

GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



www.streetlightministries.net

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1: WHAT ARE THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT? 2

SECTION 2: GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT DEFINED 7

SECTION 3: ACTIVATION 16

SECTION 1: WHAT ARE THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues (1 Cor 12:8-10)

There are nine Gifts of the Holy Spirit, and we'll define each one in Section 2 of this course.

1. Word of wisdom
2. Word of knowledge
3. Faith
4. Gifts of healing
5. Working of miracles
6. Prophecy
7. Discerning of spirits
8. Diverse kinds of tongues
9. Interpretation of tongues

But all these (gifts) worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will (1 Cor 12:11)

The Holy Spirit administers these gifts as He wills.

- They are not our gifts.
- We don't decide when a gift will operate through us.

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good (1 Cor 12:7)

The gifts are meant for good.

Paul, the author of 1 Corinthians, wrote this letter to "...the church of God which is at Corinth..." (1 Cor 1:2)

- These gifts are not just for those in the five-fold offices (see Ephesians 4:11-12), but for the *whole* church

Can we seek these spiritual gifts to be present in our lives?

Yes! But again, we seek the Holy Spirit and desire the gifts, but it's important to remember that they operate as He wills. The Holy Spirit knows best what gifts are needed and when.

Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy (1 Cor 14:1)

Since these are the gifts of the Holy Spirit, there should be examples of these gifts throughout the Bible because the Holy Spirit has always been in existence.

- The gift of tongues and interpretation of tongues, however, were first introduced at Pentecost (see Acts 2) when the believers were baptized in the Holy Spirit.
 - There are no examples of these two gifts exist in the Old Testament
 - This will be discussed more in section 2 of this lesson

The gifts manifest in people who have the Holy Spirit *upon* them.

- Old Testament people had the Holy Spirit come upon them when the Spirit needed to the person to operate in one of the gifts, but then the Holy Spirit would leave once the manifestation was over.

But the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abiezer was gathered after him (Jdg 6:34)

- The Holy Spirit came upon Gideon and gave him supernatural faith to lead Israel to defeat the Midianites

**And the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him (Samson), and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done.
(Jdg 14:6)**

- The Holy Spirit came upon Samson and gave him supernatural power to kill a lion
- New Testament people who are saved have the Holy Spirit in them, but still need the Holy Spirit upon them for manifestation.
- The baptism in the Holy Spirit is what brings the Spirit upon a New Testament believer.
 - The Holy Spirit does NOT leave us when the manifestation is over
 - You and I are New Testament people!

These gifts are for believers as well as for unbelievers.

- For believers, God can use these gifts to direct or redirect the believer's life or reveal important things to them.
 - For example, the Holy Spirit can speak prophecy or a word of wisdom through a person to a believer who is going through a difficult time
 - An angel appeared to Joseph and told him not to put Mary away but instead marry her because they were going to raise Jesus, who would save the world

But while he (Joseph) thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins. (Mat 1:20-21)

- For unbelievers, God can use these gifts to make them believe. There were 2 reasons Jesus performed miracles to unbelievers:

1. To show compassion by meeting a need

**And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up the fragments that remained twelve baskets full.
(Mat 14:19-20)**

- In the above case, Jesus performed the miracle of feeding the 5,000 because the people were hungry and had a need to eat
- If we back up to verse 14, we see that Jesus was moved with compassion and that's what drove Him to perform the miracle

2. To prove He was the Son of God

Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know (Act 2:22)

- This scripture says that Jesus was approved of God by miracles, meaning his accreditation as the Son of God was proven by the fact He performed miracles, signs and wonders

Check on Learning

What are the 9 Gifts of the Holy Spirit?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

SECTION 2: GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT DEFINED

We will now define the 9 Gifts of the Spirit and give examples of each used in scripture. Whether taken from the Old Testament or New, whether it be from Jesus or an "ordinary" person, remember the catalyst behind these gifts is the Holy Spirit. We have the same Holy Spirit in us to do these same gifts!

1. Word of Wisdom

Wisdom: Gr. Sofia (sof-ee'-ah) – higher or lower, worldly or spiritual wisdom.

- Since this is a gift from God through the Holy Spirit we can safely assume this form of wisdom is not earthly but Godly wisdom.
- It is God giving wisdom in a situation where earthly wisdom is not sufficient and supernatural wisdom is needed.
 - Earthly wisdom cannot provide the right answer.
 - It is direction given by God to handle a current or future problem.

Example: read 1 Kings 3:16-27

- Two women were fighting over a baby, both claiming to be the baby's mother.
- Solomon was given Godly wisdom to determine who the real mother was.

And the king (Solomon) said, Bring me a sword. And they brought a sword before the king. And the king said, Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one, and half to the other. (1 Kings 3:24-25)

- From an earthly perspective this would seem like a terrible idea stemming from a true lack of wisdom!

And all Israel heard of the judgment that the king had rendered, and they stood in awe of the king, because they perceived that the wisdom of God was in him to do justice. (1 Kings 3:28)

2. Word of Knowledge

Knowledge: Gr. Gnōsis (Gno'-sis) – knowing (the act), that is, (by implication) knowledge.

- Godly knowledge through the Holy Spirit.
- It is God giving supernatural knowledge of a situation to a person who through the natural could not have known.
 - Earthly knowledge cannot provide the fact(s) in the situation.
 - The fact(s) are given by God to address something in the past or present.

Example: read Acts 9:10-12:

And the Lord said unto him (Ananias), Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold he prayeth, and hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight. (Act 9:11-12)

- Ananias received numerous Word of Knowledge from God:
 - Where to go (street called Straight)
 - Which house to enter (house of Judas)
 - Who to look for (Saul of Tarsus)
 - What Saul was doing (praying)
 - What Saul saw in a vision (a man named Ananias laying hands on him)

- What would happen (Saul would receive his sight)

And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. (Acts 9:18)

- Ananias followed God's direction and Saul received his sight

3. Faith

Faith: Gr. Pistis (Pis'-tis) – persuasion, that is, credence; moral conviction (of religious truth, or the truthfulness of God or a religious teacher), especially reliance upon Christ for salvation; abstractly constancy in such profession; by extension the system of religious (Gospel) truth itself: - assurance, belief, believe, faith, fidelity.

- It is God giving supernatural faith that is above the level of faith a person has pertaining to a certain situation.
 - Faith to do something far above the level of faith that person has.
 - This is difficult to identify because what might be supernatural faith to one person could be within the realm of another's faith.

Example: read 1 Sam 17:20-44:

- Goliath was bigger, stronger and more intimidating than anyone the army of Israel faced.
- David *perhaps* had supernatural faith to face and defeat the giant.

So, David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him (1 Sam 17:50a)

4. Gifts of Healing

Gifts: Gr. Charisma (char'-is-mah) – a (divine) gratuity, that is, deliverance (from danger or passion); (specifically) a (spiritual) endowment, that is, (subjectively) religious qualification, or (objectively) miraculous faculty: - (free) gift

Healing: Gr. Iama (ee'-am-ah) – a cure (the effect): - healing

- It is God giving a person the ability to supernaturally heal another.

All believers are supposed to heal the sick (Luk 4:18-19), but for this gift to exist points to the probability that it doesn't "work" sometimes. For example, maybe someone has a lack of faith or some other block preventing them from receiving healing, but then a person who has the gifts of healings working through them can get past that block.

Sometimes it takes someone with the gift of healing to lay hands on and pray for a sick individual.

"Gifts" is plural so there are multiple types, which could mean either:

- There are multiple ways to do it (Jesus healed people in different ways)
- There is a gift for each type of healing (some people seem to "specialize" in healing a specific issue/disease)

Example: read Acts 28:8:

- Paul laid his hands on Publius' father and healed him.

So when this was done, others also, which had diseases in the island, came, and were healed (Act 28:9)

5. Workings of Miracles

Working: Gr. Energēma (en-erg'-ay-mah) – an effect: - operation, working

Miracles: Gr. Dunamis (doo'-nam-is) – force (literally or figuratively); specifically miraculous power (usually by implication a miracle itself): - ability, abundance, meaning, might (-ily, -y, -y deed), (worker of) miracle (-s), power, strength, violence, mighty (wonderful) work.

- It is God through His Spirit supernaturally defying the laws of nature or physics.

Example: read Exodus 14:21-28:

- The nation of Israel had to get to the other side of the Red Sea to escape the Egyptians.
- The sea was parted and then returned to its normal state.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore. (Exo 14:30)

6. Prophecy

Prophecy: Gr. Prophēteia (prof-ay-ti'-ah) – prediction (scriptural or other): - prophecy, prophesying

- It is God through His Spirit supernaturally declaring the purposes of God; providing edification, exhortation and comfort to the afflicted, or revealing future events.

Example: read Acts 21:10-12:

- Paul needed to be warned not to go to Jerusalem.
- God warned Paul that he would be bound.
- Paul didn't listen and ended up being bound twice (once by religious law and then literally by the Jews).

Then Paul took the men, and the next day purifying himself with them entered into the temple, to signify the accomplishment of the days of purification, until that an offering should be offered for every one of them. (Acts 21:26)

And when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews which were of Asia, when they saw him in the temple, stirred up all the people, and laid hands on him. (Acts 21:27)

7. Discerning of Spirits

Discerning: Gr. Diakrisis (dee-ak'-ree-sis) – judicial estimation: - discern (-ing), disputation.

Spirits: Gr. Pneuma (pnyoo'-mah) – a current of air, that is, breath (blast) or a breeze; by analogy or figuratively a spirit, that is, (human) the rational soul, (by implication) vital principle, mental disposition, etc., or (superhuman) an angel, daemon, or (divine) God, Christ's spirit, the Holy spirit: - ghost, life, spirit (-ual, -ually), mind.

- It is God through His Spirit supernaturally providing insight as to what spirit (good or evil) is behind an action, event or person.

Example: read Luke 9:51-54:

- The disciples wanted to call down fire from heaven to consume the Samaritans.
- Jesus saw that it wasn't the Spirit of God speaking through them.

But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village. (Luk 9:55-56)

8. Diverse Kinds of Tongues

Divers kinds: Gr. Genos (ghen'-os) – "kin" (abstractly or concretely, literally or figuratively, individually or collectively): - born, country (-man), diversity, generation, kind(-red), nation, offspring, stock.

Tongues: Gr. Glōssa (gloce'sah) – Of uncertain affinity; the tongue; by implication a language (specifically one unacquired): -tongue

- It is God through His Spirit supernaturally speaking through a person in a language that person does not know or understand.

Includes corporate tongues and prayer language.

- Corporate tongues, or speaking in tongues, is where God speaks through a person in a language the person doesn't speak but the language exists on earth
 - An example would be a person who speaks English and no other languages standing up and speaking in Mandarin Chinese to the congregation
 - Imagine the impact this would have on a Chinese person if they were present to hear their language spoken through this person!
- Praying in tongues is to edify and build up one's own holy faith

But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost (Jude 20)

Example: read Acts 2:1-12:

- Holy Spirit fell upon the disciples in the upper room and they began to speak in tongues.
- Opened the door for many to believe and be saved.

**Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.
(Acts 2:41)**

9. Interpretation of Tongues

Interpretation: Gr. Hermēneia (her-may-ni'-ah) – translation: - interpretation.

Tongues: Gr. Glōssa (gloce'sah) – Of uncertain affinity; the tongue; by implication a language (specifically one unacquired): -tongue

- It is God through His Spirit supernaturally giving someone an interpretation of a tongue that was spoken, either by that person or another.
- All unknown languages (earthly and heavenly) can be interpreted. In fact, tongues shared in a corporate setting *must be interpreted*.

Example: read Acts 2:1-12 again:

- The disciples spoke in languages they didn't know.
- Everyone who heard them from the various places listed all received the tongues in their own language.

**And how hear we every man in our own tongue,
wherin we were born? Parthians, and Medes, and
Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in
Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia,
Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts
of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome,
Jews and proselytes, Cretes and Arabians, we do
hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful
works of God. (Acts 2:8-11)**

Check on Learning

1. *List the 9 gifts of the Holy Spirit, and in your own words, give a brief definition of each.*

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

f.

g.

h.

i.

SECTION 3: ACTIVATION

Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy (1 Cor 14:1)

Paul's statement in this verse is a direction to the Body of Christ!

The word "desire" means:

- Affect, covet (earnestly), (have) desire, (move with) envy, be jealous over, (be) zealous (-y affect). – Strong's
- To burn with zeal, in a good sense, to be zealous in the pursuit of good, to desire earnestly, pursue – Thayer's

How do I do that?

- Pursue God's Spirit in prayer.
- Practice it.
 - Ask God for these gifts to operate through you.
 - When you think He's wanting to manifest a gift through you, be bold and do what He says!

Prayer:

Father, I sincerely desire these gifts of Your Spirit to operate in and through me, to reach those around me in need, to ultimately glorify Jesus. I declare that I will boldly step out in faith when Your Spirit stirs me to manifest any of these gifts. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen!