

THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT #2

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.

[Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-13]

REVIEW FROM LESSON 1:

The work of the Spirit in the believer is manifested in two ways:

1. The fruit of the Spirit
2. The gifts of the Spirit.

The spiritual gifts manifest the glory of God that is resident in the church.

They are for the edification of the church. As the church is edified, Christ is glorified.

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.

- They should never be used to establish doctrine.
- They should never be used to replace spiritual leadership in our lives.
- They should never be used to personal agenda or self-promotion.

The gifts of the Spirit will always agree with the written word of God.

We should operate the gifts:

- In love – not self-serving
- In humility – not in self-exaltation
- In faith – not self-consciously
- Decently and in order - not in confusion.
 - The gifts are subject to the control of the user.

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.

They are supernatural in nature and flow from the Spirit of God.

In the church, the supernatural gifts should be normal, not abnormal; expected, not unexpected.

I. PRINCIPLES TO REMEMBER:

1. There is sometimes an overlap among gifts.
2. Paul's list in 1 Corinthians 12 is not an exhaustive list
3. The Gifts of the Spirit should be normal in every church, but not necessarily continual:
4. Make sure you know the difference between revelation, interpretation and application
 - a. Revelation is what God has actually said or showed you.
 - b. Interpretation is what we say God has said or shown us.
 - c. 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.

II. 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.

1. **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.

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

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

3. **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.

We should never assume that we know what God wants us to do with this information when it is revealed. We should seek direction of God on how we should use the information given to us.

III. GIFTS OF POWER:

The Gifts of Power are best defined as visible works that come by the power of God. These help us act in God's power or supernaturally effect specific situations. They often work closely together. For instance, the gift of faith may lead to the working of miracles.

4. **Gift of faith:** It is an extraordinary measure of faith in response to a specific need or situation.

Every believer has faith and all should be faithful, but this gift is specific to a situation, usually a trial.

The gift of faith is the supernatural ability to trust God, or inspire trust in God for a particular need or circumstance.

Example: Acts 27:25 “Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.” This was Paul’s statement when all hope seemed lost during their shipwreck.

The gift of faith may operate even when no miraculous deliverance is forthcoming. Stephen was “full of Faith” according to Acts 6:5 and one can certainly see this in the testimony of his death.

Other ways this gift can manifest:

- Faith in giving or sacrificing
- Faith of missionaries
- Faith to endure persecution or an intense trial.

5. Working of Miracles: The working of miracles refers to specific forms of supernatural intervention transcending the laws of nature and operating through a human vessel.

Examples:

- Phillip is transported supernaturally – Acts 8:39-40;
- Paul raises a young man from the dead – Acts 10:9-12;
- Paul is not harmed by a venomous snake bite – Acts 28:3-6

Paul working miracles: (Acts 19:11-12)

Acts 19:11–12 (KJV 1900)

11 And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul:

12 So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.

Stephen did many miracles: (Acts 6:8)

Acts 6:8 (KJV 1900)

8 And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.

a. Disclaimer:

We should expect the working of miracles, but we should not think that we can live our entire lives by this gift. Even though Philip experienced a miraculous form of transportation that was not the norm for him.

Miracles should never be sought to avoid hard work, good stewardship, and natural consequences.

b. Purpose for Miracles:

Miracles are not intended to simply meet genuine needs, but they are also particularly effective in spreading the gospel.

Acts 9:42 (NKJV)

42 And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord.

Mark 16:20 (KJV 1900)

20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

This is true for miraculous provision, demonstration of the Spirit's power, or for other miracles such as Philip's transportation.

We must guard against the notion that miracles are designed to serve our own comfort or agenda.

6. Gifts of healing: In the broadest sense every believer experiences healing at and after their conversion experience.

This is the only one of the nine gifts mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12 that is plural. These gifts of healing refer to various forms of supernatural cure from illness, disease, or injury.

Example: Acts 3:1-8 where we read about Peter and John healing the lame man at the temple gate.

Or, in Acts 5:14-15 where we read about Peter's shadow touching those in need of healing

Acts 5:14-15 (NKJV)

14 And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women,

15 so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them.

a. Scope of Healing:

The fact that this gift is mentioned in the plural reveals that there are both different conditions that are healed and different ways in which healing takes place.

Healing could include:

- The healing of a Physical condition
- The healing of an Emotional wound or condition

- The healing of a Psychological condition

While God does not always heal, healing is the general will of God. Therefore, we should pray for everyone who is in need of healing.

b. Progressive nature of Healing:

Sometimes healing comes instantaneously and other times it is gradual and progressive.

See the following: Mark 8:22-25 when Jesus touched the blind man once for partial healing and then again for complete healing.

c. Methods of Healing:

Healing is the work of God's Spirit. Techniques and methods simply provide a way to express one's faith. They are not source of healing.

- i. Laying on of hands: (Mark 16:17-18)

Mark 16:17-18 (NKJV)

17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;

18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

- ii. Anointing with Oil: (James 5:14-15)

James 5:14-15 (NKJV)

14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

15 And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

- iii. Sending Handkerchiefs: (Acts 19:12)

Acts 19:12 (NKJV)

12 so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them.

Remember that the gifts operate by love. The methods of operating in a gift will never violate the description of love outlined in 1 Corinthians 13.

Techniques and methods do not produce supernatural results:

(In Acts 19:13 the sons of Sceva tried to use the healing methods of Paul to no avail and in Matthew 17:20-21 we learn of the disciples trying to cast out devils with a method and no prayer life.)

IV. GIFTS OF UTTERANCE:

1. **Prophecy:** Supernatural utterance directly from God in the known language.
 - a. Foretelling – revealing future events or occurrences.
 - b. Forth telling – declaring what God says in the present.

Examples:

- Agabus prophecy concerning the famine: (Acts 11:28)

Acts 11:28 (KJV 1900)

28 And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar.

- Prophecy to Paul concerning his imprisonment: (Acts 21:10-11)

Acts 21:10–11 (KJV 1900)

10 And as we tarried there many days, there came down from Judaea a certain prophet, named Agabus.

11 And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.

SPECIAL NOTE: The recipient of a prophecy must properly apply the prophecy. The Christian's around Paul assumed it was a warning for him NOT to go. But for Paul it was actually a confirmation.

2. **Speaking in Tongues:** These are different kinds of tongues - unknown to speaker (I Corinthians 14:2)

1 Corinthians 14:2 (KJV 1900)

2 For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.

Could be a human or angelic (Acts 2:5-11; I Corinthians 13:1)

Three uses of tongues in Scripture:

- a. **Initial Sign of Holy Spirit Baptism:** (See Acts 2:1-4; 10:44-48; 11:15-17; 19:1-6)

Symbolizes God's control of the whole body (James 3:8)
Sign that follows believers (Mark 16:17)

Contrast Acts 1:15; 2:4; 10; 19 with I Corinthians 14:13, 27-28.

The Acts accounts do not follow the rules of I Corinthians because Acts deals with the initial reception of the Spirit, while I Corinthians deals with the use of tongues in public worship.

b. Personal Devotion

For private edification (See I Corinthians 14:4-5, 14-15, 18)

1 Corinthians 14:4–5 (KJV 1900)

4 He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.

5 I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.

1 Corinthians 14:14–15 (KJV 1900)

14 For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.

15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

1 Corinthians 14:18 (KJV 1900)

18 I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:

Evidentiary value in Christian life? No statement in Scripture, so not a test of a person's ongoing relationship with God.

c. Public Utterance to Be Interpreted

For general edification, when interpreted (See I Corinthians 14:12-13)

1 Corinthians 14:12–13 (KJV 1900)

12 Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.

13 Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret.

Even without interpretation, one can speak to oneself and to God in the congregation.

How does one know the difference between a prompting to speak in tongues for personal devotion and a public utterance? An authoritative anointing

3. Interpretation of Tongues: (See I Corinthians 14:27-28)

Interpret: “to explain the meaning of” or “to translate orally.”

1 Corinthians 14:13 (KJV 1900)

13 Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret.

1 Corinthians 14:27–28 (KJV 1900)

27 If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret.

28 But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.

Not a one-to-one correspondence of words.

Use of human vessels, with their accent, vocabulary, and grammar.

V. GUIDELINES FOR ORDER: (I Corinthians 14:26-40)

1. Public utterance of tongues:

In one meeting, allow two, or at most three, public utterances in tongues (addressing entire audience).

After a public utterance in tongues, wait for an interpretation.

If no interpretation is forthcoming, the speaker should be quiet.

2. Public prophecy:

In one meeting, allow two, or at most three, public prophecies (supernatural utterances in the known tongue to the entire audience). The listeners should evaluate all prophetic utterances. If there is more than one prophecy, the speakers should take turns.

3. Knowing When to Speak:

- a.** Generally, a speaker should wait for a pause in the service give either a prophecy or an utterance in tongues.
- b.** Interrupting speakers would create confusion.
- c.** Service leaders should be sensitive to the spirit and afford opportunity for the gifts to operate when appropriate.

