

Understanding the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

I. DEFINING THE GIFTS

- A. The Holy Spirit wants the Church to understand the spiritual gifts.
¹ Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant... (1 Cor. 12:1)
- B. The manifestation of the Spirit is given to every one. The Spirit will not use us in the same way, so stay open to being used in different ways. The gifts are both residential and situational.
⁷ The manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: 8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 the Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually... (1 Cor. 12:7-11)
- C. All these gifts are supernatural and not natural. There are three recognized categories of the gifts. *Gifts of revelation* reveal something: word of wisdom, word of knowledge, discerning of spirits. *Gifts of power* do something: the gift of faith, working of miracles, and gifts of healings. *Gifts of inspiration* say something: prophecy, tongues, and interpretation of tongues.
- D. Everyone is called to prophesy and function in the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
¹⁷ In the last days...I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. 18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy...²⁰ before the coming of the great...day of the Lord. (Acts 2:17-20)
⁵ I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied...²⁴ If all prophesy, and an unbeliever comes in...he is convicted...³¹ You can all prophesy. (1 Cor. 14:5, 24, 31)
- E. Prophecy is released in us most often by faint impressions given by the Spirit. Pay attention to the impressions of the Spirit such as symptomatic pains, re-occurring mental pictures, distinct emotional stirrings, or the Spirit touching a specific area of our body (heat or energy).
- F. The demonstration of the Spirit follows a declaration of a believer. The Spirit moves as the Word is spoken. We must give expression to impressions. Desiring to prophesy involves three things.
1. Ask the question: “Holy Spirit, what are you saying or doing?” Take time to ask this. I encourage people to dial down to be more sensitive to subtle impressions.
 2. Verbalize the impression: We must give expression to the faint impressions of the Spirit.
 3. Value small demonstrations: Be faithful in little things (we do not despise the smallness).

II. GIFTS OF REVELATION: GIFTS THAT REVEAL SOMETHING

- A. **Word of Knowledge** (Jn. 4:18; Acts 5:1-10; 9:10-12; 10:9-20; Rev. 2-3): revelation with information related to the past or present. It is not called the gift of knowledge. He reveals a word or “fragment” of information related to people, places, or things. It can be manifested through a vision, angel, dream, or gift of prophecy. The gifts often operate together.
- B. **Word of wisdom** (Acts 9:10-16; 8:26-29; 11:28-30; 21:10-11): revelation with information related to the future. It is not called the gift of wisdom.
- C. **Discerning of spirits** (Acts 9:3-8; 16:16-18): insight into the spirit world. It is to discern or perceive a spirit or the spirit realm both good and bad. It is not called the gift of discernment and it is more than psychological insight into people, especially to see their tendencies and faults.

III. GIFTS OF POWER: GIFTS THAT DO SOMETHING

- A. **Working of miracles**: It is a manifestation of the Spirit to work an instantaneous miracle. A miracle is a supernatural intervention in the ordinary course of nature. This gift works actively. Jesus turned the water into wine (Jn. 2) and fed the 5,000 (Jn. 6:6-14). Paul struck a sorcerer blind (Acts 13:4-12). Moses was used to release the ten plagues (Ex. 7-12).
- B. **Gift of faith**: It is a supernatural manifestation of the Spirit to receive a miracle of protection, direction, etc. Daniel received a miracle in the lion’s den (Dan. 6:16-23). Daniel's faith was passive as he received this miracle. Paul was calm in storms because he expected a miracle by the gift of faith (Acts 27). Elijah expected to be fed by ravens (1 Kg. 17:2-6). The gift of faith will carry a person through the danger without being hurt. The working of miracles changes the circumstances causing the danger.
- C. **Gifts of healings**: In the original Greek, both words "gifts" and "healings" are in the plural. It is the only gift of the Spirit in the plural. Healing is a process, whereas miracles are instantaneous.

IV. GIFTS OF INSPIRATION: GIFTS THAT SAY SOMETHING

- A. **Gift of prophecy**: inspiration to edify, exhort and comfort people (1 Cor. 14:3)
- B. **Different kinds of tongues**: tongues of men and angels (1 Cor. 13:1). There is a difference between the gift of tongues for the body and for private devotion (1 Cor. 12:30; 14:2-4).
² For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries...⁴ He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. (1 Cor. 14:2-4)
- C. **Interpretation of tongues**: an interpretation of God’s burden, not only a translation of a language