

The Gifts of the Spirit



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“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God,
a worker who does not need to be ashamed,
rightly dividing the word of truth.”

2 Timothy 2:15

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“Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed.” 1 Corinthians 12:1

INTRODUCTION

Peter, in 2 Peter 1, reminds us that everything we need for life and godliness has been given to us by God’s divine power. He continues that even though all has been given as a gift, we have a responsibility to grow in wisdom and character in order that we would not be ineffective and unproductive as we walk our spiritual lives. The most important gift we have received is the Holy Spirit and therefore we have the ability to operate in the gifts of the Spirit that Paul identifies in 1 Corinthians 12.

As we grow in wisdom and knowledge, we can rightly divide the Word of Truth, and not be undone by our enemies schemes. One of our enemies primary tactics is fear.

There is no force in all the world whose presence is to be so deplored as fear. Fear is destructive. Fear breeds suspicion, jealousy and hatred. It is fear which sets men (and nations) at conflict. It is fear that has kept the world at war, and has hindered progress through the years.

In the spiritual realm, fear is our greatest foe, Satan's most formidable weapon. It is the FEAR OF DEATH that keeps the unsaved in bondage. Hebrews 2:15
It is the FEAR OF MAN that brings a snare; (or in other words, that hinders a Christian in his life or service unto his Lord). Proverbs 29:25
It is fear that keeps many of God's people from going on in their Christian experience into the realm of the Spirit.

The BASIS OF ALL FEAR is IGNORANCE. If the unsaved were not ignorant of the existence and plan of Salvation, if they understood the significance and the reality of the new birth, their fear of death would vanish away, they would accept Jesus Christ, they would be saved from their sins. When we receive enlightenment on the things of the Spirit, our Fear of the supernatural will disappear and it will be replaced by Faith; faith in the things of God, faith in Christ Himself, and in the things which pertain to the furthering of His Gospel.

Nothing is more apparent than the fact that God desires His people to understand the things which belong to their peace. He would not have us to be ignorant. In the beginning He said: “Let there be light”, and there was light. Genesis 1:3
Isaiah encourages us to walk in that light. Isaiah 2:5
Jesus said we were to be as wise as serpents. Matthew 10:16
Paul would have us “wise to do that which is good”. Romans 16:19
James said that if any man lack wisdom let him ask of God “who gives generously to all without finding fault”. James 1:5

God does not want us walking in darkness. His Word is a lamp for our feet and a light on our path. Psalms 119:105
His Word sheds light and understanding upon every phase of Christian experience. He makes the way of salvation so plain that the wayfaring man, though a fool, shall not go astray. Isaiah 35:8

He does not leave us in the dark concerning them which sleep in Jesus Christ.

I Thessalonians 4:13-18

We are not left in ignorance as to the devices of Satan. 2 Corinthians 2:11

It is made very clear by our text that we are to have a concise and proper conception of spiritual gifts also.

I Corinthians 12:1

The Gifts of the Spirit are not new.

The gift of prophecy was in operation in the life and ministry of Enoch, the seventh from Adam.

Jude 14

The record of its use down through the four thousand years before Christ includes such well known Bible characters as:

- Isaac, blessing his sons before his death Genesis 27:27-29, 39-40
- Jacob blessing his grandsons. Genesis 48
- and later his sons. Genesis 49
- Joseph's prophesy regarding the deliverance of Israel from Egypt. Genesis 50:24
- Baalam likewise prophesying regarding Israel. Numbers 22, 23, 24
- Saul on his way to Gilgal. I Samuel 10-11

Also major and minor prophets whose prophetic utterances comprise so much of our scriptures.

The Gift of the Word of Knowledge is seen in operation in the

ministry of Joseph.

Genesis 41:25-32

and that of Daniel.

Daniel 2:1-45

Samuel also, who was called "the Seer".

I Samuel 8, 9, 10

Elisha's ministry would have been impossible without it.

2 Kings 5, 6

The Gift of the Word of Wisdom is referred to as in evidence

in the ministry of Joshua.

Deuteronomy 34:9

Joseph saved Egypt in time of famine by its operation.

Genesis 41:33-39

Solomon very manifestly possessed this gift.

I Kings 3:26-28

The Gift of healing was evidently present in the ministry of many of the priests and prophets of the Old Testament days.

The Gift of the performing of Miracles was a mighty weapon in the hands of Moses to the liberating of the people of God; and in the hands of Elijah and Elisha to the confounding of the enemies of the Lord. Our forefathers in the faith accomplished tremendous feats by the operation of the Gift of Faith.

Hebrews 11

However, the Gifts of the Spirit in operation in their fullness were to be the earmarks of the Dispensation of Grace, and to this both the Old and New Testaments agree.

Isaiah 61:1-2,

Mark 16:15-18

It is worth taking note of the fact that when Jesus commenced His Ministry, He first read from Isaiah's prophecy

Isaiah 35:4-8

as it is recorded in.

Luke 4:14-22

I Corinthians 12:8-10 identifies nine gifts of the Spirit.

They divide, by their very nature, into three groups of three, and are listed below under their respective headings.

NOTE: These headings are suggested by the various characteristics of the gifts and, as titles, are used commonly to designate the groups.

UTTERANCE GIFTS

The gift of tongues.

The gift of interpretation of tongues.

The gift of prophesy.

REVELATION or INSTRUCTIONAL GIFTS

The gift of the word of knowledge.

The gift of the word of wisdom.

The gift of the discerning of spirits.

POWER or IMPARTATION GIFTS

The gift of faith.

The gift of healing.

The gift of the performing of miracles.

The gift of tongues is the God-given ability to speak in languages that you do not understand, and to speak at your own will. The gift of the interpretation of tongues is the God-given ability to bring forth in the language of your understanding the sum and substance of what has been spoken in another or unknown tongue. The gift of prophesy, the product of the operation of which constitutes the testimony of Jesus, is the God-given ability to bring forth in your own language a message from God to the people that is always unto edification, exhortation and comfort. These three are referred to as utterance gifts because that is their mode of operation. Also referred to as worship gifts as they are principally used in the worship of God. Commonly called inspirational as their use inspires both the user and they that hear.

The gift of the word of knowledge is the God-given ability to receive from God a word of knowledge, which constitutes a revelation of facts concerning something, anything, about which it is humanly impossible for you to know anything at all. The gift of the word of wisdom is the God-given ability to receive from God a word of wisdom, this being a revelation of what to do about a situation once you know the facts concerning the case. The gift of the discerning of spirits is the God-given ability to detect the presence and ascertain the identity of spirits. This also is accomplished by revelation received from God. Therefore, these gifts are referred to as revelation gifts. They are also called instructional gifts, this being because by their use the child of God is instructed in spiritual warfare.

The gift of faith is the God-given ability to not only believe for the fantastically impossible to come to pass, but also to pass on, i.e. impart and inspire faith in the hearts of others. The gift of healing is the God-given ability to impart the healing virtue

of Christ to those who believe, providing they are in a position to receive.

NOTE: The Scriptures refer to gifts of healings. Some interpret this as: One has a gift to heal one manner of sickness and another the ability to heal another type. This, of course, is an error. Please remember that every healing is something received from God. Therefore, every healing constitutes a gift, and for this reason the scripture refers to gifts of healings. The gift of the performing of miracles is the God-given ability to perform miracles; i.e. - acts that are contrary to or beyond the realm of the laws of nature. These are called Power gifts because they operate by the effectual working of that power which is in us, i.e. - the power of God. They are referred to as impartation gifts because by their operation you impart something to others, as for example, when you impart the healing virtue of Christ, (or in other words, when you exercise the gift of healing), something goes out of you.

Before we go one step further we would have you to understand fully the significance of the term GIFT as it is used here, with reference to these manifestations of the Power of God.

The gift is the God-given ability to perform the Act. I Peter 4:10-11
The Act, is each gift, differing. I Corinthians 12:4-6
For instance, in the gift of tongues, the gift being the God-given ability to speak in tongues at your own will, the act being the speaking in tongues. This same principle applies to any of the gifts.

With all these thoughts in mind let us begin our study on the Gifts of the Spirit, knowing we are in the will of God in so doing for He Himself said, "Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed " I Corinthians 12:1

The Gift of Tongues

Notes

Lesson 1

What it is not:

The gift of tongues is not linguistic ability.

It is entirely supernatural in its operation.

I Corinthians 12:11

It is not the comprehension of language.

I Corinthians 14:2

It is not the ability to yell, scream or make hideous noises.

It is not THE evidence of having received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

The latter is evidenced by speaking in other tongues, as the Spirit gives you utterance.

Acts 2:4, 19:6, 10:44-46

What the gift of tongues is:

The gift of tongues is the God-given ability to speak in other tongues at will.

I Corinthians 12:10

That it is at your will is made evident by the rules and regulations in God's word regarding its use. Nothing has brought more shame on the church of Jesus Christ than the abuse of this gift. Many of these offenses being committed in ignorance. Please remember that our Father would not have us ignorant concerning these things.

I Corinthians 12:1

When we say that you speak with "other tongues", we mean that you speak with tongues (languages) that you do not comprehend. Any language that you do not understand is "another tongue" to you.

This is made very plain in the following reference wherein the tongue spoken is referred to as "unknown".

I Corinthians 14:2,4,13,14,19,27

This simply means that your understanding does not grasp the significance of the sounds that you utter.

I Corinthians 14:2, 14

Paul spoke with tongues a great deal, but he did not understand what he spoke.

I Corinthians 14:18

I Corinthians 14:19

This does away with the so-called gift of languages as taught by some as special preparation for missionary service.

Paul was the greatest of missionaries, yet the references make it plain that the "other tongues" he spoke were foreign to him and that he did not understand one word of what he uttered at such times. By natural linguistic ability, Paul spoke Greek.

Acts 21:37-39

He also spoke Hebrew.

Acts 21:40

This latter is not surprising since he was a Hebrew, nevertheless, it was not the common language of the Hebrews of his day, but was reserved for the Temple Worship. Hebrew and Greek were not "other tongues" to Paul.

What the gift of tongues is for

Firstly, it is for the express purpose of TALKING TO GOD. I Corinthians 14:2
 This is referred to by Paul as “your spirit praying”. I Corinthians 14:14
 Your understanding remaining unfruitful. I Corinthians 14:6,19
 The purpose behind this being to the end that you might edify,
build up yourself. I Corinthians 14:4
 This gift, incidentally, is the only one whereby you may do this.
 This, Jude calls “Building up yourself on your most holy faith.” Jude 20
 How it produces this result in us is largely by causing us to exercise
 faith. It requires a deliberate act of faith to speak in tongues unto God.
 However, there is a deeper significance.

We are told that, when speaking to God in tongues, we are
 speaking IN THE SPIRIT. I Corinthians 14:2
 Paul says, “My spirit prayeth”. I Corinthians 14:14
 He declares, in effect, that this is speaking (or singing) with
 the spirit, his Spirit. I Corinthians 14:15
 He states that when you give thanks in the spirit, you give
 thanks well. I Corinthians 14:16-17
 He makes it very clear, however, that anyone else present does
 not understand you. He also makes it very plain that it is YOUR
 spirit that is praying. I Corinthians 14:14
 In other words, he proves that speaking in tongues to God is
 praying in or with the spirit; your spirit. I Corinthians 14:2
 He says we have received the Spirit of adoption whereby we cry,
 “Abba,Father”, Romans 8:15
 and reminds us that the Spirit bears witness with our spirit. Romans 8:16
 We, who have received the Spirit, groan within ourselves. Romans 8:23
 The Spirit likewise helps us. Romans 8:26
 Making intercession for us. Romans 8:26
 This intercession is always according to the will of God. Romans 8:27
 The speaking in tongues unto God strengthens you with might by
 His Spirit in your inner man. Ephesians 3:16
 The inner man is the new man or new creature. 2 Corinthians 5:17
 The natural man, you see, can pray out of the will of God. It is possible for our
 understanding to clutter up the way. When we pray in tongues we pray
 according to the will of God, our understanding being laid temporarily to one side.

Many people wait for the urge of the spirit to speak in tongues. This is not
 right, especially in connection with your speaking TO God. This has to do with
 speaking FOR God, which we deal with next. Please remember that you can
 deliberately speak to God in tongues anytime, once you have received the GIFT
 OF TONGUES. It is given for this express purpose, that you may edify, build up,
 yourself. I Corinthians 14:4

Secondly, the gift of tongues is for the purpose of bringing messages
from God to the people. Acts 2:11

This is not fruitful and prohibited (unless there is interpretation) after the second , or at
 the most, third attempt. 1 Corinthians 14:27,28

Here again many make the same error as in speaking to God; they wait for an urge, they expect the Lord to force them to bring a message. While it is true that without the inspiration of the Almighty, a message in tongues lacks flavor; please remember that the inspiration is within you. If you will launch out in faith, commence to speak that message with tongues, the inspiration will be there. It is still you who does the speaking, and that at your will.

I Corinthians 14:2

Note the following references:

He that speaks in an unknown tongue.

I Corinthians 14:2

He that speaks in an unknown tongue edifies himself.

I Corinthians 14:4

I wish you all spoke etc.

I Corinthians 14:5

I pray in an unknown tongue, (Paul speaking).

I Corinthians 14:14

I thank my God I speak with tongues, (again Paul speaking).

I Corinthians 14:18

These and many more references make it plain that it is the person who does the speaking in tongues.

Tongues are a sign that shall follow believers.

Mark 16:17

They are FOR a sign unto the Unbeliever.

I Corinthians 14:22

NOT in disorder, however, for if used so the unbeliever will be driven away.

I Corinthians 14:22-23

Tongues with interpretation of tongues equal prophecy in that the Church

of Jesus Christ is edified.

I Corinthians 14:4-5

If there is no interpretation you are to keep silence in the Church.

I Corinthians 14:28

You have control of the operation of the gift, always.

I Corinthians 14:32

God is not the author of confusion.

I Corinthians 14:33

Speaking in tongues is to be done as a matter of course.

I Corinthians 14:27

All things are to be done decently and in order.

I Corinthians 14:40

Do all speak with tongues?

I Corinthians 12:30

Many seem to interpret this as a statement of fact, which it is not, but rather the question is asked. All may speak with tongues, all should.

It is the Will of God for all believers.

I Corinthians 14:5

People who mock the speaking in tongues and call it gibberish

show their gross ignorance. No language is gibberish, though the tongue of one people may sound very odd in the ears of a people of a different tongue.

I Corinthians 14:10-11

Many oppose speaking in tongues on the basis of "tongues shall Cease".

I Corinthians 13:8

Correct! But when? When Jesus comes for us.

I Corinthians 13:10

Study context carefully: now darkly, then face to face. Now

Psalms 17:15

understand in part; prophesy in part; then know as we are known.

I John 3:2

Spiritual gifts are the weapons of our warfare for the Church Age.

When Jesus comes the Church Age is ended; spiritual gifts shall then be a thing of the past.

I Corinthians 13:12

Notes

Paul used the gift of tongues in abundant measure.

I Corinthians 14:18

He declares that “in as much as you are zealous of spiritual gifts”,

you should seek to excel to edify the Church.

I Corinthians 14:12

This simply means to earnestly strive, to be the very best one at building up the rest of the congregation spiritually. You can

lift no one higher than you have been lifted yourself.

2 Timothy 2:6

First, build yourself up.

I Corinthians 14:2

Jude 20

Next, edify (build up) the Church.

I Corinthians 14:5

I Corinthians 14:12-13

The Gift of Interpretation of Tongues

Notes

Lesson 2

What it is not:

It is not an ability to understand that which has been spoken in another language or tongue.

I Corinthians 14:2,4,
I Corinthians 14:13-14
Corinthians 14:19,27

Every one of these references makes it plain that the tongue spoken is UNKNOWN. If the gift of interpretation of tongues was the ability to understand what was spoken, then the tongue spoken would be known.

It is not the gift of 'translation' of tongues, there is no such gift. That which is brought forth by its operation is an interpretation, the sum and substance, not a translation, which is a word for word rendition of that which has been given in another tongue.

It is not the gift of interpretation. There is no such gift. It is the gift of interpretation of tongues.

What it is:

It is the ability given of God to bring forth, in your own language, the GIST of what has JUST GONE FORTH in another tongue, whether that message in tongues came via your lips or those of another in the congregation. A proper understanding of this truth will prevent a great deal of confusion.

It is an inspiration gift. That which you bring forth by its use is an inspired utterance: you DO NOT KNOW WHAT WORD YOU WILL UTTER NEXT. It is given as you are inspired. This does away with the claims that some people have made such as, "I always have the interpretation, you know, though I don't always give it forth". OR, "I am sure Mrs. So-and-so did not give the right interpretation, I had it all the time, though I didn't give it forth". These are rank Falsehoods and can be easily seen through as we remember that it, the interpretation, is inspired utterance. The interpretation is not received by revelation. You speak as you are moved by the Spirit of God. In other words, the interpretation is not in existence until it is uttered.

Like the gift tongues, the gift of interpretation of tongues is entirely supernatural in its operation. I Corinthians 12:11

You who have the gift of tongues are under obligation to pray for the interpretation (not the gift) when you have brought a measure of tongues in public. I Corinthians 14:13
I Corinthians 14:27-28

That is, if, after bringing a message in two or at the most three tongues, there has been no interpretation given, you are to keep quiet, speaking to yourself and to God. I Corinthians 14:27-28

Please note that this is a command of God. I Corinthians 14:37

Tongues with interpretation equal prophecy in their ministry of edifying the Church. I Corinthians 14:5

This is God's purpose in bestowing the gift of interpretation of tongues upon His people, that by its use messages in tongues might be interpreted, thus making them understandable to the hearers.

The gift of interpretation of tongues is for all who have the gift of tongues. "I wish that you all spoke with tongues". I Corinthians 14:5

You are not to forbid the speaking in tongues. I Corinthians 14:39

If not interpreted God forbids. I Corinthians 14:28

You are told to pray for the interpretation. I Corinthians 14:13

No use praying for the interpretation unless you can interpret, that is, unless you have the gift and know how to use it. God is consistent. He must have intended that all who have received the gift of tongues receive also the gift of interpretation of tongues and in effect His Word declares this to be so. I Corinthians 14:13

The Word of God is still the Will of God. It is evidently His will that ALL believers should speak with tongues. I Corinthians 14:5

It is just as evidently His will that ALL who do, should interpret. I Corinthians 14:13

The Gift of Prophecy

Notes

Lesson 3

What it is not:

The gift of prophecy is not the ability to preach. Preaching is the art of publicly discoursing on the scriptures.

It is not the art of soothsaying, i.e. Fortune-telling.

It is not the ability to blast the saints, even though this might be done in the Name of the Lord.

What it is:

The gift of prophecy is the God-given ability to give forth in your own language a message directly from the heart of God, for edification, exhortation and comfort.

I Corinthians 14:3

Remember that in this, as well as in the former utterance gifts, the GIFT is the God-given ability to perform the ACT; the ACT differing in the operation of each gift. This being so, we would ask, "What is the ACT in the operation of the gift of tongues?" It is simply speaking languages which you do not understand. "What is the ACT in the operation of the gift of interpretation of tongues?" It is the giving forth in the language you ordinarily speak, the gist of what has gone forth in another tongue, a tongue you did not understand. What is the ACT in the operating of the gift of prophecy? It is the giving forth in the language of the speaker, by inspiration, a message right from the heart of God, received as you are giving it forth. This gift operates by inspiration, not REVELATION. You do not know the message ahead of time. Such claims are falsehoods. Your prophetic utterances are not premeditated, neither are they the meanderings of your own mind. Herein lies the road to fanaticism. The gift of prophecy is an inspirational gift, a worship gift of utterance. Not a revelation gift. Not an avenue whereby you may claim for yourself or others the things you wish you or they possessed. Not an outlet for the secret plans and ambitions of your heart.

True prophecy, the product of the operation of the gift, runs parallel to the scriptures, sometimes consisting entirely of portions of same.

It is always unto edification, exhortation and comfort.

I Corinthians 14:3

To EDIFY is to build up, to strengthen. Anything that tends to edify is for edification. To EXHORT is to incite to a more worthy cause, to lovingly encourage to a more noble endeavor. Anything that tends to produce this effect is for exhortation. To COMFORT is to console, to encourage. It also signifies a state of quiet enjoyment, of consolation. Anything that tends to bring us into such a state is for comfort.

In this connection we would draw your attention to the visitation of the archangel Gabriel to Zacharias as he ministered in the Temple.

Luke 1:11-20

His visit to Mary.

Luke 1: 26-38

To the language of Elizabeth's prophecy.

Luke 1:41-45

To that of Mary.

Luke 1:46-55

To that of Zacharias.

Luke 1:67-79

To the prophecy of Simeon.

Luke 2:25-35

Note to the coordination of these prophecies, not only with respect to each other, but also in connection with the messages of the angel. The three earmarks of true inspired utterance are found in all.

Regarding the literal aspect of the fulfillment of inspired utterances, we draw your attention to the prophecy of Joshua when, after conquering Jericho, he prophesied:

Concerning he who would rebuild it. Joshua 6:26
 Literally fulfilled centuries later. I Kings 16:34
 Jesus prophesied concerning the gift of the Holy Spirit which they
 that believed on Him should afterwards receive. John 7:37-39
 Its literal fulfillment is recorded in. Acts 2:4, 10:44-46, 19:1-6

Besides the above and many other references in the Word, this prophecy of Jesus Christ's is literally fulfilled every time a believer receives the gift of the Holy Spirit.

With regard to the accuracy of inspired utterance, we draw your attention to Jude prophesying the fact that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied. Jude 14

This in itself is marvelous when we consider that almost 4,000 years had passed into eternity since Enoch had prophesied and that there was no written record of the fact he had prophesied, nor of the content of his prophecy. But by the operation of this mighty gift, Jude not only declared that Enoch prophesied, but he prophesied the very prophecy that Enoch prophesied. Jude 14-15

We are urged to earnestly desire to prophecy above all else. I Corinthians 14:1,5,39
 The reason being that prophecy, the product of the operation of the
 gift of prophecy, edifies (builds up) the church. I Corinthians 14:4-5
 The Lord desires that we all prophesy. I Corinthians 14:5
 We may all, in order, that is one by one. I Corinthians 14:31
 To the end that all present may learn. I Corinthians 14:31
 Prophecy serves to convict the unbelievers and the unlearned. I Corinthians 14:24-25

NOTE: The unbelievers are those not yet born again. The unlearned are those who, being born again have not yet learned to walk godly in this present world. Their sins, misdeeds, are made manifest.

Prophecy, above all else, is misunderstood by present-day leaders. Many rise up in indignation with satirical remarks such as that in New Testament days' prophecy is not given in the first person. I would ask all such to read. Acts 2:14-39

Note especially. "I will pour out of My Spirit". Acts 2:17

"My servants... My handmaidens...I will pour out of My Spirit". Acts 2:18

"I will show wonders etc." Acts 2:19

Of course some will say that Peter was only quoting Joel's prophecy Joel 2:28-32

Be that as it may, how, by what means was this unlearned fisherman so aptly quoting the words of the prophets long since dead and gone? Was it not by prophecy?

Was he not inspired to utter this as Jude was inspired to utter his amazing prophecy? Jude 14-15

When Peter was on the housetop. Acts 10:9

Note: After he had seen the vision. Acts 10:10-16

The Spirit said to him. Acts 10:19

"I have sent them." Acts 10:20

How does the Spirit speak in New Testament days? How has He spoken in former days? The Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to

which I have called them.” Acts 13:2
 When the Jews rejected their message, they became bold and said, Acts 13:45-50
 they would turn to the Gentiles, declaring the Lord had commanded them,
 saying “I have made you a light.” Acts 13:46-47

No wonder these men acted boldly. They knew their authority. Acts 13:47

The prophesy of Agabus is also very interesting. Acts 21:10-11
 “Thus says the Holy Spirit.” Acts 21:11

We could draw your attention to many more references in God’s Word to prove this point. However, enough has been said to more than convince any but the willfully blind.
 Let those that will be ignorant remain so. I Corinthians 14:38
 Let us, however, not forget that we are not to be uniformed. I Corinthians 12:1

The gift of prophecy played a very important part in the lives and ministries of the first Apostles, and the believers and workers of the early Church. For example, study the life and ministry of Paul. His first healing and the receiving of the Baptism were implemented by the use of this gift, or tongues with interpretations. Acts 9:10-19
 His choice of Timothy for the position of Pastor of the church at Ephesus, was based upon certain inspired utterances which had gone before over Timothy.

I Timothy 1:3, 18

One of these prophecies evidently had to do with the gift of the discerning of spirits.

I Timothy 4:14

Another must definitely have referred to the gift of faith. 2 Timothy 1:5-6

If Paul, great soldier of the cross that he was, was humble enough to bow to prophecy, so should we. Incidentally, Timothy was to war a good warfare by the prophecies that had gone forth over, and or, concerning him. I Timothy 1:18

No one need be fooled by premeditated utterances, pawned off prophetic utterances, neither does one commit error unwittingly in this field. Balaam, when walking in disobedience to the revealed will of Almighty God still had to admit, “I cannot go beyond the commandment of the Lord, to do either good or bad of my own mind, but what the Lord says, that will I speak.” Numbers 24:13

The Prophet of Judah who cried against the altar at Bethel, came out of Judah by the Word of the Lord, I Kings 13:1

He performed his task by the Word of the Lord. 1 Kings 13:2

He refused the King’s hospitality because of the inspired utterance. 1 Kings 13:7-10

The old prophet who lied to him. I Kings 12:11-18

prophesied the truth. I Kings 13:20-22

In other words, anyone who prophesies the dictates of their own heart and mind does so deliberately and is perfectly aware of what they are doing. Anyone who is misled by such so-called prophetic utterance is either willfully misled or else deceived unawares. Please remember that God does not want us to be ignorant of these things.

I Corinthians 12:1

The gift of prophecy has been horribly abused. It is not given us to be used as the gypsy fortune-tellers use divination. It is not for the handing out of personal

leadings, who you are to marry, when to fast, etc., as though the one possessing the gift were a mediator. Please remember, prophecy, the product of the operation of the gift of prophecy, is always a message from God to the people and is always for edification, exhortation and comfort.
I Corinthians 14:3

In ministering to the sick, we maybe detained momentarily by the Spirit to give a word of prophecy, or tongues with interpretation, which equal prophecy. We need to obey the Lord and give precisely the word that He gives you. By failing to give the inspired word at such a time, recipient misses the edification which they needed at that particular moment. But never force the hand of Almighty God. To do so is the easy road to fanaticism. The beautiful gift of prophecy was not given us to defile or to neglect, but to use for the glory of God. Let the gifts of the Spirit, especially the gift of prophecy, be used for the things pertaining to the Kingdom.

The gift of prophecy, like its companion gifts – the gift of tongues and the gift of interpretation of tongues- is for all believers who have received the gift of the Holy Spirit.

I Corinthians 14:5

I Corinthians 14:31, 39

Introduction to the Study
of
The Revelation Gifts

Notes

We have just concluded the brief study of the three utterance gifts. These constitute the first of the three groups into which the nine gifts of the Spirit automatically divide. (See page 3).

The second group in order of operation is of course the revelation gifts. These are three in number and we list them here.

Revelation Gifts:

- The gift of the Word of Knowledge.
- The gift of the Word of Wisdom.
- The gift of the Discerning of Spirits.

These three are referred to as revelation gifts because they function by revelation received from God. They are listed in the above order, because of their nature and the characteristics of their operations. We study them therefore in that order.

The Gift of the Word of Knowledge

Notes

Lesson 4

What it is not:

It is not human knowledge sanctified.

It is NOT an increased capacity to acquire understanding, though one of the ways in which ANY of the gifts in operation in us benefit us, it is in the effect they have in enlightening the mind.

What it is:

It is the God-given ability to **receive from God** by **revelation** the facts concerning something, anything, about which it is humanly impossible for you to know anything at all.

We see this gift in operation in the life and ministry of:

Joseph:

Interpreting the dreams of the butler and the baker.

Genesis 40:13-19

Interpreting the dreams of Pharaoh.

Genesis 41:25-32

Daniel:

Telling the king what he dreamt and the interpretation of it.

Daniel 2:26-45

Interpreting another dream for the king.

Daniel 4:20-26

Samuel:

With reference to what manner of king Saul would be.

I Samuel 8:11-18

With reference to Saul's coming to the city and the various details connected with same.

I Samuel 9:15-24

Regarding Saul's coming experiences.

I Samuel 10

Ahijah:

When the wife of Jeroboan, feigning herself to be another woman, came to ask a thing of him of the Lord.

I Kings 14:1-6

Elisha:

With reference to Gehazi's covetousness.

2 Kings 5:26

In revealing the secrets of the King of Syria unto the King of Israel.

2 Kings 6:8-12

Knowing in advance of the King's intention to slay him.

2 Kings 6:31-32

John the Baptist:

Knowing, and how else could he but by the operation of the gift of the word of knowledge, that all men **mused in their hearts** whether he were the Christ or not!

Jesus:

Regarding the death of Lazarus.	John 11:11-14
The husbands of the woman at the well.	John 4:17-18
Peter's coming denial.	John 13:38
The fact that His hour was at hand.	John 13:1
Regarding the ass's colt, etc.	Luke 19:30-31
Knowing their thought regarding the casting out of devils.	Matthew 12:25
Knowing all men.	John 2:24
He knew what was in a man.	John 2:25
He knew the man at the pool had been "long time in this case"	John 5:6
Knowing that his disciples murmured.	John 6:61
Knowing they were desirous of asking Him the meaning of His statement, "A little while I am with you", etc.	John 16:19
Knowing their thoughts regarding the healing of the withered hand.	Luke 6:8
Perceiving their thoughts re: the healing of the man with palsy.	Luke 5:22
Knowing all the details regarding the woman whom Satan had bound.	Luke 13:16

Note:

By the operation of the gift of the word of knowledge Jesus knew that she was a daughter of Abraham, and that she had been bound for eighteen years. As to how He knew it was Satan who had bound her, and what he had bound her with, that required the operation of a different gift and is dealt with under a separate heading.

Paul:

Coming up to Jerusalem by revelation.	Galatians 2:1-2
Receiving his understanding of the mystery of His will	Ephesians 1:9 Ephesians 3:3-4
He also declared that this ability to receive by revelation from God was not something reserved for him alone.	I Corinthians 2:7, 12-13 Ephesians 3:6

Peter:

Knowing the facts regarding Ananias and Saphira.	Acts 5:1-11
On the house-top receiving by revelation from God, instruction regarding his coming ministry unto the Gentiles.	Acts 10:11-16

Nathan:

Regarding the affair between David and Bathsheba, the consequences thereof, etc.

2 Samuel 12:1-14

Sometimes the revelation has to do with moral and sometimes with spiritual problems in the lives of those to whom one ministers. Please remember that the operation of all spiritual gifts is for the building up, the edification of, the profit of the church.

I Corinthians 14:26

The product of the operation of the gifts is for the common good.

I Corinthians 12:7

In other words, revelations received from God concerning moral or spiritual problems in the lives of our brothers and sisters are not given us to the end that we might **exploit**, but rather that we may restore, such a one in the spirit of meekness.

Galatians 6:1

Because of the very nature of this gift and of its operations, love is required in the hearts of those to whom it is entrusted.

I Corinthians 13:2

It is for the same reason that the Lord has so closely linked together **the gift of the word of knowledge** and **the gift of the word of wisdom**, which we study next.

Throughout the scriptures, you will notice that those who possessed the one usually possessed the other.

The Gift of the Word of Wisdom

Notes

Lesson 5

As the gift of tongues is circumscribed in its sphere of operation, except that the gift of interpretation of tongues is to be in operation in conjunction with it; so also the gift of word of knowledge is exercised under handicap, without the possession and the use of the gift of the word of wisdom.

What it is not:

The gift of the word of wisdom is not human wisdom increased, sanctified, blessed of God. It has nothing to do with becoming wise, discrete, shrewd in understanding, etc. The simple-minded man can possess and exercise the gift of the word of wisdom well.

What it is:

It is a revelation gift, one of the nine gifts of the spirit, the fifth in order.

It is the God-given ability to receive from God a revelation of what to do about a situation, any situation, once you know the facts concerning same. We see this gift in operation in the lives and ministries of:

Joseph: Genesis 41:33-36

After the facts concerning the case of the coming famine had been revealed via the operation of the gift of the word of knowledge, he gives the king counsel and advice as to what to do about the situation to the end that life might be preserved.

Jethro: Exodus 18:17-23

After the facts were made known to him concerning Moses' manner of handling the affairs of the nation, gave him counsel and advice to the end that he and the nation might survive and make progress toward the promised land.

Daniel: Daniel 4:27

Via the operation of this gift, Daniel shows the king what to do to avoid that sure judgment which via a word of knowledge had been revealed and why such judgment was to fall upon him.

Joshua: Joshua had this gift. Deuteronomy 34:9

This verse also states that he received it by the laying on of the hands of Moses.

You find the historical account in... Numbers 27:18-23

Solomon: He prayed for this gift, that He might rule Israel well. 2 Chronicles 1:10

He received the gift of the word of knowledge and the gift of the word of wisdom. 2 Chronicles 1:12

The first recorded instance of these gifts in operation in Him is found in... I Kings 3:16-28

Jesus:

John 11:21-32

When Lazarus was dead Jesus came to Bethany. Met by Martha then by Mary, Lazarus' sisters, He was confronted by both of them with the same question.

Answering Martha, He led her to Salvation.

John 11:22-27

When Mary approached Him with the same question, He wept.

John 11:32-35

Again when the Pharisees tempted Him concerning the tribute.

Matthew 22:15-21

You'll notice here both gifts in operation.

The First Church Council:

Acts 15:1-33

When trouble arose in the early church regarding the Gentiles who had accepted Christ and their relationship to the law of Moses, the brothers came together to consider this matter.

Note the phraseology and technique employed by James, Peter and Paul in handling this very touchy situation. Anyone with an unbiased mind will freely admit that in every case studied so far, the gift of the word of wisdom must have been in operation.

There are two kinds of wisdom in the spiritual world. These are both graphically described in...

James 3:13-18

Here your attention is drawn to a man who possessed both the above-

mentioned gifts. There is wisdom which is from beneath. This is first earthly,

then sensual, then demonic.

James 3:14-16

Where this wisdom is found there is also bitter envy, strife and confusion.

God is not the author of confusion.

I Corinthians 14:33

The product of the gift of the word of wisdom is known by its attributes. These are carefully listed in:

James 3:17

It is pure.

It is peaceable.

It is gentle.

It is willing to yield.

Just as definitely as the foregoing are enumerated, we find two elements of which the product of the gift in operation, is full.

Full of mercy.

Full of good fruits.

Just as definitely, we find listed in the same verse two elements that there is no trace of in a word of wisdom.

It is without partiality.

It is without hypocrisy.

The Gift of the Discerning of Spirits

Notes

Lesson 6

What it is not:

It is not the gift of discernment, as some refer to. Discernment is astuteness in judgment, insight, and a purely natural ability. Discernment to understand judgement/justice may or may not be God given, but attained through study. 1 Kings 3:9; Ecc. 8:5; 2 Sam. 14:17; Mal 3:18. We speak here of discernment of Spirits only. Heb. 5:11.

What it is:

It is the God-given ability to detect the presence and ascertain the identity of spirits, and spirits only. There is no such thing as the gift of discerning of men. One should not confuse the discerning of spirits with the casting out of devils. The casting out of devils is an **act** on the part of the believer ministering. This is a **gift of the Spirit** we are discussing. It is the God-given ability to perform a certain **act**, but the **act** is the **discerning**, not the **casting out** of spirits.

The purpose behind the operation of this gift is to ascertain the identity of spirits to the end that, if evil, they may be cast out.

Now to properly discuss this gift, an understanding, at least in part, of spirits is required.

The subject is a vast one.

All life is spirit:

There is a spirit in man.

Genesis 2:7

Job 32:8

I Corinthians 2:11

At death the spirit returns to God who gave it.

Ecclesiastics 12:7

The spirit of man goes upward, at death.

Ecclesiastics 3:21

The spirit of the beast goes downwards.

Ecclesiastics 3:21

God is the God of all spirits.

Numbers 16:22

Numbers 27:16

In the beginning man was made.

Genesis 1:26

He also was **formed**.

Genesis 2:7

Deuteronomy 32:18

Job 33:6

Psalms 94:9

Isaiah 43:7

Isaiah 44:2, 21

Jeremiah 1:5

I Timothy 2:13

Man was also **created**.

Genesis 1:27

Isaiah 43:7

(These three terms “made”, “form” and “create” are not synonymous. To “make”, one requires substance. God used substance (earth) when He made man. Men have to fashion the things they make into some semblance of shape. So also when the Lord made man He also formed him. (See the above scripture portions). When one creates anything they produce something out of nothing. God, therefore, **did not create** man's body. He **made** it, and **formed** it out of earth. What He created was in the **image of God**. We know this body is not in the image of God. Jesus took upon himself the **form of man**. We did not receive His form, speaking of this body.

God is a spirit.

John 4:24

Man was **created** in the **image** of God.

Genesis 1:27

I Corinthians 11:7

Man's body was **made** of dust.

Genesis 2:7

Genesis 3:19

Man's body was **formed**.

Genesis 2:7

Isaiah 43:7

What God **created** was spirit.

Ephesians 4:24

Colossians 3:10

This, incidentally, manifests the necessity of the **new birth**.

I Corinthians 15:49

Colossians 3:10

A Christian is one in whom a **new spirit** exists.

Romans 8:9

This new spirit is the Spirit of Christ, a **new creation**.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Devils are spirits, evil spirits, unclean spirits, spirits of infirmities, fallen angels, etc. You will find the vocabulary of Jesus abounding with such phraseology.

Angels are spirits.

Hebrews 1:7

Satan is Lucifer, fallen from Heaven.

Isaiah 14:12

He is captain of the angels who fell with him.

Revelation 12:7-9

Hell is prepared for the devil and **his** angels.

Matthew 25:41

In the spirit-world therefore, a great battle rages. It is between Satan and his hosts of hell and the Lord of Heaven and His armies. Man, natural man, does not understand it.

I Corinthians 2:14

The gifts of the Spirit are bestowed upon the new man that is within you.

I Corinthians 2:10-12

The gift of discerning of spirits is the God-given ability to detect the presence and ascertain the identity of spirits, whether they be the spirit of man, the Holy Spirit, or one or many of the spirits of hell.

We see these gifts in operation in:

John The Baptist:

Referring to certain Pharisees as a generation of vipers (not sheep but snakes)

Luke 3:7

Jesus:

Unclean spirits; also Legion.

Luke 6:18

Mark 1:25

Mark 5:8

Foul spirit, also deaf and dumb spirit.

Mark 9:25

Doctor Luke, the beloved physician, called epilepsy a devil.

Luke 9:42

The fact that Luke was a physician.

Colossians 4:14

He, Jesus, cured many of their evil spirits.

Luke 7:21

Cast out a dumb spirit.

Luke 11:14

Freed a woman from a spirit of infirmity, stating also that Satan had bound her with it, for 18 years.

Luke 13:11-16

Speaking to certain Pharisees He called them vipers.

Matthew 12:34

And a generation of vipers and serpents .

Matthew 23:33

He also stated they were of their father, the devil.

John 8:44

Speaking of Judas He said, "One of you **is** a devil."

John 6:70

Peter:

Discerning what manner of spirit was motivating Simeon.

Acts 8:18-23

Paul:

Likewise when dealing with Elymas the sorcerer.

Acts 13:6-11

When delivering the girl possessed with a spirit of divination, who followed them in Phillipi .

Acts 16:16-18

Timothy:

That Timothy possessed this gift is made very evident. (The entire chapter is devoted to the serious condition existing or coming into existence in the church, i.e., doctrines of devils that would be brought in by seducing spirits.

I Timothy 4:1-3

Timothy is exhorted to **not** neglect a certain gift which he, Paul, declares is in him by the laying on of the hands of elders.

I Timothy 4:14

If the context means anything at all, then the gift referred to could only be the gift of the discerning of spirits.

Many people today do not believe in the reality and presence of evil spirits nor agree with any teachings concerning them. What do they do with all the preceding scriptures? Also with all those dealing with witches, wizards, necromancers (praying to the dead), and dabblers in the black arts?

Leviticus 19:31

Leviticus 20:6

Deuteronomy 18:9-11

There are many spirits of hell, whose names are found listed in the Scriptures:

Spirit of anti-Christ	I John 4:3
Spirit of bondage	Romans 8:15
Spirit of error	I John 4:6
Spirit of fear	2 Timothy 1:7
Spirit of jealousy	Numbers 5:14
Spirit of whoredom	Hosea 4:12
	Hosea 5:4
Spirit of slumber	Romans 11:8
Spirit of perversion	Isaiah 19:14

There are spirits of jealousy and strife, sensual spirits, suicidal spirits, spirits of depression, hallucination, obsession. There are morbid spirits, sullen spirits, sadistic spirits, various kinds of spirits of insanity, oppression, fixation, etc. There is an incorrect – misleading spirit. There are lying spirits, deceiving spirits, many kinds of unclean spirits. These all make their abode in the mind of man.

Some call the works of the flesh spirits. These are the **works** of the flesh.

Galatians 5:19-21

Again some refer to the **gifts** as spirits. These are the **gifts** of one Spirit, the Holy Spirit.

I Corinthians 12:8-11

There are those who refer to the **fruit** of the **Spirit** as spirits. These are **fruit**,

not spirits. Fruit of one **Spirit**, the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-23

and they should be manifest in the life of every Christian.

Many do not hold with the teaching concerning spirits, because they feel that to admit their reality and presence and the fact that they can afflict a Christian, is dishonoring to God. Most of their opposition is based on:

Matthew 12:29

Luke 11:21

But these portions of the Word prove the Lord is talking about the casting out of devils; Devils can and do enter the minds of God's people. They also enter and torment the flesh, as for instance, cancer, the life of which is a devil. By a stronger man, Jesus Christ, they are cast out. Flesh was never born again. Satan cannot attack our spirit because it is blood-bought and reconciled to Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17

I John 3:6-9

I John 5:18

John 10:28

The flesh is opposed to God, it cannot be reconciled.

Romans 8:7

It is the spirit that quickens, the flesh profits nothing. John 6:63

All life is spirit. Any spirit to manifest must adopt form, use someone or something, an agency by or through which it may **manifest** itself. The demonstration of its presence, its workings, are called **manifestations**. All manifestations of life are showings forth of spirit. Either the spirit of man which is in man, the Holy Spirit, or one or more of the spirits of hell. Now the spirit of man, which is in him, understands only the things of a man.

I Corinthians 2:11

The spirits of hell have knowledge concerning spiritual things James 2:19

Remember that the devils knew Jesus, and Paul. Mark 1:23-24

Mark 5:7

Acts 19:15

The things of God are revealed to us by the Holy Spirit. I Corinthians 2:12

John 14:26

John 16:13-15

Much shame has been brought on the work of God because believers accepted all manifestations of life (spirit) as manifestation of the Holy Spirit. The manifestations of the spirit of man are to be seen clearly all about us. The manifestations of the spirits of hell are as clearly traceable. The manifestations of the **Holy Spirit** are listed in:

I Corinthians 12:7-11

They are, of course, the product of the deliberate operation of the spiritual gifts. Their control is as clearly set forth in:

I Corinthians 14

Remember one thing, all life is spirit, some kind of spirit. All manifestation is the showing forth of the presence of spirit. No life, (no spirit) no manifestation! The church has been wrecked for years because all manifestations of spirit were called manifestation of the Holy Spirit. The gift of the discerning of spirits is our protection against this.

You are to **try** the spirits. I John 4:1

There are certain things that neither a spirit of hell, nor the spirit of man can do.

I John 4:2-6

I Corinthians **12:3**

We are not left at the mercy of Satan. 2 Corinthians 2:11

Of all the armament we may possess in Christ, none is so essential to the well-being of the church as the gift of the discerning of spirits. It constitutes the eyes of the church in the realm of spirits. Being a gift it cannot be purchased or earned. You receive it by faith as you receive anything else from God. Timothy received **by** prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery, or in other words, inspired utterance declared this gift **in** him at the time of his ordination.

I Timothy 4:14

As with all gifts of the Spirit, it operates at your own will.

Peter 4:11b

Introduction to the study of the Power Gifts

Notes

The third and last group of the spiritual gifts, i.e. the power gifts of the Spirit, are so called because they operate by the power of God. Romans 15:18-19

This power, says Paul, is in us.
Romans 15:17; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 4:7; Ephesians 3:7, 20; Ephesians 4:16; Romans 8:11

They are also called impartation gifts, because by their operation you impart something to others. We list these power or impartation gifts here:

POWER OR IMPARTATION GIFTS

- The gift of faith.
- The gift of healing.
- The gift of the performing of miracles.

The Gift of Faith

Notes

Lesson 7

What it is:

The gift of faith, one of the nine gifts of the Spirit, is the God-given ability to believe for the fantastically impossible to come to pass, (as you speak) and to impart that faith to others.

Believing for the impossible to come to pass.

We see this gift in this phase of its operation in the ministries of:

Jesus:

When He cursed the fig tree.

Mark 11:12-14

The next morning Peter noticed the tree dried up from the roots.

Drawing Christ's attention to it he received this answer, "Have faith in God".

Mark 11:22

Now study very carefully the balance of Christ's answer.

"For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says."

Mark 11:23

That the faith here referred to is the gift of faith, is made very evident by...

I Corinthians 13:2

In other words, Jesus not only exercised the gift of faith in its primal phase when he cursed the fig tree, but he also taught his disciples how to operate it in this same sphere.

Barnabas:

The Word of God implies he possessed this gift.

Acts 11:22-24

Timothy:

In Paul's second letter to Timothy he exhorts him to stir up a gift of the Spirit which was in him by the putting on of his, Paul's hands.

2 Timothy 1:6

A study of the context will show this could be nothing but the gift of faith.

Peter:

When he raised the cripple at the Temple gate.

Acts 3:6

Note his command. Compare this with Christ's words to the fig tree.

Mark 11:14

Joshua:

Extending the length of the day.

Joshua 10:12

Elijah:

Challenging Ahab, all Israel and the prophets of Baal.

I Kings 18:2

<u>The Woman:</u> With the issue of blood. "If I shall but touch...".	Mark 5:28
<u>Roman Centurion:</u> Speak the word only.	Matthew 8:8
<u>Jairus:</u> Come, lay thy hand on her and she shall live.	Matthew 9:18
<u>Elders:</u> By this gift they received a good report.	Hebrews 11:2-39
By it they wrought righteousness, subdued kingdoms, etc.	Hebrews 11

Imparting faith to others:

This phase of the operation of the gift of faith we see in operation in the ministries of:

Jesus:

Helping the father of the possessed boy to believe.	Mark 9:23
Doing the same thing to the nobleman whose son was sick.	John 4:46-53
The two blind men, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?"	Matthew 9:28

Peter:

In healing the man at the temple gate. Acts 3:4-5

Note: First got the man to expect to receive something of them.

Regarding this phase of operation of the gift of faith, we might well say that without it in operation in one's life and ministry, there would be little to show for our labours at the end of the road. The true purpose behind all preaching, every miracle performed, every devil cast out, behind every healing, is that faith might be *inculcated into the human hearts* (impressed) that hear and see. What you possess, you bestow. You cannot give out what is not in you. Paul declared that this gift was in Timothy by the putting on of his (Paul's) hands. 2 Timothy 1:6

There must have been some inspired utterance at this time. Otherwise, there would be no sense in Paul writing to Timothy in this fashion, for neither he, Timothy nor anyone else would know what gift he was referring to. It can be made manifest to you that you possess this gift. This can be done by inspired utterance at a time when hands are laid upon you. You can know also by its presence in you being manifested, i.e., by the fact that you are able to believe for the fantastically impossible to come to pass; and by the fact that you are able to impart, instill, inculcate into the hearts of those to whom you minister that same ability to believe for things unheard of to come to pass at your word.

The Gift of Healing

Notes

Lesson 8

What it is not:

It is not a Midas touch. That is, there is no such thing as a gift that makes it possible for one to heal others automatically, as though one were a healing machine. Faith is always to be reckoned with. Without faith it is impossible to please God. Hebrews 11:6

It is not a sensation, nor a sign in the hand, nor in any other part of the body. The reference in the Authorized Version to "GIFTS OF HEALING" is a bit misleading, but only because of misinterpretation. Many claim it infers one has the gift to heal burns, another the gift to heal measles and so forth. Every healing you receive is a gift from God. We are not studying a gift of healing. You may have received several of them. We are studying the gift of healing. I Corinthians 12:9

What it is:

The gift of healing is the God-given ability to impart the ruling virtue of Jesus Christ to others. Healing is a vast subject in itself, without taking thought to the ability to bring it to pass. The priests and prophets of the Old Testament days ministered healing.

Abraham:

Ministered to Abimelech and his household successfully. Genesis 20:17

Eli:

Ministered to Hannah in her barrenness. I Samuel 1:10-19

Elisha:

Ministered healing to Naaman. 2 Kings 5

There are so many more but these are recorded specially as they differ so. In every case the mode employed to bring about the desired result was different, but the results were obtained. These men understood healing, and their ministries. In New Testament ministries we see healing in abundance under the ministries of:

<u>Jesus:</u>	A Centurion's servant.	Matthew 8:7
	Peter's mother-in-law.	Luke 4:38-39
	The sick of an entire city.	Mark 1:32-34
	The nobleman's son.	John 4:46-53

In fact, Christ's ministry was largely a healing ministry, and the scripture references that could be quoted to confirm this are multitudinous.

Christ's healing ministry was attestation to the fact that he was the Christ.

Acts 2:22; 10:38

The Apostles:

The cripple at the gate of the Temple.	Acts 3:1-8
Multitudes healed in the streets of Jerusalem.	Acts 5:15-16
The great revival at Samaria, many healings.	Acts 8:5-8
The healing of Saul of Tarsus.	Acts 9:17-18
The healing of Aeneas.	Acts 9:32-35
The healing of the cripple at Lystra.	Acts 14:8-10
The young man who fell and broke his neck.	Acts 20:7-12
The healing of Publius' father	Acts 28:7-8
The healing of many of the Islanders as a result.	Acts 28:9-10
Besides these, there were many other miracles, etc., as the Word declares that were wrought by their hands.	Acts 2:43; 5:12
These all bear testimony to the fact that the message they brought was the Truth.	Hebrews 2:4
No wonder these men prayed as they did.	Acts 4:30

To properly understand the gift of healing, one should understand thoroughly the significance of the terminology employed by Our Lord when He commissioned us to heal the sick. Luke 9:12, Matthew 10:1, Luke 10:9

To Heal the sick signifies:

TO RESTORE HEALTH. This implies that the one receiving healing, being ministered to, has known health at one time or another and, that they have been robbed of that health, the level of health they once enjoyed. It also implies progression, they shall recover.

Jesus healed all who came unto Him.

Mark 16:18

Luke 4:40

TO CURE. This, including the former, goes a step further. It signifies a setting free from. To do a cure only means to set free from or remove the cause of a condition.

Jesus did cures. He used this phrase in connection with the casting out of devils.

Luke 13:32

TO MAKE SOUND. To make complete, whole. This is what Peter did to the cripple at the gate.

Acts 3:1-8, 16; 4:9

TO RECONCILE, or **bring together** that which has been removed apart or severed.

It is perfectly natural for the body to recover from a mal-condition, once the cause of the condition has been successfully removed. All medical men, and any others who give themselves to the alleviation of human suffering know that this is true. That is why they strive so desperately to ascertain the cause of the diversities of mal-conditions.

It is not natural for the body to be ill. The human body, given a chance, will repair itself. Something no other machine will do. If there is a reason for its illness, and there has to be, that reason (cause) must first be removed or the body cannot recover. Men of God who do not understand this simple principle, battle blindly in the realm of healing. They

do not understand that which is self-apparent. Therefore, the fanaticism in this field. Anyone can see at a glance that to heal the sick demands the operation of more than the gift of healing when you remember that the gift of healing is nothing more and nothing less than the God-given ability to impart the healing virtue of Jesus Christ. Now when we say this, please remember that it is only by the effectual working of that power which is in us.

Ephesians 1:19-20

Ephesians 3:7

When the woman with the issue of blood touched Jesus, He said, "Somebody touched Me for I perceive that virtue has gone out of Me."

Luke 8:46

Also please note there went virtue out of Him and healed them. Luke 6:19

When anyone possesses and exercises the gift of Healing they simply impart something which is in them. Peter at the Temple Gate.

Acts 3:6

This something, (virtue), is the life, (Spirit) of Christ.

Romans 8:11

It is in you. The gift of healing is the ability given to you by the Lord to impart, pass on to the other fellow, that healing, that virtue, that life.

Sickness is death, in whole or in part as the case may be.

Healing is life, in whole or in part as the case may require.

If you were going to talk about a ministry of healing, we would have to discuss all the gifts of the Spirit in their operations in connection with this ministry. The gift of Healing is the God-given ability to impart to others the healing virtue of Christ.

The Gift of Performing of Miracles

Notes

Lesson 9

We would first ask, "WHAT IS A MIRACLE?"

A miracle is a supernatural act or occurrence, that which is contrary to the laws of nature. The gift of the performing of miracles, therefore, is the God-given ability to perform, bring to pass, acts that are supernatural, that are contrary to the laws of nature.

WE SEE THIS GIFT IN OPERATION IN THE MINISTRIES OF:

Moses:

Turning the rod into a serpent and vice versa.	Exodus 4:1-4; 7:10
Turning water into blood.	Exodus 7:14-21
Bringing up frogs upon the land.	Exodus 8:5-6
Turning dust into lice.	Exodus 8:16-17
Doing many more mighty miracles at this time.	Exodus 7; 8; 9; 10; 12
Sweetening the waters of Marah.	Exodus 15:22-25
Bringing water from the rock.	Exodus 17:5-7

Joshua:

The sun and moon stand still at his command.	Joshua 10:12-13
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Elijah:

The barrel of meal and the cruse of oil.	I Kings 17:8-16
Raising the dead boy.	I Kings 17:20-24
Stopping rain from the earth. NOTE: At the word of Jehovah.	I Kings 17:1
Dividing Jordan.	2 Kings 2:8

Elisha:

Dividing Jordan.	2 Kings 2:14
Healing the waters.	2 Kings 2:19-22
Multiplying the widow's oil.	2 Kings 4:1-7
Raising to life a dead boy.	2 Kings 4:32-37
Healing of the poisoned food.	2 Kings 4:38-41
Multiplying the food.	2 Kings 4:42-44
Healing Naaman of his leprosy.	2 Kings 5
Causing the iron axe-head to swim.	2 Kings 6:4-7

Jesus:

Turning water into wine.	John 2:1-11
Feeding of 5,000 with 5 loaves and 2 fishes.	John 6:1-14

Walking on the sea.	John 6:16-21
Immediately the ship was at the land whither they went.	John 6:21
Feeding the second multitude, 7 loaves, 4,000 men.	Matthew 15:32-38
Calming Galilee and the Wind.	Mark 4:36-41
Raising Jairus' daughter from the dead.	Luke 8:49-55
Restoring to life the son of the widow of Nain.	Luke 7:11-15
Raising Lazarus from the dead.	John 11:43-44
Note: The statement of the priests re: same.	John 11:47
The coin in the fish's mouth.	Matthew 17:24-27
Giving of sight to the blind beggar.	John 9:1-7
Jesus called the <u>casting out of a devil</u> the <u>doing</u> of a miracle.	Mark 9:38-40
He cast out an unclean spirit of a man in the Synagogue.	Mark 1:23-27
The Legion of devils <u>and unclean</u> spirits.	Mark 5:1-13
He cast out a <u>foul</u> spirit and a <u>deaf</u> and <u>dumb</u> spirit.	Mark 9:25-26

Peter:

The cripple at the temple gate.	Acts 3:1-8
This is referred to by the Holy Spirit as a <u>miracle</u> .	Acts 4:16-22
The healing of Eneas.	Acts 32:35
Raising of Dorcas from the dead.	Acts 9:36-42

Paul:

Casting a spirit of divination out of a maiden.	Acts 16;16-18
Special miracles wrought by the hand of Paul.	Acts 19:11-12
Shaking off the venomous serpent.	Acts 28:1-6
Raising the young man from the dead.	Acts 20:7-12
Instantaneous healing of the cripple at Lystra.	Acts 14:8-10

NOTE: These are recorded instances of miracles that came to pass, but in every case were miracles that were performed by the party specified in connection with the miracle listed. Our God is a miracle-working God.

We have not listed the opening of Jordan for the Hebrew Nation that they might cross over. We have not listed the many miracles recorded in the Word that were performed by God Almighty. Why? We are studying the gift of the performing of miracles, not studying miracles themselves. Please remember: The gift of the Performing of Miracles is the God-given ability to bring to pass, perform acts or occurrences that are contrary to, beyond the realm of, the laws of nature. It is one of the Gifts of the Spirit. THE NINTH GIFT.

The Operation of the Gifts of the Spirit For the Profit of All

Notes

Lesson 10

If there is one thing evident in the Scriptures concerning the operation of the Gifts of the Spirit, it is that they are operated at the VOLITION (at our own will) of the recipient.

This is most noticeable in connection with the operation of the Gift of Tongues.

THE GIFT OF TONGUES:

The gift of tongues is the God-given ability to speak in other languages, that is, languages (tongues) that you do not understand. I Corinthians 14:14

Its purpose is two-fold. First, to speak to God. I Corinthians 14:2

Paul calls this praying with the spirit. I Corinthians 14:15

When you do this you pray well. I Corinthians 14:17

You edify (build up) yourself. I Corinthians 14:4

It is also for use in speaking FOR God, to the people. I Corinthians 14:13

I Corinthians 14:26-27

These messages are profitless unless interpreted. I Corinthians 14:12-13

I Corinthians 14:23-28

That we definitely operate this gift at our own will is evident, or else there would be no rules regarding its use. I Corinthians 14

THE GIFT OF INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES:

All things are to be done to edify. I Corinthians 14:26

Tongues not interpreted do not edify. I Corinthians 14:17-23

You are to pray that you may interpret. I Corinthians 14:13

To the end that you might edify the Church. I Corinthians 14:12

If no interpreter you are to keep silence after the message has been brought in two or at the most three tongues. I Corinthians 14:27-28

Remember, if you were not speaking at your own volition you could not keep silence. If God were compelling you to speak, as some teach, then you would have nothing to say about the matter. Again I say: There would be no regulations controlling the use of the Gift of Tongues, if you did not speak (exercise the Gift) expressly at your own will.

The profit from its use is to the end that you build yourself up, then, with its co-gift, the gift of interpretation of tongues, that you build up the church of Jesus Christ.

THE GIFT OF PROPHECY:

Tongues with interpretation equal prophecy. What applies to the use and the profit of the use of the first utterance gifts, applies in principle to the use and the profit of the use of the Gift of Prophecy.

REVELATION GIFTS:

These gifts also operate at your volition. Remember, the GIFT is the God-given ability to perform the ACT. The act differs in each case. Diversities of operations, differences of administrations.

I Corinthians 12:4-6

When you, by the operation of the Gift of the Word of Knowledge, receive by revelation from God the facts concerning something, anything, about which you could know nothing at all, humanly speaking, it is unto profit. But in what way? How does knowing the facts etc., benefit you?

I Corinthians 12:7

By revealing what you are warring against, what condition is present, what error is creeping into your midst. By giving you eyes to understand so that you are no longer in the dark. What is the profit in the USE of the Gift of the Word of Wisdom? By its deliberate operation, you receive from God a revelation consisting of what to do about a situation once that you do know the facts concerning the case. ANYONE can see the benefit in this, the PROFIT derived from the use, the deliberate operation of, the Gift of the Word of Wisdom. The same principle applies to the use of the Gift of the discerning of spirits. Without it (and in operation) in your midst, you are at the mercy of devils, seducing spirits, sorcery, etc., also helpless against many mental and physical conditions in those to whom you minister. By its deliberate use, you by revelation received from God, are able to detect the presence and to ascertain the identity of spirits, to the end that, if evil, they might be cast out. Surely one need not enlarge upon the aspect in which this gift in operation profits the Church!

POWER GIFTS:

These gifts also operate at one's own will. The manner in which their deliberate operation benefits the Church is readily seen. Without FAITH it is impossible to please God.

Hebrews 11:6

By deliberate operation of the gift of faith you instill into the hearts of those to whom you minister, faith, thus enabling them to receive from God and to please Him.

Hebrews 11:6

Without the healing virtue of Christ, there is no healing.

Luke 6:19, 8:46

By the deliberate operation of the Gift of Healing, that ability given of God, to impart the healing virtue of Christ, you do so, by His Spirit which is IN you. Romans 8:11

The benefit? Not only the healings, but Jesus is glorified in their mortal bodies.

I Corinthians 6:20

By the deliberate operation of the Gift of performing of Miracles, signs and wonders are done to convince men that Christ is the Redeemer, able to forgive sins.

Mark 2:10-11

We have listed a few examples of specific gifts in operation, stating the task accomplished and the evident benefit.

UTTERANCE GIFTS:

The Gift of Tongues, the Gift of Interpretation of Tongues, and the Gift of prophecy.

EXAMPLE:

Paul's charge to Timothy concerning the shepherding of the Ephesian Church, was based upon certain inspired utterances which had been spoken over the young man earlier.

I Timothy 1:18

Some pronounced over him by the elders.

I Timothy 4:14

Some apparently declared over him by Paul himself.

2 Timothy 1:6

THE PROFIT:

Timothy, to whom these inspired utterances were directed, was enabled to war a good warfare.

I Timothy 1:18

Tongues with interpretation of tongues equal prophecy.

I Corinthians 14:5

What applies in principle to the use of the two former gifts applies likewise to the third.

REVELATION GIFTS:

The Gift of the Word of Knowledge; the Gift of the Word of Wisdom; the Gift of the Discerning of Spirits:

EXAMPLE:

Joseph, using the gift of the word of knowledge, was able to interpret the dream of the king.

Genesis 41:25-32

THE PROFIT:

The coming famine preceded by seven years of abundance, was made known to them, that they might prepare for same.

EXAMPLE:

By the gift of the word of wisdom he was able to prescribe to the king a plan that would guarantee their preservation during the famine.

Genesis 41:33-36

THE PROFIT:

They didn't die in the famine.

EXAMPLE:

Exercising the gift of the discerning of spirits, Jesus ascertained who and how many were in the man in the tombs. Mark 5:8-9

To the end that He might cast the spirits out. Mark 5:13

THE PROFIT:

The man was restored to his right mind. Mark 5:15

POWER GIFTS:

EXAMPLE:

By the operation of the gift of faith Jesus cursed a fig tree. Mark 11:12-23

This incident manifests the use of the gift of faith in one phase of its operations only; that of believing for the fantastically impossible to come to pass at our word.

Mark 11:23

THE PROFIT:

To the end that His disciples should do likewise. The Acts of the Apostles manifests all too well that these men did just that.

EXAMPLE:

Jesus, by the operation of the gift of faith in the second phase of its operations, instills faith into the heart of the father of the possessed boy. Mark 9:17-21

THE PROFIT:

The man's faith was built up, as well as the boy being set at liberty. Mark k9:24-27

EXAMPLE:

By the operation of the gift of healing, Jesus healed the multitude. Luke 6:19

THE PROFIT:

They received their healing. Luke 6:19

EXAMPLE:

He healed the Nobleman's son. John 4:46-53

THE PROFIT:

Himself believed and his whole house, as well as his son being restored to him, healed. John 4:53

EXAMPLE:

By deliberately operating the gift of the performing of miracles, Jesus turned the water into wine. John 2:1-10

THE PROFIT:

His disciples believed on him. John 2:11

EXAMPLE:

By its use, Peter released Dorcas from the dead. Acts 9:36-41

PROFIT:

A great revival in that town. Acts 9:42

EXAMPLE:

By the operation of this same gift, Peter healed Aeneas. Acts 9:32-34

PROFIT:

The ENTIRE TOWN was converted. Acts 9:35

EXAMPLE:

The cripple at the gate, healed by the operation of this and almost all of the other Gifts of the Spirit. Acts 3:1-8

PROFIT:

Five thousand souls believe unto salvation. Acts 4:4

It is a marvelous provision that our Father has made for us in the Gifts of the Spirit. By the deliberate use of the gift of tongues, you build yourself up. I Corinthians 14:4

By the deliberate use of tongues with interpretations you build up the balance of the Church. I Corinthians 14:5

By the deliberate use of the gift of prophecy you do likewise. I Corinthians 14:3-4

By the use of the gift of the word of knowledge you are enabled to predict those things that are coming to pass, to the forewarning of your brothers. Genesis 41:25-32

By the deliberate use of the gift of the word of wisdom the Saint of God is enabled to give sound advice to the meeting of any need. Acts 15

By the use of the gift of the discerning of spirits we are enabled to keep out the doctrines of devils that otherwise would be spread rampant in the Church by seducing spirits. I Timothy 4:1

By the deliberate use of the gift of faith, those whose faith has grown cold may be built up to "expect to receive something." Acts 3:5

Likewise, by its use you may be enabled to bring to pass that which you have uttered. Acts 14:8-10

By the deliberate use of the gift of healing, the healing virtue of Jesus Christ is imparted to a mortal body, making them well. Luke 6:19

And last but not least, we have the gift of the performing of miracles, by the deliberate

operation of which we are enabled of God, by the power that dwells in us, to perform miracles.

Luke 6:6-10

Remember that the gifts operate at your volition. For example, we would draw your attention to the miracle of the cripple at the gate, "Such as I have, GIVE I you." (Peter speaking).

Acts 3:6

You will find that the principle which applies here, that of the deliberate use of spiritual gifts by Peter, is applicable to all the gifts, in all their several administrations and their diversities of operations.

Notes

Summary in Conclusion

Notes

Lesson 11

The gifts of the Spirit are foretold in the Old Testament (by inference) Isaiah 35:4-6

Joel 2:28-29

Enumerated, by inference only, in the New Testament.

I Corinthians 12:8-10

Christ was endued with the same.

Luke 4:14-19

Matthew 12:28

Acts 10:38

He promised them to us.

Acts 1:8

The early church believers received and operated in them.

Acts 2:4

Acts 3:1-9

Acts 4:29-33

Acts 5:1-16

Acts 8:5-8

Acts 9:17-19

Acts 9:32-43

They are for the confirmation of the Gospel of Grace, that is, their product bears testimony to same.

Mark 16:15-20

Acts 14:3

Romans 15:18-19

Hebrews 2:3-4

They are to be desired, searched out.

I Corinthians 12:31

I Corinthians 14:1

Not to be despised.

I Thessalonians 5:20

Not to be quenched in their operations among us.

I Thessalonians 5:19

Not to be neglected.

I Timothy 4:14

Timothy 1:6

The gifts in operation are the earmarks of the Dispensation of Grace.

Isaiah 35:4-6

Mark 16:15-20

The purpose of same, i.e. the product of their operation, is that man's faith should stand, being built upon the manifestation, showing forth, of the power of God; this attesting to his ability to perform that which he has promised.

I Corinthians 2:1-5

The signs and wonders performed by the operation of the gifts in us are done through the power of God.

John 3:2

I Corinthians 12:9-10

2 Corinthians 4:7

I Corinthians 12:28-30

Mark 16:17

Acts 3:16; 4:30; 14:3;

Acts 15:12; 19:11

Matthew 12:28

Romans 15:19

Faith is required in those in whom and for whom the gifts are operated. Mark 9:22-24

Acts 14:9

The Gifts of the Spirit are to remain in use until Jesus comes for us.

I Corinthians 13:8-10

Once you have received them, they are in you.

I Timothy 4:14

They are to be operated at your will, you are to stir them up.

2 Timothy 1:6

The power to receive, operate and impart spiritual gifts is relegated to them that believe.

Mark 16:15-20

They cannot be received or purchased by the ungodly.

Acts 8:18-23

Signs and wonders have been and shall be performed by the ungodly.

Exodus 7:11-12

Exodus 7:13-22

Exodus 8:7

Acts 8:9-11

Acts 16:16-18

But not the signs that shall follow them that believe.

Mark 6:15-20

The signs that follow the ungodly are performed through the power of Satan.

2 Thessalonians 2:9

Also, note that they are performed by false prophets and false Christs.

Matthew 24:24

They are done by those who oppose the Gospel, in support of false cults.

Deuteronomy 13:1-5

There is a day coming when lying signs and wonders shall be performed.

2 Thessalonians 2

God's purpose in allowing lying signs and wonders to be performed is that the rejecters of Our Lord Jesus Christ shall be deceived.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12

Revelation 13:13-14

Revelation 19:20

This will be in the time of the Anti-Christ.

2 Thessalonians 2:8-9

NOTE: A lying sign and a lying wonder. These are not REAL ones. Ours are real signs and real wonders. For an example of the blessed results of the Gifts of the Spirit in operation in the ministry of a man of God read.

Acts 19:1-12

For an example of an abortive attempt by ungodly men to imitate the same.

Acts 19:13-16

For a startling revelation of how the Lord will take even the unclean thing and make it to glorify Him, and to prove His word.

Acts 9:17-20

This blessed result could not have transpired, had not the product of the deliberate use of spiritual gifts been in evidence, in direct contradiction and opposition to the workings of the wicked powers of hell.

Author unknown. Believed to have been from England around the late 1800's.

Notes

About the Authors



Maureen has served as a pastor with the C&MA and a missionary with YWAM. She and her husband Gary have four grown daughters and two grandchildren. Maureen has a deep passion to see all believers walking in their full potential and calling of the Lord. She loves to train and equip believers in kingdom truths and see them set free in Christ through deliverance and inner healing.



Cheryl has a Master of Arts in Spiritual Formation (MASF) from Carey Theological College. She ministers as a Spiritual Director as well as leads Soul Care retreats. Her desire is to help others discover a deeper, richer, more satisfying relationship with God as they learn to listen and discern His voice and presence.

Cheryl and her husband Mark have been married 30 years and have raised 3 children.

Both Maureen and Cheryl have been involved in teaching, training and participating in intercessory prayer ministry both in the local church context as well as internationally.

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