

## **The First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians**

### **God Equips the Church Just As He Desires**

1 Cor. 12:11-31

#### 1. The Proclamation of God's Plan

The distribution of the gifts of the Holy Spirit to various believers (1 Cor. 12:11) as well as the distribution of specific gifted believers throughout the church (1 Cor. 12:18, 28) is part of God's sovereign plan. Paul had experienced this first-hand (Acts 9:4-6, 15-16; 13:2) and relied upon God's careful dissemination of gifts and tasks for his own ministry (cf. 1 Cor. 3:6). Regardless of how bleak a situation may seem, God has always provided that there would be faithful and believing people to proclaim His message (Matt. 16:18; cf. 1 Ki. 19:18; Rev. 7:4ff).

#### 2. The Power of God's Plan

God has a plan for His church that no one can thwart (Matt. 16:18). God demonstrated His power and ability to do whatever He intended through the ministry of Jesus Christ, and we can trust in His ability to carry out that plan. God's ability to accomplish what He desires is a key characteristic of who He is (Isa. 14:24-27; Jer. 18:6-10; Dan. 4:35).

#### 3. The Peace from God's Plan

There is an immense comfort in resting in the truth that God has a plan for His people. Christians can trust God fully for their salvation because He has promised to save them (John 10:29). Christians can trust God fully in the time of trials and struggles because God will do what is right (1 Pet. 4:19). We can trust in God to accomplish His plan to maintain His faithful church no matter what.