

THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT #1

1 Corinthians 12:1 (NKJV)

1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:

I. THE FOUNDATION:

There must be a balance between the Word and the Spirit:

John 4:24 (NKJV)

24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

The Bible is our authority:

2 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV)

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

Doctrine is established by the word of God and confirmed through our experience.

Experience is important in understanding the Bible. However, we cannot establish doctrine solely on experience. Rather, we must evaluate experience by Scripture. Example: Can demons possess Christians? No.

Distinguish Bible teaching from false teaching and from personal opinion. The proper alternative to misuse is not disuse but proper use.

II. BASIC PRINCIPLES: (Outlined in 1 Corinthians 12:1-13)

1 Corinthians 12:1-13 (NKJV)

1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:

2 You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led.

3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.

4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.

6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.

7 But 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 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

12 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.

13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

1. The Origin: The gifts of the Spirit flow from the indwelling Spirit of God.

1 Corinthians 12:4 (NKJV)

4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:11 (NKJV)

11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

The Gifts of the Spirit are specific ways in which the Spirit of God manifests through the body of Christ.

2. The Purpose of the Gifts:

The edification of the church:

1 Corinthians 14:3 (NKJV)

3 But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.

1 Corinthians 14:12 (NKJV)

12 Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel.

There are different members and functions within the body, but there should be one uniting purpose – The building up of itself in love.

1 Corinthians 12:11–12 (NKJV)

11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

12 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.

Ephesians 4:16 (NKJV)

16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

The Gifts of the Spirit are not to be used for some things:

- a. Not to establish doctrine.
 - b. Not to replace church leadership.
 - c. Not to replace the daily discipline of seeking God's will.
 - d. Not to glorify individuals or for self-promotion.
3. Availability: The Gifts of the Spirit are for every Spirit-filled group of believers until the second coming of Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:2 (NKJV)

2 To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

1 Corinthians 1:7 (NKJV)

7 so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,

- a. Given to individual or group?

The gifts are for the benefit of the body, not merely the individual.

- b. The individual operates, but as God wills (I Corinthians 12:11)

Although not everyone will exercise every gift, any Spirit-filled believer could potentially operate any gift as the need arises and as God enables.

The member (Spirit-filled believer) is a conduit for God's gift to His body.

III. THE NATURE OF THE GIFTS:**1 Corinthians 12:8–10 (NKJV)**

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.

1. The Gifts of the Spirit are supernatural:

God grants all believers wisdom, knowledge, faith and tongues, but the gifts are specific, supernatural operations of these within and for the church.

i.e. Having saving faith is not the same as the “gift of faith”

i.e. Gaining biblical knowledge is not the same as operating in the “word of knowledge”

In this letter to the Corinthians Paul listed 9 supernatural gifts of the Spirit. They can be classified under three headings:

- a. Gifts of Revelation
 - i. Word of wisdom
 - ii. Word of knowledge
 - iii. Discerning of spirits
- b. Gifts of Power
 - iv. Faith
 - v. Working of Miracles
 - vi. Gifts of Healing
- c. Gifts of Utterance
 - vii. Different kinds of tongues
 - viii. Interpretation of tongues
 - ix. Prophecy

2. There is sometimes an overlap among gifts.
3. Paul's list in 1 Corinthians 12 is not an exhaustive list
4. Within the Church the Gifts should be normal but not continual:

These gifts have sometimes been misused and there can be a tendency for individuals or churches to move toward disuse.

IV. PROPER OPERATION OF THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT:

The Gifts of the Spirit are spiritual power tools to help us edify the church. As in the natural so also in the spiritual – power tools must be handled properly.

1. The motive for operating in the Gifts of the Spirit must be love:

1 Corinthians 13:1–2 (NKJV)

1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

2. The Gifts are subject to control of the user:

1 Corinthians 14:32–33 (NKJV)

32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.

33 For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

3. The Gifts should be operated decently and in order:

1 Corinthians 14:39–40 (NKJV)

39 Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues.

40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

The Gifts should not create confusion in the body or hinder what God is trying to accomplish in a service.

4. Operate the gifts with humility

Pride is holding too high an opinion of yourself. The opposite of pride is humility. The best definition of humility is that found in Samuel's rebuke of Saul. Samuel said, "You were once small in your own eyes. . ." (1 Sam. 15:17) Being small in our own eyes doesn't mean that we are worthless or that we can't do anything right. It simply means that we have a basic distrust our own motives, agendas and goodness.

Humility preserves the both the person operating the gift and others.

5. Operate the gifts in faith

Just as one learns the use of natural skills, one must also learn to operate in the gifts of the Spirit. It will require steps of faith.

6. Get permission from God before you speak

Don't assume that just because you have received an impression about someone that you should automatically go to them with it. There is such a thing as timing.

Proverbs 25:11 (NKJV)

11 A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold In settings of silver.

Sometimes God gives us revelation that he expects us to keep quiet about.

7. Make sure you know the difference between revelation, interpretation and application
 - d. Revelation is what God has actually said or showed you.
 - e. Interpretation is what we say God has said or shown us.
 - f. Application is what we or others should do based on what God has said or shown us.

Example: While praying for someone, you feel the spirit of suicide linked to this person. You could assume that the spirit is attacking this individual. Yet what if it is her teenage son that is being harassed?

Asking a question "God how should I interpret what I am feeling?" can shed light on this.

8. Leave the results to God

Example of person who comes to pastor with message from God. God told me to tell you that we need to call the church to a 7 day fast next week.

9. Be gentle and kind when giving someone a negative message

God wants us to salvage people, He does not want us show them how spiritual we are.

Galatians 6:1 (NKJV)

1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

V. Gifts of Revelation:

The Gifts of Revelation are best defined as an impartation or understanding from the mind of God. These help us to know things supernaturally.

- a. Word of Wisdom:** Insight, judgment or guidance related to a specific decision or need.

(Example: Acts 6:1-7 regarding the dispute over the unmet needs of the widows. Acts 27:9-10 regarding the hazards of the impending voyage of Paul on his way to Rome.)

b. Word of Knowledge: Divine revelation of information for a specific spiritual purpose.

(Example: Acts 5:1-10 regarding Ananias & Saphira lying to the apostles.)

c. Discernment of spirits: A revelation of spiritual motivation or a determination of what type of spirit is at work in a particular situation.
(Example: Acts 16:16-18 regarding the damsel in Philippi who followed and cried after Paul.)

Next week:

Interrupting services (saints being submitted and sensitive)
Leaders being sensitive and affording opportunity.