

# GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

## 1. WHAT ARE THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT?

The gifts of the Spirit are supernatural enablements which are distributed freely by the Holy Spirit to every member of the body according to His will.

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. And there are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all person. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

**I Corinthians 12:4-7, 11**

NOTE: These gifts, by the very definition of the original Greek word, *Charismata* meaning "gifts of grace", are distributed to the members of the body solely at the discretion of the Holy Spirit. **THEY ARE NOT GIVEN ON THE BASIS OF MERIT ALONE, NOR DOES A CHRISTIAN HAVE TO HAVE ARRIVED AT ANY PARTICULAR LEVEL OF MATURITY OR HOLINESS IN ORDER TO HAVE A GIFT OF THE SPIRIT MANIFESTED THROUGH HIM.** Perhaps the best example of this may be found in Paul's writings to the church at Corinth. Paul wrote concerning them that they "that in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge, ... so that you are not lacking in any gift..." **I Cor. 1:5,7.** Yet they were carnal, having allowed divisions (**1:10**), immorality (**5:1-13**), problems concerning marriage and divorce (**7:1-40**), and especially improper usage and regulation of the spiritual gifts themselves (**I Cor. 12, 13, 14**).

IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT ALTHOUGH THESE GIFTS ARE GIVEN TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BODY, THEIR POWER IS DERIVED FROM, AND DEPENDENT UPON, THE HOLY SPIRIT. A believer having the gift of prophecy, for instance, can only prophesy when the Holy Spirit moves within him, inspiring him to speak. The same principle applies to the gift of faith, healing, etc.

The Holy Spirit is gentle, never forcing the gifts upon us nor compelling us to manifest them. For this reason, we must earnestly seek the gifts of the Spirit and be careful not to neglect them once we do receive them (**I Timothy 4:14 & I Timothy 1:6**). Many of the questions that we may have concerning the operation of the gifts will be answered by the Spirit, Himself, as we step out in faith, claiming that which He has given us.

Please read the scriptures referenced in the above paragraph.

## 2. HOW MANY GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT ARE THERE?

There are many gifts and enablings given to us by the Holy Spirit. However, those which are usually referred to as "the gifts of the Holy Spirit" are nine in number and are as follows:

- A. **Three gifts of revelation**: word of wisdom; word of knowledge; and the discerning of spirits.
- B. **Three gifts of power**: faith; healing; and miracles.
- C. **Three gifts of utterance**: prophecy; tongues; and interpretation of tongues.

"For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues." **I Corinthians 12:8-10**

Please read these scriptures:

**Ephesians 4:8-12**

**Romans 12:4-8**

**I Corinthians 12:28**

## 3. WHAT SHOULD BE OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT?

- A. We should be knowledgeable about the gifts of God.  
"Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware." **I Corinthians 12:1**
- B. We are to give attention and be responsive to the gifts of God.  
"Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed upon you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery."  
**I Timothy 4:14**
- C. We must stir up the spiritual gift within us.  
"And for this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.." **II Timothy 1:6**

## 4. SHOULD WE DESIRE THESE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Yes, we are to earnestly (fervently) desire the gifts of the Spirit to operate in our lives.

"But earnestly desire the greater gifts."

**I Corinthians 12:31**

"Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophecy." **I Corinthians 14:1**

**5. WHAT ARE THE PURPOSES AND THE VALUE OF THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?**

- A. The gifts are given to build up and to establish the Body of Christ.  
"For I long to see you in order that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established."  
**Romans 1:11**
- B. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are given for the edifying, exhorting and the comforting of the Body of Christ.  
"But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation.." **I Corinthians 14:3**
- C. The gifts of the Spirit are given by God to meet the spiritual, physical and emotional needs of the Body of Christ.  
"But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." **I Corinthians 12:7**
- D. The gifts of the Spirit are given to assist in evangelizing the world. It is not through the use of gimmick or gadgets, but through the signs following which are to be manifested through the gifts of the Spirit.  
"And He said unto them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it shall not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.'" **Mark 16:15-18**
- E. The gifts of the Spirit are given for the perfecting of the church. It is closely related to the edifying of the Body of Christ and is God's eternal purpose of perfecting the church.  
"Therefore it says, 'When He ascended on high, He led captive a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men.' ... For the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ. **Ephesians 4:8,12**
- F. We can receive direction and instruction from God concerning a matter through the use of the gifts.  
"And after looking up the disciples, we stayed there seven days; and they kept telling Paul through the Spirit not to set foot in Jerusalem." **Acts 21:4**  
  
"And as we were staying there for some days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. And coming to us, he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands, and said, " 'This is what the Holy Spirit says: " 'In this way the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man

who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.' " **Acts 21:10-11**

**6. CAN ANY ONE BELIEVER HAVE ALL NINE OF THE GIFTS OPERATING THROUGH HIM?**

A. God is the Sovereign Giver and can cause one or more believers to be a vessel for one or all of the gifts of the Spirit as He wills, and when He calls. The distributing of the gifts is generally proportioned throughout the body according to maturity, desire and personality.

"And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. And there are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all person. But to each one if given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." **I Corinthians 12:5-7**

B. Often, one believer will be used as a vessel for one gift more consistently than for the other gifts. We must revere the truth people do not have or possess the gifts of God, but that God the Holy Spirit has and possesses the gifts and people are used as vessels.

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. ... But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills." **I Corinthians 12:4,11**

C. It is in love and respect of God that we accept the scriptural revelation that no man is complete in himself.

**I Cor. 12:4** (see above Scripture)

**7. ARE THESE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT TO BE ACTIVE IN THE CHURCH TODAY?**

Yes! There is no scriptural reason to believe these gifts ever closed. Some have tried to use I Corinthians 13:8-10 to say these have ceased. But read it in context. It is so obvious that this is speaking of some future time. If question 5C in this lesson is to be believed, it is obvious why we need the gifts of the Spirit in our services.

**8. WHICH OF THE NINE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT AND WHICH IS THE LEAST IMPORTANT?**

There is no more important or less important gift according to the scriptures. The best gift is that which is needed at that moment.

"But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way." **I Corinthians 12:31**

**9. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT AND THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT?**

The gifts of the Spirit are for a particular purpose in the Body of Christ. They can only come forth as the Spirit directs. The fruit of the Spirit is a natural outgrowth of our living and walking in the Spirit. These should be daily expressed in and through our lives.

"But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit."

**Galatians 5:22-23,25**

**10. HOW MAY THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BEGIN TO OPERATE IN A LIFE?**

A. A manifestation of the Spirit may become evident following the receiving of the baptism of the Spirit.

"And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying." **Acts 19:6**

B. Gifts of the Holy Spirit may be imparted by the laying on of hands of the presbytery when accompanied by prophecy.

"Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed upon you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery."

**I Timothy 4:14**

C. Spiritual gifts are given as an answer to fervent prayer.

"But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way." **I Corinthians 12:31**

D. The gifts of the Spirit may be received as the Spirit of God will it.

**Hebrews 2:4**

**Please read I Corinthians chapters 12, 13 14**

**WHAT ARE THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?**

These gifts are manifestations of the Spirit who dwells within the believer. **1 Cor. 12:7**

These gifts are supernatural in character and are not an extension or refinement of natural abilities or powers. These gifts are distributed at the direction of the Holy Spirit to meet specific needs at specific time. **vs.11**

## **WHAT IS OUR PART RELATIVE TO THE GIFTS?**

We must be totally yielded to the Lord. **Rom. 6:1-2, 13**

We should desire to be used in this realm. **1 Corin. 14:1;12:31**

We should learn all we can about the gifts. **1 Corin. 12:1;**

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest." **Hosea 4:6**

We should pray to be used in the gifts. **1 Corin. 14:3; Matt. 7:11**

We should maintain faith and dispel unbelief. **Rom. 12:6;**

"And He could do no miracle there except that He laid His hands upon a few sick people and healed them. And He wondered at their unbelief. And He was going around the villages teaching." **Mark 6:5-6**

We should not neglect, but stir up the gifts. **1 Tim. 4:14; 2 Tim. 1:6**

## **WHAT ARE SOME MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT?**

Some people feel the manifestations are indications of God's approval on a individual or assembly. This is incorrect. Gifts are not earned or deserved. God gives gifts to meet the needs of His people and they can be misused and abused by man.

""Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles? And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'" **Matt. 7:21-23**

Some people feel that the gifts of the Spirit are an indication of spiritual maturity. This is incorrect.

“But, these signs should follow those who believe.” **Mark 16:17**

## **THE GIFTS ANALYZED**

## GIFTS OF REVELATION

1. **Word of Knowledge** a fragment of God's knowledge imparted to meet man's need. This is not knowledge that can be acquired by intellectual effort. It is miraculously given.

### **Purpose:**

- a. to reveal a person's identity; **1 Kings 14:1-6**
- b. to help overcome doubt in a prejudiced mind.  
**Acts 10:19,20,34**
- c. to reveal a person's need and give direction in meeting that need.  
**Acts 9:10-17**
- d. to reveal a person's need of Christ. **John 4:15-19, 29**
- e. to reveal corruption in the church. **Acts 5:3-11**
- f. to reveal the whereabouts of a lost item or a person in hiding.  
**I Sam. 9:20 10:22**
- g. to reveal the plans of an enemy. **2 Kings 6:9-12**

2. **Word of Wisdom** is a supernatural revelation of Divine purpose concerning people, things or events looking into the future. The Word of Knowledge concerns past happenings, things existing, or events taking place in the present. The two often overlap.

### **Purpose:**

- a. to forewarn a prophet of God concerning the events of the next day.  
**1 Sam. 9:15-17**
- b. to enlighten His servant concerning coming judgments.  
**1 Sam. 3:11-15**
- c. to warn of future peril.
  - \* Noah warned of coming flood. **Gen 6:13-22**
  - \* Lot warned of destruction of Sodom. **Gen. 19:12,13**
  - \* Mary and Joseph warned in dream of coming peril. **Mt. 2:20**
- d. to make known God's purpose to those He is going to use.  
**Gen. 41:16,18,20**
- e. to reveal His plan and purpose concerning those He calls.  
**Acts 26:16-19; Ex. 3:9-12**
- f. to bring assurance of future deliverance. **Acts 27:22-34**

3. **Discerning of spirits** is the gift by which we may know the kind of spirit is motivating any supernatural manifestation. There are three sources of spiritual manifestations: Divine (supernatural) **John 4:24**, Satanic (supernatural) **1 Tim. 4:1-3**, and human (not supernatural) **1 Thess. 5:23**.

Discernment is not an enabling to discover faults in people. It is not the ability to know a person's thoughts.

**Purpose:**

- a. to discern the source of violent, insane behavior. **Luke 8:26-30**
- b. to ascertain the difference between demon possession and lunacy.  
**Mt. 4:24**
- c. to discern the source of an utterance and thereby reveal a false prophet. **Acts 16:16-19**
- d. to reveal the source of sickness and infirmity.  
**Mt. 12:22; Luke 13:11-13**
- e. to discover seducing and lying spirits and thereby stop error and false doctrine. **1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Pet. 2:1**
- f. to reveal the true source of miracles, signs, and wonders.  
**2 Thess. 2:9; Rev. 16:14; Mt. 24:24**

**GIFTS OF UTTERANCE**

4. **Prophecy** is forth telling and at times fore telling in the language of the speaker.

**Purpose:**

- a. for God to speak unto men. **1 Cor. 14:3**
- b. to exhort, comfort, and edify the church. **1 Cor. 14:3-4**
- c. that believers may learn. **1 Cor. 14:31**
- d. to bring conviction and make manifest the secrets of men's hearts.  
**1 Cor. 14:24, 25**
- e. to announce future events. **Acts 11:27-30**
- f. for imparting a ministry. **1 Tim. 4:14**
- g. it is not for guidance but for confirmation.
- h. it is subject to the written Word. **2 Pet. 1:16-21**

5. **Various Kinds of Tongues** a vocal miracle in an unknown tongue not understood by the mind of the speaker.

**Purpose:**

- a. a sign to unbelievers. **1 Cor. 14:21-22**
- b. must always be followed by an interpretation

6. **Interpretation of Tongues** is not a translation but an interpretation to explain the meaning of an utterance in tongues. Tongues when combined with interpretation is equal to prophecy.

**Purpose:**

- a. for edification. **1 Cor. 14:6**
- b. for understanding. **1 Cor. 14:6**
- c. for participation of the hearers. **1 Cor. 14:14-17**

**GIFTS OF POWER**

7. **Miracles** the working of miracles is possible because of supernatural intervention in the ordinary course of nature.

**Purpose:**

- a. to make a way of escape for God's people where there is no way.  
**Ex. 14:16**
- b. recovering a lost item. **2 Kings 6:1-7**
- c. to provide for those in need. **Mk. 6:39-44; Ex. 17:1-6;**  
**Ps. 78:19-20; 1 Kings 17:1-16**
- d. to aid in conquering the enemy. **Joshua 6:20**
- e. to bring forth judgment. **Ex. 4:2; 6:6; 7:17-20; 8:5**
- f. for mastery over the elements. **Mt. 14:25-29**
- g. to show forth His glory. **John 2:11**
- h. to convince men of the truth. **Acts 13:6-12**

8. **Gifts of Healing** is a supernatural healing of diseases. There is unconditional healing (**Mt. 8:1-7**), conditional healing (**John 9:7; 2 Kings 5:1-14**), and progressive healing (**John 4:52; Mk. 8:22-25**).

**Purpose:**

- a. to bring deliverance to the sick and oppressed. **Acts 10:38;**  
**Mt. 4:24**
- b. to draw people within the hearing of the Word. **John 6:2;**  
**Luke 5:15**
- c. to convince people that Jesus has the power to forgive sins.  
**Luke 5:24; John 10:36-38**
- d. to confirm the Word that is preached. **Mk. 16:20; Acts 8:6-7**
- e. to establish the fact that Jesus is alive. **Acts 3:15-16; 4:29-33**
- f. that men might magnify the Lord. **Luke 5:26; Mk. 2:12**

9. **Faith** is the supernatural impartation of Divine faith. It is distinct from faith for salvation (**Eph. 2:8**) and from faith as the fruit of the Spirit (**Gal. 5:22**). Faith as a gift is for power both actively (**Joshua 6:1-5**) and passively (**Dan. 6:16-23**).

**Purpose:**

- a. for Divine preparation. **Gen. 6:13-22; Heb. 11:7**
- b. for Divine protection. **Dan. 6:17-23; Mk. 16:18; Acts 28:5**
- c. for Divine provision. **2 Kings 4:1-7; 1 Kings 17:1-16**
- d. for victory over the enemy. **Heb. 11:30, 33**
- e. for believing and receiving what God promises. **Heb. 11:8-11;**  
**Gen. 12:1-2; Rom. 4:20**