



The Gifts of the Spirit

“Gift of Prophecy”

August 3, 2016

Introduction – We are continuing our series on the Gifts of the Spirit. The Lord impressed me, that as a Church, He wants us to have a **“Growing in God”** summer. We are to grow in the **Character and Charisma** of **Christ** this summer. The **Character of Christ** is grown in us by **The Fruit of God’s Spirit** and the **Charisma** (divine gratuity, spiritual endowment, free gift or miraculous faculty) is given through us by **The Gifts of His Spirit**.

1 Corinthians 12:1-3, 7-11 – 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** (banned or excommunicated), and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. 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**. NKJV

God said (in the first verse of this chapter), that He did not want us to be ignorant of spiritual gifts. Ignorance comes through a lack of knowledge and if we don't know about these gifts, how will we be able to desire (covet earnestly) and experience these gifts.

1 Corinthians 12:31 - But **earnestly desire the best gifts**. And yet I show you a more excellent way. NKJV

1 Corinthians 14:1 - Pursue love, and **desire spiritual gifts**, but especially that you may prophesy. NKJV

Here the Greek word for **“gifts”** is **“charisma”** and means gifts of grace.

“These nine gifts of the Holy Spirit are manifested through us by the grace of God, as The Holy Spirit wills. These gifts cannot be earned or owned by us. However, the Bible tells us that we are to desire spiritual gifts and grow in the grace of God.”

Tonight we are going to begin studying the first of the three **inspirational** gifts referred to in our text, the Gift of **Prophecy**. Of the three inspirational gifts, the Gift of Prophecy would be greater, because it equals The Gift of **Tongues** and Interpretation of **Tongues**.

The Bible says, “...greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret...” (1 Corinthians 14:5)

I. There are **Nine** Gifts that are divided into **three** categories

A. There are three **revelation** gifts, they **reveal** something

1. Word of **Wisdom**
2. Word of **Knowledge**
3. **Discerning** of Spirits

B. There are three **Power** Gifts, they **do** something

1. Gift of **Faith**
2. Gifts of **Healings**
3. Working of **Miracles**

C. There are three **Vocal** Gifts, they **say** something

1. Gift of **Prophecy**
2. Divers kinds of **Tongues**
3. Interpretation of **Tongues**

II. How are the Gifts of the Spirit are **Distributed**

A. According to the **Will** of God

B. **1 Corinthians 12:11** - But one and the same Spirit works all these things, **distributing to each one individually as He wills.** NKJV

C. To those who earnestly **Desire** them.

D. **1 Corinthians 12:31** - But **earnestly desire the best gifts.** And yet I show you a more excellent way.

III. The Gift of **Prophecy**

A. The Gift of Prophecy is a **supernatural** utterance in a known tongue.

B. Remember, the Gifts of the Spirit are **supernatural**, not natural.

C. **Prophecy** means to flow forth. It also carries with it the thought; to bubble forth like a fountain, to let drop, to lift up, to tumble forth and to spring forth.

D. The Greek word that is translated "**prophecy**," means to speak for another.

E. Prophecy can mean to speak for God or to be His **spokesman.**

1 Corinthians 14:1-5, 39-40 - Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, **but especially that you may prophesy.** 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. 3 **But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.** 4 **He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself**, but **he who prophesies edifies the church.** 5 **I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.**

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. NKJV

IV. The Gift of **Prophecy** vs. the Office of a **Prophet**

- A. The gift of the Spirit called the Gift of **Prophecy** referred to in **I Corinthians 12:10** (...to another prophecy...), is not the same as the fivefold ministry gift of the **Prophet** referred to in Ephesians 4. **Ephesians 4:11** – And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some **prophets**, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, NKJV
- B. The Gift of **Prophecy** mentioned in **I Corinthians 12 10** is for **Edification, Exhortation and Comfort**.
- C. The gift of **Prophecy** carries with it no **revelation** is it used primarily for **inspiration**.
- D. The Office of the **Prophet** carries with it **revelation** or foretelling through the vehicle of **prophecy**.
- E. The office of a **Prophet** normally has at least two of the **revelation** gifts (Word of Wisdom, Word of Knowledge or Discerning of Spirits) operating through their ministry on a consistent basis.
- F. We can all **prophecy** as the Holy Spirit divides that gift of the spirit unto us, but when a **Prophet** is prophesying, it carries with it more **authority** than the spiritual gift of prophecy given through the laity.
- G. The Office of a Prophet in the **Old** Testament is different from the office of a Prophet in the **New** Testament.
- H. In the **Old** Testament **Prophets** when they were prophesying essentially **foretold** things that were to come to the people by God. This was because the Holy Spirit was not yet living within the Born Again believer so; the Holy Spirit would move upon the Prophets to give guidance to the people.
- I. In the New Testament the Office of a **Prophet** when they are prophesying it is essentially **forthtelling**. That is making public or bearing witness to what the Holy Spirit is speaking to their spirit, giving confirmation to a person about what God is leading them to do.

V. The Gift of **Prophecy** is more than **Preaching**

- A. The Spiritual Gift of **Prophecy** isn't **Preaching**, although when a person who is preaching begins to speak things spontaneously from their spirit that they have no knowledge of, that could very well be a the Gift of Prophecy in manifestation.
- B. To **preach** means; to proclaim to announce to cry or to tell. Preaching is declaring the gospel message causing people's hearts to be pricked and faith to come so that they may receive and respond to the gospel.
- C. To **Prophecy** means to Edify, Exhort or Comfort people by the Spirit of God getting their attention.
- D. People are not saved by the foolishness of **Prophecy**, but rather by the foolishness of **Preaching**.
- E. **1 Corinthians 1:21** – “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God **by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe**”. KJV

VI. **New** Testament Example of the Gift of **Prophecy**

A. **Acts 21:8-9** - 8 On the next day we who were Paul's companions departed and came to Caesarea, and entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. 9 Now this man had **four virgin daughters who prophesied**. NKJV

B. Phillips daughters were used by the Holy Spirit to **prophecy**; Edify, Exhort and Comfort those who were at the services held in their dad Phillip the Evangelist's house.

VII. **New Testament Example of a Prophets Ministry**

A. **Acts 21:10-11** - 10 And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. 11 **When he had come to us, he took Paul's belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'"** NKJV

B. The prophetic message received of from the **Prophet** was not to edify, exhort or comfort Paul; this message bore witness to Paul those things that the Head of the Church Jesus Christ had already spoken to him. This prophetic word **confirmed** what the Lord had already directed Paul to do.

VIII. Manifestations of the Holy Spirit in **Corporate** Worship

1 Corinthians 14:26-33 - How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. **Let all things be done for edification.** 27 If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret. 28 But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God. 29 Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge. 30 But if anything is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent. 31 For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged. 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. NKJV

IX. The Holy Spirit Manifests Himself as we **Seek** the Lord

Acts 13:1-4 - Now in the church that was at Antioch there were **certain prophets and teachers**: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 **As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said,** "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." 3 **Then, having fasted and prayed,** and laid hands on them, they sent them away. 4 So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. NKJV

X. **Safeguards** for receiving Prophecies

A. If it does not edify, exhort, comfort you, or the Church, we must **judge** it that it is not from God.

B. If it does not bear witness with your spirit or something the Lord has been dealing with you about, we must **judge** it as well as not being from God.