gifts of the Spirit, (ii) the word of God divides asunder soul, spirit and of the flesh, and (iii) we are to study– rightly dividing the word of truth.

More detail from the scriptures on our three points –

1.The Spirit divides and gives to every man gifts of the Spirit

“But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will” (1 Cor.12: 11). CF– 1 Cor.12: 8– “For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit”.

“To another faith by the same Spirit”– 1 Cor.12: 9.

There “are diversities of operations, but it is the same God”– 1 Cor.12: 6.

There “are diversities of gifts. but the same Spirit”– 1 Cor.12: 4.

Q Why are there diversity of gifts?

A Because we are one body, and many members

“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ” (1 Cor.12: 12).

Because it profits all the body

“...the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal”– 1 Cor.12: 7.

The Lord gave some in the body to be teachers– for the perfecting of the saints–

[11] And he gave some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

{12} For the perfecting of the saints...for the edifying of the body...(Eph.4: 11, 12).

2. The word of God divides asunder soul and spirit, and of the flesh

“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Heb. 4: 12).

A meaning of the phrase– “divide asunder”

When the chariot of fire **parted** Elisha and Elijah asunder– Elijah went up in a whirlwind– 2 Kgs 2:11– “And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, [there appeared] a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven”.

When the ground (earth) cleave asunder it **opened** its mouth and swallowed them up [31] And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that was under them:

[32] And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up.... Num.16: 31, 32

Therefore to divide asunder is to open up or part– Lev 1:17– “And he shall cleave it with the wings thereof, but shall not divide it asunder”.

Hence, for the word of God to divide asunder soul, spirit, and the joints and marrow (flesh) – it parts them one from the other.

Q When does that take place?

A When a person hears the word of God and believes it– they put off the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ
“In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the **sins of the flesh** by the circumcision of Christ” (Col.2:11)

3. We are to study– rightly dividing the word of truth

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Tim.2: 15).

Illustration

Rome’s copy of scripture deletes the doctrine of rightly dividing the word of truth. They have no knowledge of right division, nor compunction to apply it to scripture, so they use their own logic for interpretation: Jesus preached the kingdom of heaven so they do. BUT, the gospel of the KOH is for a different audience (not the body of Christ) and is not the gospel that has “the power of God unto salvation” (Rom.1: 16).

Question of the scriptures

What does it mean to rightly divide the word of truth?

Answer from the scriptures

We allow the Spirit to teach by comparing the scriptures with scripture.

Search the word “divide”, and the phrase “word of truth”

a) Search the word “divide” – there are seven occurrences

Israel **divided the land** for inheritance **by their coasts**

[48] This is the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Dan according to their families, these cities with their villages.

[49] When they had made an end of dividing the land for inheritance by their coasts, the children of Israel gave an inheritance to Joshua...: (Joshua 19:48–49)

We have already established that – **The Spirit divides** and gives (**distributes**) to every man severally the different gifts of the Spirit.

b) Search the phrase– “the word of truth”– there are seven occurrences

The word of truth is the word of God– His judgments

“And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth; for I have hoped in thy judgments” (Psalm 119:43)

When we compare the scriptures, the Holy Ghost teaches–

* God’s children divided the land into portions (according to God’s commandments) to be distributed to the twelve tribes of Israel.

* The Spirit of God divides the gifts of the Spirit– to **distribute** them to the body.

Scriptural truths:

i) scripture records different spokespeople with different instructions from God, for different audiences, in different ages.

ii) today the teacher facilitates the Holy Ghost teaching truth when he compares scripture with scripture.

Therefore, the teacher rightly divides the word of truth– when he divides the word of God to **distribute** the Spirit’s teaching to the intended audience.

The preacher can only preach to the lost, it is the Spirit of God that convicts and the word of God that divides asunder spirit and soul. Whereas, the teacher rightly divides the word of truth to ensure that they teach what God gave for the church! If we all did so, Christian’s would not take doctrine for one age and apply it to their own.