

LESSON 8

GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit were given to the Church as instruments of blessing. These gifts are tools against darkness, evil, and ignorance. The gifts work through people and we must always realize that the gifts are perfect, but people are not.

I. WHAT ARE THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

A. They are supernatural manifestations of the Spirit of God that reveal, do, or say something. These gifts go beyond human reasoning and the laws of nature and should always glorify Jesus and be in harmony with the Word of God.

1. 2 Corinthians 10:4

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds.”

B. 1 Corinthians 12:1

“Now concerning spiritual gifts, bretheren, I would not have you ignorant.”

II. ARE THE GIFTS FOR THE CHURCH TODAY?

A. Acts 2:38, 39

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ.”

B. Mark 16:17

“And these signs shall follow them that believe: in my name they shall cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues...”

III. DIVISION OF THE GIFTS. 1 CORINTHIANS 12:8-10

A. Gifts of Utterance. These gifts say something.

1. Tongues

2. Interpretation of Tongues

3. Prophecy

B. Gifts of Revelation. These gifts reveal something.

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

C. Gifts of Power. These gifts do something.

1. Gift of Faith
2. Working of Miracles
3. Gifts of Healing

IV. EVIDENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

A. Acts 10:47

“Can any more forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?”

1. Peter recognized the infilling of the Holy Ghost by the fact that these men spoke with other tongues.

V. DEFINITIONS AND EXAMPLES OF THE GIFTS IN THE BIBLE

A. Word of Wisdom. The supernatural revelation by the Holy Spirit concerning the divine purpose in the mind and will of God. This gift deals with the future.

1. Old Testament Examples:

Genesis 6:13

“And God said to Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.”

Daniel 7

God gives Daniel a vision of future kingdoms that will rule on the earth.

2. New Testament Examples:

Acts 11:27-30

Agabus prophesies a great dearth coming upon the earth.

Acts 21:10-11

Agabus prophesies Paul's future.

- B. Word of Knowledge. The supernatural revelation by the Holy Spirit of certain facts in the mind of God. This gift deals with the present or past.

1. Old Testament Examples:

2 Kings 6:8-12

Elisha knows the thoughts of the king of Syria.

2 Kings 5:25-26

Elisha knows the heart of his servant Gehazi.

2. New Testament Examples:

John 1:47-50

Jesus sees Nathanael sitting under a fig tree.

John 4:18

Jesus with the woman at the well.

Acts 9:10-12

Ananias knows supernaturally about Saul's conversion.

- C. Discerning of Spirits. The supernatural insight given by the Holy Spirit into the spirit realm.

1. Two areas of the gift:

- a. Seeing into the spirit realm with your natural eyes.

2 Kings 6:15-17

Elisha at Dothan.

Isaiah 6:1-4

Isaiah's vision of the Lord.

- b. Understanding the motivation behind a person or situation.

John 1:47

Jesus knows the motivation of Nathanael.

Acts 8:9-10, 18-23

Peter knows the motivation behind Simon.

D. Gift of Faith. A supernatural surge of faith that allows the believer to know without any doubt that what he says or does will come to pass.

1. Old Testament Examples:

1 Kings 17:1-7

Elijah causes no rain by his word.

Daniel 3:20-25

Three Hebrew children in the fiery furnace.

Daniel 6:16-23

Daniel in the lion's den.

2. New Testament Examples:

Matthew 21:19

Jesus curses the fig tree.

Acts 27:20-25

Paul's faith during shipwreck.

E. Working of Miracles. The supernatural ability given by the Holy Spirit by which the laws of nature are suspended, altered, or controlled.

1. Old Testament Examples:

1 Kings 18:21-38

Elijah calls down fire from heaven.

1 Kings 17:12-16

Widow's barrel of meal did not fail.

2. New Testament Examples:

John 6:5-14

Jesus multiplies the loaves and fishes.

Acts 8:39-40

Philip caught away by the Spirit of the Lord.

F. Gifts of Healing. The supernatural imparting of God's healing power to a believer.

1. Old Testament Example:

2 Kings 5:1-19
Healing of Naaman the leper.

2. New Testament Examples:

Mark 2:10-12
Jesus heals the man sick of the palsy.

Acts 3:1-3
Healing of the man at the gate called Beautiful.

G. Tongues. The ability to speak supernaturally in a language not learned by the speaker.

1. Use of Tongues in the Bible:

Jude 20
Prayer language of the believer.

Romans 8:26
A tool of intercession.

1 Corinthians 14:22
A sign to unbelievers.

1 Corinthians 12:10
A message given that should be interpreted.

(Instruction on the use of tongues may be found in 1 Corinthians 14)

H. Interpretation of Tongues. The supernatural ability to interpret an utterance of the gift of tongues.

1. This gift always works in conjunction with the gift of tongues and is an interpretation, not a translation.

1 Corinthians 14:27

I. Prophecy. The supernatural ability to speak by the Holy Spirit in a known tongue.

1. 1 Corinthians 14:5

“I would that ye all spake with tongues but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except that he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.”

2. 1 Corinthians 14:3

“But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.”

VI. DID THESE GIFTS OPERATE IN JESUS' MINISTRY?

A. Yes. John 3:34

“For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.”

B. There are two gifts that did *not* operate in the ministry of Jesus. They are tongues and the interpretation of tongues.

C. These gifts did not operate in the ministry of Jesus because in the Old Testament and during Jesus' ministry the Spirit of God resided in specific places and worked through only a few people. Now in the Church age the Spirit of God resides in man and God's people are scattered all over the world. Tongues and interpretation of tongues are a sign of the Church age and show that his spirit is flowing through his people.

1. John 14:7

“Even the Spirit of truth: whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”

2. Hebrews 10:16

“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them.”

VII. IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO TO MAKE THESE GIFTS OPERATE IN MY LIFE?

A. God looks for faithful, holy, and willing people to pour His Spirit through, but these gifts are given at God's will.

1. 1 Corinthians 12:11

“But these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.”

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

All the gifts of the Spirit (charisma) are given to us by the grace (charis) of God. We need to be sensitive to the Spirit of God to properly operate in these gifts so that all the body will be edified when they are manifested in the local assembly. If you are called on by God to minister in the Spirit, be recognized by the one in authority at that time. The usurping (forcefully taking, wresting away) of authority is not permitted in the church of the Lord Jesus. We in no way suppress the Spirit of the Lord in services but we do seek to do all things unto edification and to do all things decently and in order.