Charity More Excellent Than the Extraordinary Gifts of the Spirit

1. Introduction (1 Corinthians 13:1-2)
2. Distinguishing the Different Types of Gifts
    a. Common Gifts vs Saving Gifts
    b. Ordinary Gifts vs Extraordinary Gifts (Matthew 7:22-23)
3. Extraordinary Gifts are Great Privileges (Daniel 6:1-3, Ephesians 2:20, Psalm 106:16-17, Acts 14:11-13)
4. The Ordinary Influence of the Spirit of God Working the Grace of Charity in the Heart *is Far More Excellent!*
    a. Saving grace: an inherent quality in the nature of those with charity
    b. Spirit communicates himself in saving grace (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)
    c. Ordinary influence of the Spirit of God in the hearts of the saints is where the spiritual image of God consists (Leviticus 11:44, 1 Peter 1:16, Philippians 2:5-7, Romans 12:2)
    d. God only bestows saving grace on his own children: ***The most precious gift is that which is most an evidence of God's love***
    e. Ordinary gifts are infinitely more excellent than extraordinary gifts (Luke 10:17-20)
    f. Happiness consists in holiness rather than extraordinary gifts (John 17:3, 1 Thessalonians 4:3, Hebrews 12:14, Ephesians 4:11-16)
    g. Extraordinary gifts aggravate the condemnation of those that have them (Hebrews 6:4-6)
    h. Divine love will remain, but the extraordinary gifts will fail in time (1 Corinthians 13:13)
5. Applications: contentment, service, unity, cessationism, self-examination

References

1. Jonathan Edwards – Charity and its Fruits, Lecture 2
2. Joel Beeke – Revelation, The Lectio Continua Expository Commentary on the New Testament



CHRISTIAN FLIES FROM DESTRUCTION.