

The Gifts of the Spirit

1st Corinthians 12:1-11: “Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant. 2: Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led. 3: Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. 4: Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5: And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. 6: And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. 7: But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. 8: For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; 9: To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; 10: 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: 11: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.”

This above chapter talks about the nine gifts of the spirit, which are all given by God. I believe that these gifts are given to people to help the church grow and to bring the lost to Christ. After we obey the plan of salvation and are filled with the gift of the Holy Ghost, we can strive towards obtaining these other nine gifts. However, it is important to note that God will only allow you to use these gifts when it is needed. I do not believe that gifts should be used for self glorification. These gifts are for the edification of the church and for sinners to realize that there is a God. The nine gifts are as noted below. I will explain each gift in detail. Prior to explaining these gifts I want to let you know that if you desire any of the gifts listed you can have it. Paul said, *“Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts...”* Reference *1st Corinthians 14:1*. The best way to get any of these gifts is to seek God by praying, fasting and reading the Word of the Lord.

1. The word of wisdom

The word of wisdom is the ability to provide advice to someone in particular situations, which will help them. It is also the ability of understanding and explaining the various

issues in the Bible. For instance, if you have a meeting with a sinner who starts asking you complicated question about the Godhead or perhaps an issue which can become in-depth; God will provide you with words of wisdom on how to respond without causing any confusion. It is in my opinion that this gift can be used to help sinners or saints.

2. The word of knowledge

Knowledge is something that is obtained in the natural realm; however there is also spiritual knowledge, which in the Bible is referred to as the word of knowledge. The word of knowledge is simply knowing things about certain situations that only God Himself can reveal. For instance, when Paul rebuked the woman with the spirit of divination; not only did he discern the spirit, but he also was given that knowledge by God to know the facts about this woman. The same can be said about Peter when he rebuked Ananias and Sapphira.

3. The gift of faith

According to the Bible every man is given a measure of faith. *Reference Romans 12:2*. In addition the Bible says that if a person has faith the size of a mustard seed that they can say to a mountain “*be removed*” and it will happen. *Reference Matthew 17:20*. It is amazing to note that everyone has faith. Faith is at work even when we do not realize it. The gift of faith is just a higher dimension of the measure of faith and mustard seed faith. I believe that the person with the gift of faith can be in a situation where there is no hope, yet because of faith God will do something great. Here is an example of the gift of faith at work. There was a man who had no food. He asked his wife to boil some water. He asked his family to sit down. He then told them there were going to bless the food that they were about to receive. As soon as he finished praying someone started knocking at the door. To his surprise it was some church members with food. This indeed was the gift of faith at work.

4. The gifts of healing

I do not believe I need to give a big explanation for this gift; therefore I'll keep it simple. The person with this gift specializes in praying for those who are sick. However, the person with this gift must realize that if a person does not believe then there cannot be a

healing. Also note the person who is praying for the sick person must also have faith in God.

5. The working of miracles

Again I'll keep this short as I do not believe I need to give a big explanation. This is similar to the gift of healing. The only difference is that the working of miracles has many avenues, whereas the gift of healings only has one avenue.

6. The gift of prophecy

This gift simply means foretelling things to come that have yet to happen.

7. Discerning of spirits

In the book of *Acts 16* it talks about a woman who goes around calling Paul and Silas men of God. The Bible said she had a spirit of divination. She did this for several days. What she was saying was in fact the truth, however Paul was grieved in his spirit and he rebuked her. Why did he rebuke her? Because, he discerned that she had a spirit of divination. The gift of discerning of spirits is when a child of God discerns an evil spirit either in someone or in the atmosphere. I believe that this is one of the most important gifts to have. We as the children of God need to realize that there are evil spirits in people and in the atmosphere. When we are made aware of this we need to use the power of God that is within us and rebuke any evil spirits that may be present. All we need to do is speak the name of Jesus just as Paul did. It is also important to realize that you cannot discern an evil spirit if you have no prayer life. One has to be full of the Holy Ghost and have power in order to be able to discern and rebuke an evil spirit.

8. Divers kinds of tongues

There are three purposes for tongues. Firstly, for personal prayer. Secondly, it is an indication that one has obeyed the gospel plan. Thirdly, it is used for the edification of the church.

9. Interpretation of tongues

There is some insight given in the Bible about tongues and about interpretation of tongues. This is clearly explained in the Word of the Lord. In *1st Corinthians 14* it notes that when a person prays in tongues that they are praying unto God and that no one understands. However, if prophesying, in other words if giving an interpretation people will understand. Why is this done? According to the Bible it is done to edify, exhort and to comfort. Those who talk in tongues are edifying themselves, but those that interpret edify the church. So, when there is an interpretation of tongues this is how it should be done according to the Bible. There should be two people or three at the most that talk in tongues and one person to interpret the message. This gift is used to help the church. It can be used to rebuke the church or it can be used to encourage the church. If you desire this gift seek God by praying and fasting.

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