

**GIFTS OF
THE
HOLY
SPIRIT**

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THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

PREFACE

God has blessed the body of Christ with nine spiritual gifts. The nine gifts of the Holy Spirit are available freely to all believers who fully comprehend the biblical perspective of what it means to be baptized with the power of the Holy Spirit. However, many believers who are baptized in the Holy Spirit and speak in unknown tongues do not exercise any gifts of the Holy Spirit. Many spirit-filled believers in the body of Christ are ignorant of how these gifts may be used, and have not considered themselves as candidates in their use. The Apostle Paul introduces his discussion of the gifts of the Holy Spirit to the Corinthian church by admonishing them “not to be ignorant” concerning spiritual gifts. (1 Cor 12:1)

Before we begin the subject of the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit and their operation in the body of Christ; it is imperative that the reader fully understand what it is to be baptized or filled with the Holy Spirit.

THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

I. THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER

The last words of the Lord Jesus Christ, before He ascended to Heaven, are recorded in Acts 1:4-5. In these verses, those listening to Him were commanded to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father, of which He had earlier spoken. He refers back to the words of John the Baptist, regarding the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, and He promises them power to witness for Him in Jerusalem, in Judea and Samaria and extending to the farthest points of the earth." (v8)

After the outpouring of the Holy Ghost on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2) the Apostle Peter begins his sermon with, "this is that which is spoken of by the prophet Joel". (Joel 2:28-29)

Yet many believers today still will not accept the biblical experience of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. This is the experience that changed those early disciples from fearful followers, hiding behind locked doors (John 20:19) to bold ministers (Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists) ministering the Word of God in great power (Acts 17:6) "**turning the world upside down**".

II. WHAT IS THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER?

Joel 2:28-29 **foretells in 835 BC the pouring out of the Holy Spirit upon all flesh.** In the book of Acts, the fulfillment of this scripture is recorded. At that time both Jews and Gentiles received the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the speaking of unknown tongues.

Joel prophesied, "Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions; **and also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.**" (Joel 2:29-30)

What an incredible promise (Jn 14:16,26) to all believers, of any age group, both men and women of any culture, creed or cast. The promised gift of the Holy Spirit was to be given freely to all who desired it. The Apostle Peter announced the fulfillment of Christ's promise in Acts 2. The promise of the Father prophesied by Christ was indeed fulfilled by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit ten days after Christ ascended to His Father in Heaven.

III. THE PROMISE OF THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Each gospel mentions the ministry and preaching of John the Baptist; who called for repentance towards God. This new spiritual lifestyle of faith towards God was confirmed by water baptism in the river Jordan where John the Baptist baptized by immersion.

Those who were not prepared to change their lives, (particularly the Pharisees and the Sadducees and other religious leaders who were looking to outward forms of works to verify their righteousness) were publicly chastised by John the Baptist: "O generation of vipers ... bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance" (Matthew 3:7-8).

John the Baptist pointed repentant believers to the "Greater" One to come (Jesus Christ). He prophesied that "**He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire**". Matthew 3:11, Mark 1:8, Luke 3:16, John 1:33

According to these scriptures the promise of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost was very much in the ministry vision of John the Baptist. **Repentance and a changed life, together with the baptism in water, was simply a preparation for the coming Messiah and His greater baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire.** John did not look at the baptism in water as an end in itself.

IV. JESUS REFERS TO THE COMING BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. The Holy Spirit as "Living Water"

In John 7:37-39, Jesus Christ identifies the Feast (when the water was poured out), as a type of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Christ stated that the living water of the Holy Spirit would pour forth from the belly of the believer. **"He that believeth on me (Jesus), as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water."**

Jesus Himself identifies this flowing forth as the Holy Spirit, which those that believed on Him would receive. This was prophesied as a future experience, because **the outpouring of the Holy Spirit was dependent on the ascension of Jesus to the Father.**

Many of the people who listened to the ministry of Christ identified Him as the promised Prophet mentioned in Deuteronomy 18:15.

ACTS 3:22 For Moses truly said unto the fathers, a prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.

2. The Holy Ghost revealed as the future Comforter.

John 14:16,17,26. As Jesus Christ prepared His disciples for His departure, He spoke again of the Comforter "which is the Holy Ghost". (v26) Jesus promised that He would ask the Father for this One (the Comforter) to be sent. The Father would send the Holy Ghost to teach the disciples all things, reminding them of the teachings of Christ.

The promised "comforter" (John 14:16) "**shall be in you.**"

This promise of the indwelling presence of the Holy Ghost was to be one of the great changes that the Baptism of the Holy Ghost would accomplish. Rather than just accompanying the disciples, **the Holy Spirit would actually come and dwell within the body of the believer forever.** Prophets, and men of God in the Old Testament, knew the presence of the Holy Spirit coming upon them - at which time they prophesied and gave the word of the Lord. The Holy Spirit came upon them in great strength, but then lifted from them after they had prophesied. See 2 Chronicles 20:14 and 1 Samuel 19:20-21.

Note David's plea in Psalm 51:11 ..."and **take not thy holy spirit from me.**" He valued God's presence, because he feared God.

3. The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit depended on the Ascension and Glorification of Jesus Christ.

John 16:7 "It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you."

Jesus Christ knew that the sending of the Holy Ghost into the world as the indwelling "Spirit Baptizer" was dependent on His ascending to the Father, to be glorified. So the experience of the Holy Ghost would be much different from that which earlier men and women of God had experienced.

4. Jesus breathed on His disciples BEFORE the ascension.

John 20:22. Jesus breathed on the disciples and prayed "Receive ye the Holy Ghost." But there was no evidence of speaking in tongues. He had already said that He had to return to the Father before the Holy Ghost could be sent, and He also told them to wait in Jerusalem for the Promise of the Father. It was a word of promise to the disciples.

V. JESUS' FINAL INSTRUCTIONS TO HIS DISCIPLES

Mark 16:15-17 In the Great Commission given by Jesus in the Gospel according to Mark, the believers were to continue to believe for signs and wonders as they had experienced whilst accompanying Jesus Christ in His short ministry.

In Mark 16:17 Jesus prophesied that “new tongues” would come. One of the greatest contentions in Christendom has been the “tongues” of Acts. I have heard some say it was only for that era. I have heard others say, “It’s from the devil”. We must always fulfill Bible prophecy, by embracing “the new tongues” wholehearted without fear or doubt. This end-time sign is from God Himself. If Jesus said “they shall speak”, then we need to speak.

This first occurred on the day of Pentecost. The Lord was already preparing them for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit which was soon to come. The speaking in tongues was also linked to other demonstrations of signs and wonders - such as casting out devils, and healing the sick.

VI. THE PROMISE FULFILLED

Acts 2:1-13 records the outstanding account of the promised day of Pentecost when **the Holy Ghost was outpoured upon the disciples in great power, like the roar of a tornado strength wind.** Surely this was the initiating of greater and more personal spiritual experiences for the people of God. The fire

of God was on their heads, in the shape of cloven tongues. From this time on they were to be "ministers of fire". (Psalms 104:4; Hebrews 1:7) Their mouths were speaking forth other tongues under the power of the Holy Spirit, declaring the wonderful works of God. They were staggering about as drunken men, under the power of the Holy Ghost within.

Acts 2:4 And **they were all filled with the Holy Ghost**, and **began to speak with other tongues**, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Peter's sermon revealed transformation characteristics in many believers. From the frightened disciple who betrayed the Lord on the night of His crucifixion, who hid behind closed doors and who wanted to return to fishing, Peter is now boldly preaching without fear, and ministering in the revelation of the Holy Spirit. This transformation took place in just a few hours.

Acts 2:38-39. Peter preached a message of repentance, calling for all people to repent. He encouraged the believers to receive what the disciples had received, the gift of the Holy Ghost. "**The promise is unto to you and to your children, and to all those afar off**, and even as many as the Lord our God shall call".

There is no limit on the receiving of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, however they are only given those who have received Christ. (Eph 1:3)

VII. OTHER ACCOUNTS IN THE BOOK OF ACTS OF THE BAPTISM OF HOLY GHOST

1. The First Gentiles Baptized in the Holy Ghost.

Acts 10:44-48. This biblical account records the first outpouring of the Holy Ghost on Gentile believers, on the Italian Cornelius and his band. The outpouring is associated once again with the speaking in unknown tongues and magnifying God. Because these Gentiles spoke in tongues, Peter had no hesitation in recognition. Indeed this was the same Holy Ghost outpouring that he and his friends had experienced in the upper room. (Acts 11:15) Until that time Peter and the other disciples with him had believed that all God's blessings were intended for the Jews.

v.46 For **they heard them speak with tongues**, and magnify God.

In Acts 11:15-17, Peter recounts the experience to the other Jews in Jerusalem. He explicitly says in verse 15, "the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning." Peter then recalls the Lord Jesus referring to the words of John the Baptist and the coming baptism of the Holy Ghost. The Gentiles had

received the same experience as the Jews on the day of Pentecost.

2. **The Disciples at Ephesus**

In Acts 19:2-7 Paul found believers who had only received John's water baptism for repentance. Paul laid his hands upon them (v.6). Once again, the speaking in unknown tongues was manifested as the Holy Ghost came upon these disciples. The scripture record also shows that these twelve disciples prophesied as they received the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 19:6 And when Paul had laid *his* hands upon them, **the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.**

Paul's first question to the Ephesus believers was this. "Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed"? Acts 19:2 shows all believers, the importance of receiving this separate experience of being baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Like Paul, we need to ask Christians if they have received the Holy Ghost; and if they do not speak in tongues, we need to pray for them that they may also receive of God.

Paul went into the synagogue in Ephesus and spoke boldly for three months of the things concerning the

kingdom of God. (Acts 19:8) It is quite probable that he would have been teaching on the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, with the evidence of speaking in unknown tongues, which he had just ministered to John's disciples. John's disciples not only spoke in unknown tongues, but they prophesied as well.

(Acts 19:6)

Spirit-filled tongue talking believers should realize that the baptism of the Holy Spirit brings the enabling to operate all nine Holy Spirit gifts necessary to be effective ministers of the gospel.

Paul's letter to the Ephesian Church speaks of the "sealing of that Holy Spirit of promise", received "after that ye believed". (Eph 1:13) In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, **ye were sealed** with that holy Spirit of promise,

In Ephesians 5:18-19 Paul admonishes the believers to be "filled with the Spirit; speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs." **These spiritual songs, or songs of the spirit, would certainly include singing in unknown tongues.**

The letter to the church at Ephesus was also circulated to other Christian communities so that all believers had common ground knowledge.

3. The Disciples at Colossae and Corinth

Colossians 3:16 also includes an admonition to enter into "spiritual song". In this scripture, the implication is to do this as a body, "teaching and admonishing one another".

In Paul's first letter to the church at Corinth, it is apparent that the Corinthians spoke in tongues. We find this in chapters 12 & 14 of (1 Corinthians).

4. The Experience of the Apostle Paul

Acts 9:1-20 records the conversion of the Pharisee Saul. In verse 17, Ananias acknowledges Saul as a brother- in- Christ. Upon the laying on of hands to be filled with the Holy Ghost, he arose and was baptized. It is evident that Paul spoke with tongues. First, in the account in Acts 19:6. Second, in **1 Corinthians 14:18, Paul writes, "I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all."**

5. The Experience of the Samaritans

Acts 8:5-8, 14-18 records the revival conducted by Philip the Evangelist. Many became believers. **The Apostles at Jerusalem sent Peter and John down to Samaria especially to lay hands on them to receive the Holy Ghost.** The record of Acts specifically says that He had fallen on none of them, but they had been

baptized in water. These disciples received the Holy Ghost as the apostles laid their hands on them. **The evidence the apostles used to ascertain whether the Samaritans had received the Holy Ghost was that they had spoken with unknown tongues.**

Simon the sorcerer had personally witnessed Holy Spirit revival in some of the Disciples after receiving the Holy Spirit. He then requested the same “power” that he had seen others receive. The Greek word used for "power" in this verse is "exousia", meaning authority. Simon saw there were changes in the lives of those who received the Holy Ghost. Of course, Simon the sorcerer was greatly rebuked by Peter for thinking that the gift of God could be purchased with money.

VIII. THE CONTINUING PROMISE OF THE FATHER

The experience of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost has never been withdrawn by God. It was the desire of the Father that all those who call upon the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ be endued with power from God. It was not just an experience for those during first years of the early church.

Believers are to be “temples” of the Holy Ghost, both individually, and corporately as one body. (1

Corinthians 6:19, Ephesians 2:21-22). Wherever believers have sought the Lord with open believing hearts, the baptism of the Holy Spirit will come upon them, with speaking in unknown tongues. The “tongues” is the overflow of the “infilling”.

Pastors should ask the sheep the same question as Paul. "Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?" Peter and Paul looked for the evidence of receiving. **If a believer had not spoken in tongues, then this is one of the first things they attended too.**

Many times, the Disciples of Christ had times of rejoicing as they experienced the power of God during their 3 years with Christ. (Luke 10:17) Even though they witnessed the miraculous power of the Lord, they had not yet received the power that they needed for ministry after the ascension of Jesus.

There was much joy when the first Samaritans believed on Christ Jesus. (Acts 8:8) **However, this was not the baptism of the Holy Spirit.**

Believers today may experience great joy as they give their lives to Christ. They all enter into that new life found in Christ Jesus. (2 Cor 5:17-18)

1 Peter 1:23 speaks of being born again, "...by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever". Verse 22 says "ye have purified your souls in obeying

the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren".

However, this experience is the spiritual new birth and is separate experience to the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

IX. RECEIVING THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER

The disciples waited in Jerusalem in one accord and one spirit, until the day of Pentecost was fulfilled and the Holy Ghost was poured out. From that time, it was not necessary to wait.

Paul was filled with the Spirit as soon as Ananias laid hands on him. (Acts 9:17-18)

Cornelius and his band received the Holy Ghost and spoke in tongues even as Peter was sharing the Word. (Acts 10:44)

The disciples at Ephesus received the Holy Spirit as soon as Paul laid hands on them. (Acts 19:6)

Today in many nations God is still outpouring His Holy Ghost, as recorded in the book of Acts. Millions of believers have and are receiving this powerful experience, even in the most remote regions of the world.

God is fulfilling over and over again the prophecy of Joel 2:28-29, "I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh".

As believers, we need to answer the same question Paul asked John's disciples in Acts 19:2

**"HAVE YE RECEIVED THE HOLY GHOST
SINCE YE BELIEVED?"**

If your answer was a resounding "yes" then the rest of this book will be of greater value.

GOD HAS GIVEN THE GIFTS TO THE CHURCH:

1. The Gifts work by Love:

1 Corinthians 12 and 14 are the main chapters in the New Testament where the gifts of the Holy Spirit are discussed and at least some of their workings are defined. It is of interest that the well-known “Love Chapter” of the Bible is located between chapters 12 and 14. All the gifts of the Holy Spirit flow from the foundation of the love of God to His Church. In 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, Paul considers the gifts of tongues, prophecy, and revelatory understanding as empty soundings if the working of a spiritual gift is not done with love for the body of Christ. Paul counters any personal pride in the use of such gifts.

2. The Gifts are given by Grace:

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are not earned by works. The Greek word translated “gift” is “charisma” which has the meaning of “grace or favour”. 1 Corinthians 12:7 says that the Holy Spirit is manifested (**Gk:** phaneros) in the gifts – the meaning is a “shining forth” or a “making visible” of the Holy Spirit of God, to exhibit His love and power. So the gifts of the Holy Spirit are an outworking of the gift of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Paul teaches us that the gifts differ according to the grace or favour of God that is given to us. (Rom 12:6)

3. The Gifts do not indicate spirituality or character:

(Rom 12:6) Because the gifts are of God's grace alone, they are not indications of the spirituality of the believer who may be using a particular gift. The operation of a gift reveals the grace of God working by the Holy Spirit in a believer.

4. All spirit-believers can manifest the Gifts of the Holy Spirit:

The ability to use the gifts of the Holy Spirit is available to *every Holy Ghost filled believer*. In fact, the Holy Spirit filled believer should be expecting to both use the gifts of the Holy Spirit and be used by God in ministry. Doubts, fears, inhibitions and all hindrances should be surrendered to the Lord. Paul encourages believers to present their bodies to God for service (Romans 12:1). The yielding of our bodies (tongues, voices and hands) in the use of spiritual gifts is a necessary service to the Lord Jesus Christ. In 2 Timothy 1:6 Paul encourages Timothy to stir up the gift that was given by the laying on of hands.

GUIDELINES WHEN USING THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

1. The Gifts are to profit the whole Church:

Different gifts are given to different members of the body of Christ, but the desire of the Holy Spirit is

that all members of a church body should benefit by their use. Each gift should show the love of God to His Church – whether it is a teaching, a doctrine, a revelation, or some miraculous use of the power gifts. All are to be used excellently, for the profit of the body of Christ. (1 Corinthians 14:6,12).

1Cor 14:6 Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine?

1Cor 14:12 Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual *gifts*, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.

2. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit work together:

(1 Cor 12:18) There is an interdependence of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. In the natural body, the various members work and co-operate together to fulfill a task. So it is with the workings of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The exercise of one gift of the Spirit may also require another gift for the total fulfillment of the purpose of God.

1 Corinthians 12:4 states that there are diversities (or differences) of gifts, but the same Spirit.

1Cor 12:4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

1Cor 12:5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

Over all, it is the same Holy Spirit moving to strengthen the body of Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:19-25).

3. The different gifts may be administered in a variety of ways:

1 Cor 12:5. For instance, prophecy may be spoken or sung. Healing may be accomplished by the laying on of hands, or a spoken word, or even prayer over a cloth which is then placed on the sick person. The word of knowledge or word of wisdom may be expressed in a prophetic utterance. Whichever way the gifts are used, it is the working of the Holy Spirit.

4. There are different ways in which gifts may operate:

1Cor 12:6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

For instance, a word of knowledge may reveal a physical need in the body, or a spiritual need in a person, or a situation. The word may be revealed to the believer in a variety of ways – by a vision, by a word or phrase in the spirit or by an inner knowing

or a revelation. Prophecy may deepen from exhortation, edification and comfort, into a realm of revelation beyond the ordinary use. This would require an excelling and greater anointing in the gift. 1 Corinthians 14:6 shows that speaking may be by revelation, by knowledge, by prophesying, or by doctrine. Let us allow the gifts that we exercise to deepen in both revelation and power as we wait upon the Lord.

THE NINE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1Cor 12:8 For to one is given by the Spirit the **word of wisdom**; to another the **word of knowledge** by the same Spirit;

1Cor 12:9 To another **faith** by the same Spirit; to another the **gifts of healing** by the same Spirit;

1Cor 12:10 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**:

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

So, 1 Cor 12:8-11 gives a list of the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit. For convenience of study they are grouped in three sections:

1. THE GIFT OF SPEAKING IN UNKNOWN TONGUES.

The gift of Speaking in Unknown Tongues was first experienced on the Day of Pentecost when the disciples received the fire and might of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. (Acts 2:4).

Act 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, **and began to speak with other tongues**, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

In Mark 16:17, the Lord Jesus Christ had referred to this gift just prior to His ascension. Jesus had promised that the believer would speak in unknown tongues in the Name of Jesus.

Mar 16:17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; **they shall speak with new tongues**;
Speaking in unknown tongues is also recorded in Acts 10:44, when the Gentiles first received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost.

Act 10:44 While Peter yet spake these words, **the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.**

The believers in Ephesus spoke in unknown tongues and prophesied when they received the Baptism of

the Holy Spirit (Acts 19:6).

Act 19:6 And when Paul had laid *his* hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and **they spake with tongues, and prophesied.**

The gift of Speaking in Unknown Tongues is therefore an important sign that the believer has received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost.

USING THE GIFT OF SPEAKING IN TONGUES

In 1 Corinthians 14, Paul explains the use of the gift of Tongues. Paul contrasts the private worship in unknown tongues with the use of tongues in a body of believers.

A. PRIVATE USE OF SPEAKING TONGUES:

1. Worship to God:

When a believer speaks in tongues in worship to God, he is speaking mysteries to God. Do not disparage these mysteries just because the intellect may not understand them. In verses 2 and 5, Paul encourages all believers to speak in tongues as private worship to God. There is no limit to the praise and worship a believer can give to God praying in unknown tongues because this is the Holy Spirit praying through the believer.

The spirit filled believer worshipping in tongues may realize that further unknown tongues are being added to him as he yields his spirit more deeply to the Holy Spirit.

2. Edification of the believer is an important function of the gift of Tongues:

1Cor 14:4 He that speaketh in an *unknown tongue edifieth himself*; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.

1 Corinthians 14:4 reveals that the believer is edifying himself while he is speaking in tongues. Hence, the believer is building up his own spiritual life by speaking in tongues. A flow of the Holy Spirit is released in the believer's life as he prays in unknown tongues, and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit is developed. Jesus said that out of the believer's innermost belly would flow rivers of living water under the power of the Holy Spirit. (John 7:38-39). **Jude 20** encourages us to pray in the Holy Ghost for edification. This certainly includes praying in unknown tongues.

3. Singing in Unknown Tongues is a different operation of the gift of Tongues:

Singing in Tongues is encouraged in 1 Corinthians 14:15, where Paul says that he will "pray with the spirit . . . and sing with the spirit".

Ephesians 5:19 also encourages the believer to sing “spiritual songs” or songs of the spirit. These songs included singing in unknown tongues, as well as the believer’s own language.

Col 3:16 refers to spiritual songs again, this time teaching and admonishing “one another”. So there can also be a corporate manifestation of singing together in the gift of unknown tongues, in worship and adoration of God.

4. Praying in Tongues is a means to praying the perfect prayer.

1 Cor 14:17 says that those who pray in an unknown tongue give thanks well.

Rom 8:26- 27 says that “the Spirit helps our infirmities, for we know not what we should pray for as we ought. The Spirit makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God”. Praying in unknown tongues causes us to pray according to the will of God. We can pray for needs unknown to us by our natural understanding as the Holy Spirit leads us.

- 5 **1 Cor 14:39** Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues.

Note Paul’s advice in verse 39, “Forbid not to speak with tongues” and in 1 Cor 14:18 (next page)

1Cor 14:18 I thank my God, **I speak with tongues more than ye all:**

It is important that speaking in unknown tongues frequently be a part of the believer's worship experience.

Many of these verses of scripture encourage the individual spirit-filled believer of the benefit of using (speaking) with unknown "Tongues". This personal spiritual gift is used in our worship; in praise to God and our personal edification and strengthening.

B. THE USE OF TONGUES AS A PUBLIC GIFT IN THE BODY OF CHRIST:

The gift of Speaking in Tongues needs to be used with the gift of Interpretation in a corporate worship service. This enables the whole congregation to be blessed and edified. A message in tongues could not be understood without the gift of interpretation. This is a wonderful example of the gifts of the Holy Spirit interacting and working together to profit the body of Christ.

1 Cor 12:30. Paul's questions, "Do all speak with tongues?" and "Do all interpret?" are asked as he introduces the use of the gift of Tongues as a ministry in the worship of the Church. One who

regularly uses the gift of Tongues in the congregation would have a ministry in the gift of Tongues. To develop this ministry, time needs to be given to private praying inclusive of the use of speaking in tongues.

1 Cor 14:13-19. The believer who speaks in the unknown tongues in the congregation as a ministry needs to pray that he may also use the gift of Interpretation to express what the Holy Spirit is saying to the congregation. Note that it is the responsibility of the one who speaks in tongues to interpret his message. This is necessary so that the understanding of others can be fruitful, and all can agree with the interpretation. However, another person with the gift of Interpretation may also be used to interpret the tongues. This is the usual and indeed the accepted method used to interpret a message given in tongues. (See paragraph 2 (Interpretation of tongues))

The edification of the whole church occurs when the gift of the Speaking in Tongues is used with the Interpretation.

1 Cor 14:27-28. Paul gives guidelines for the proper use of the gift of Tongues in the church. He says that there needs to be one who can move in the gift of Interpretation.

1Cor 14:27 If any man speak in an *unknown* tongue, *let it be* by two, or at the most *by* three, and *that* by course; and let one interpret.

1Cor 14:28 But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.

C. THE GIFT OF INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES.

1. It has been explained earlier that the gift of Interpretation of Tongues is used with the gift of Tongues when used in the church. This gift may be exercised by anyone who wants to speak in tongues as a gift in the midst of the congregation. In practice, this is what usually occurs. If a believer operates the gift of Interpretation, he is also usually operating the gift of Tongues.

2. The person who gives an Interpretation of Tongues may be different to the person who speaks out in the gift of Tongues. If there is no interpreter, then the gift of Tongues should not be used, as it does not edify the church – not because it is a false gift! (1Cor 14:28)

3. The gift of Interpretation is not a gift of translation. There is a difference. The interpreter is giving the essence of the gift of Tongues, and different believers may express this differently. Several believers may be aware that they have the interpretation to a message in Tongues. When one

gives the interpretation it will not be a word for word interpretation that the other person would have spoken, although the essence of the message may be similar in character.

SPEAKING IN TONGUES, AND INTERPRETING AS A MINISTRY IN THE CHURCH:

1. The believer needs to speak with at least as high an anointing as is flowing in the meeting. If the praise is high, and the believer gives a non-flowing message in a soft indecisive voice, the anointing of the meeting is lowered. The general rule is that the church is to be edified, moving from one level of anointing to a higher level of anointing.
2. Do not continue speaking on and on so as to lose the unction of the Spirit. Stop speaking as soon as the anointing lifts or decreases.
3. Choose a suitable pause in the service to speak: e.g. after praise and worship or after a song.
4. DO NOT try to give a message in tongues in the midst of high praises, in the middle of a song, or in the middle of a sermon.
5. Remember to use all gifts to strengthen or edify the body of believers.

D. THE GIFT OF PROPHECY (1 COR 12:10)

1. It has been said that the gift of Tongues and the gift of Interpretation added together equal the ministry of the gift of Prophecy in the Church. A prophecy comes directly from God through one believer. The gift of prophecy is to be desired above the gift of Tongues used with the gift of Interpretation because of the greater edification of the Church (1 Corinthians 14:5)

2. The Manifestation of the gift of Prophecy is born out of a strong desire to prophesy. However, the Apostle Paul used a stronger word than “desire”, he used the word “covet”. (1 Corinthians 14:39).

1Cor 14:39 Wherefore, brethren, **covet to prophesy**, and forbid not to speak with tongues.

In other words, we need to have an intense desire, zeal to prophesy, and not to be lukewarm in the operation of this wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit.

3. The gift of Prophecy is another very valuable gift for the edification of the Church. **1 Corinthians 14:4** states, “He that prophesieth edifieth the church.” This edification of the church was a major concern to Paul as demonstrated in these chapters on the use of the gifts of the Spirit. In fact, the Scripture states not to quench the Spirit, and not to despise prophesying (1 Thessalonians 5:19-20).

1Th 5:19 Quench not the Spirit.

1Th 5:20 Despise not prophesyings.

We are therefore instructed not to quench the operation of the gifts of the Spirit.

4. To operate the gift of prophecy effectively, we need to be totally surrendered and sanctified to the Lord. Note the verse in 2 Peter 1:21; the emphasis is on “holy men of God”. Prophesying without a surrendered life before the Lord will ultimately bring the gift into disrepute.

5. God uses the gift of prophecy to speak to the heart and soul of mankind. There is a gushing forth of words as the one prophesying is flowing under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. “Out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.” (John 7:38). Prophecies should have a “river flow”. Prophecies that are written out for future reference, or handed to an individual, lack this river flow anointing and directness from God. Also in writing out the prophecy, there is a greater danger of the prophet incorporating his own ideas, manipulating or “refining” the flow of the Holy Spirit, even unintentionally. The anointed flowing at the time of the operation of the prophetic gift enables a greater impartation to those receiving the prophecy, and helps to increase the level of faith.

Historically, prophecy has operated as an oral gift. Most of the prophets spoke the messages from the Lord. There is a record in 2 Chronicles 21:12 of a prophecy given by Elijah to King Jehoram, recorded but not delivered to the king until after Elijah's translation. In this instance the prophecy was given in written form "writing", due to the fact that Elijah was translated before a face to face encounter was possible.

2 CHR 21:12 And **there came a writing** to him from Elijah the prophet, saying, Thus saith the LORD God.

Please note that writing is not and will never be the normal presentation of a prophecy. Prophecy should always be spoken before spiritual leaders who can judge the validity of the spoken message.

As prophecy is a river of revelation, pre-recorded or written messages should not be read in a meeting for it cuts the flow of the river.

CHARACTERISTICS OF BIBLE PROPHECY

1. Prophecy is to edify the body of Christ.

The biblical concept of prophecy is the building up of the body by the Holy Spirit through prophetic utterance. The one prophesying may refer to or use

scriptures relevant to the particular need of the body, in the course of giving the prophecy. (1 Corinthians 14:3).

1Cor 14:3 But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men *to* edification, and exhortation, and comfort.

2. Prophecy should exhort the body of believers.

One of the major characteristics of prophecy is the strong element of faith. At least a portion of many prophecies will be exhortation of the body or the individual believer to greater levels of faith. In such exhortation, there may be phrases such as “If you will, then I will...” In other words, the Lord is exhorting the believer to take certain actions, which would ultimately lead to an increase of ability in the life of the believer. Much of this type of prophecy is conditional on the believer walking in and obeying the directives given in the prophetic utterance. Indecisiveness may be dealt with when the prophecy is considered as a word from the Lord.

3. Prophecy is like a trumpet call to the church.

Prophecy should be given in a loud voice. The message should be given simply in words that can be easily understood. If there is to be a response to the prophecy, it must be clearly understood by the church.

4. Prophecy may initiate revelation, although most times it confirms what is in the heart.

In Luke 2:11-20 the angel Gabriel prophesied the event of the birth of John the Baptist to Zechariah; however, he had trouble believing the message, and was dumb till John's birth.

In Acts 13:2 the Holy Spirit said "Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them". The Holy Spirit initiated the new ventures of missionary work to be carried out by Barnabas and Saul. These disciples immediately obeyed the direction given by the Holy Spirit.

Often the Holy Spirit confirmed the decisions taken by the apostles. (Act 15:28)

Act 15:28 For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us,

Act 15:25 It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,

5. Prophecy serves particularly for believers in edification, exhortation, and comfort.

Prophecy most often serves to benefit believers. However, if an unbeliever comes into the assembly and a pertinent prophecy is given, he may understand that the secrets of his heart are opened before God. This can promote repentance and stimulate true worship of God. (1 Cor 14:24-25)

GIVING A PROPHECY IN THE CHURCH:

Many of the same guidelines to prophesy apply to the gifts of tongues and interpretation of tongues. Flow with at least as high an anointing as in the meeting, wait until there is a pause in the high praises or singing, and do not interrupt a sermon.

1. Always speak decisively, giving a distinct, clear message. Any message given in unbelief or uncertain overtones with personal burdens or interest is never a word from the throne of God. Avoid deep theological statements.

A prophecy is what God is saying at that moment to a particular body of believers.

(1 Cor 14:7-9)

2. We should be willing to prefix our prophecy with “Thus saith the Lord”. These words define and clarify that the prophecy is sent from God and not spoken by the person speaking the prophecy. See Acts 21:11, where Agabus prefaced his prophecy with, “Thus saith the Holy Ghost...”

We must prophesy according to the level of faith God has given us. (Rom 12:6).

Rom 12:6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, *let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;*

3. “Seek to excel to the edifying of the church”. (1 Corinthians 14:12) Prophecy although instructive, must edify, flowing from the Holy Spirit with good anointing.

4. Prophecy may reveal secrets of the heart, in order to bring repentance and worship of God. It is very important to notice that God is always gracious in the recipient. He speaks, and He is able to make His voice clear to individuals through key phrases and without embarrassment or judgment (1 Corinthians 14:24-25)

5. Every person is given the opportunity to prophesy. However, in practical application, two or three persons usually give prophecy. However, be aware that a longer prophecy may be divided up into several segments, given by different individuals. One prophetic topic may require two or three persons to deliver the entire message. One person may not receive all the revelation. This presentation by several persons can make the message comprehensively understood by the members of the church. (1 Cor 14:29-31).

6. Do not feel you must give a prophecy when you feel the prophetic anointing. Several people operating the gift of prophecy may receive similar prophecies during the same service. All the prophecies need not be given. Use discretion. Your

prophetic message may simply confirm the prophecy flowing from another individual in the congregation. A similar prophecy may not be needed.

1Cor 14:30 If *anything* be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace.

7. Always remember; the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophet (1 Corinthians 14:32). This indicates to the body of Christ a definite responsibility in speaking forth a prophetic message. The one prophesying needs to be under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. As mentioned previously, every prophecy does not have to be uttered. The one desiring to prophesy has complete control of his spirit. The scripture clearly indicates that all is to be done for the edification of the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 14:12). For instance it may be inappropriate to give a prophecy because the time for prophecy has moved on, i.e. the preaching of the word has begun, or the subject or mood of the meeting has changed.

8. The prophetic message should be given in a body of believers, (church or fellowship gathering) so that all may hear and discern. Paul states in (1 Corinthians 14:29), “Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.” The listeners should

discern and receive personally that which particularly concerns each listener.

9. A personal prophecy will contain key elements –
 - a. A relevant phrase or sentence, so that the person knows that God is speaking personally to them.
 - b. Words of wisdom, comfort and exhortation and edification. (1Co 14:3)
 - c. Relative directive information relating to future events meaningful to the individual.

KEYS TO RECEIVING A PROPHECY:

1. Receive the prophetic word with faith.
Sometimes the ongoing nature of prophecy seems so remote that the person may, without the spirit of faith, reject it totally. But if the gift of Prophecy is really flowing through an anointed, clean vessel, God may reveal His plan for an individual, or for a congregation.
2. We must be aware that the time element of prophecy may be for the future. Do not condemn the prophecy as false because of this. A prophecy that is obviously flowing in the anointing of the Holy Spirit will come to pass in due time.
3. The prophecy may contain words such as “If you will...then I will...” i.e. there is a condition of the

Lord placed upon the recipient; an action or obedience maybe required to bring to pass the word of the Lord. The Old Testament is full of prophecies where conditions were made in order that God could bless His people. God's performance is always based on our obedience to His conditions. In other words we need to co-operate with God; for it is God that has the master plan for our lives.

4. We need to listen carefully to all God says to us in a prophetic utterance. Then begin to do what He has spoken to us. We take the practical steps and believe God to work His miraculous work for our lives. i.e. If God speaks of travelling to minister for Him, then we need to make ourselves ready for service; get a passport, luggage; so that when the door opens we will be ready to go.

1Th 5:18 In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

1Th 5:19 Quench not the Spirit.

1Th 5:20 Despise not prophesyings.

PROPHETIC SINGING

This is a variation of the operation of the gift of Prophecy. There is a great history of prophetic singing in the Bible. Prophetic singing is used in praise, worship and revelation.

1. Times of Victory:

Exo 15:1 begins as a victory song, then moves into prophetic revelation: v11 – “Who is like unto Thee, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?”

2. Many of the great prophets sang their prophecies:

Deut 31:30-32:47 Moses sang his last prophetic message to the congregation of Israel

Isaiah 5:1 The Song of the Vineyard.

Isaiah 48:10: “Declare with the voice of singing” – contains the promise of the ultimate redemption of Israel.

1 Sam 2: 1-10 Hannah’s prophetic song of victory.

2 Sam 23:2 David was known as the “sweet psalmist of Israel”.

3. Many of the psalms are primarily prophetic but were given as songs:

Psalms 22 – the Messiah’s death.

4. The New Song:

This is our personal singing to the Lord, and has a prophetic element.

Psa 40:3: “And he hath put a new song in my mouth”.

SOME EXAMPLES OF PROPHETIC UTTERANCE IN THE BOOK OF ACTS:

Acts 11:28: “Agabus (the Prophet) signified by the Holy Spirit that there would be a great dearth throughout all the world.”

Acts 13:8: The Holy Spirit spoke “Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.”

Acts 20:23: “Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city that bonds and imprisonment await me....”

Acts 21:4: “disciples said to Paul through the Spirit, that he should not go to Jerusalem.”

Acts 21:10-11 The Prophecy spoken by Agabus to Paul, “Thus saith the Holy Ghost, so shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle.”

II THE GIFTS OF INSIGHT.

1. WORD OF WISDOM (1 Corinthians 12:8)

The Word of Wisdom is a spiritual gift of the Holy Spirit that goes beyond man’s natural wisdom or understanding. The origin of a Word of Wisdom is God. God’s wisdom always deals with eternal issues.

Prov 10:7: “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom”. There is no spiritual wisdom greater than the reverence and commitment to God, for all wisdom rests on this foundation. In contrast to this, the wisdom of this world does not consider eternity.

1 Cor 3:19: “For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.”

1 Cor 1:22: “.... and the Greeks seek after wisdom.” Paul gave repeated warnings concerning wayward characters who thought that their worldly wisdom with all its foolish philosophies was of some importance.

1 Cor 1:20: “...hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?” So these gifts of the Holy Spirit give the wisdom of God and not the wisdom of men. This is the true wisdom of God.

1 Cor 1:30: “....But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.”

2. 1 Cor 2:13: The Holy Ghost teaches the Word of Wisdom.

Isa 11:2: The anointing on the Messiah was the “spirit of wisdom and understanding”.

Matt 10:19-20 ... “take no thought how or what he shall speak; for it shall be given you in that same hour what he shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you”.

John 14:26: The Comforter....he shall teach you all things.....

Luke 2:40: Jesus grew in wisdom.

Jam 1:5: If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask God, who gives to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

3. The Word of Wisdom of the Holy Spirit is Irresistible.

Luke 21:15: “For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.” There is no arguing with the Word of Wisdom given in a situation by the Holy Ghost. (Stephen) **Acts 6:9-10** “And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake”.

4. Examples of the Word of Wisdom demonstrated by the Lord Jesus Christ:

Luke 20:1-8: The Authority Question:

The Pharisees asked Jesus, “By what authority do you do these things?” Jesus responded with a Word of Wisdom, “The baptism of John, was it (the authority) from heaven, or of men?” They refused to answer, to avoid incriminating themselves, so Jesus likewise gave no answer to them.

Matt 22:17-22: The Financial Question:

The Pharisees asked Jesus, “Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?” Jesus saw that their desire was to entangle Him. He gave the wonderful

answer with the Roman coin before him, “Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar’s and unto God the things that are God’s.” Jesus removed Himself from a delicate political question, by countering the religious spirit of the Pharisees with a Word of Wisdom.

John 8:3-11: The Adultery Question:

The response of Jesus, “he who is without sin cast the first stone” is a Word of Wisdom. It diffused the question of applying the rigid letter of the law, which would call for an illegal stoning. His gentle answer to her, “Neither do I condemn thee – go and sin no more”. Jesus gave the woman an opportunity to be set free.

Matt 22:23-33: The Resurrection Question:

Jesus answered that God was the God of the living, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. No Jew could deny this truth, even the Sadducees. His answer silenced those who did not believe in the resurrection. This answer was a Word of Wisdom.

Matt 22:41-46: The Question – “Who is The Christ?”

Jesus silenced the Pharisees when He taught that David whilst in the spirit called the Messiah “Lord” and yet was the Son of David. This Word of Wisdom silenced the men who were considered masters of the law. From that day, they ceased to

ask Him any more questions. His wisdom was superior to those who had attained greatness. Jesus also laid the foundation for his teaching and preparation for His coming death and resurrection. So as we yield to the Holy Spirit, God will give us a Word of Wisdom. This word in season will meet the need at that time. It will not be our thoughts and natural wisdom, but will be that which is absolutely suited to the situation. The Word of Wisdom is unassailable, yet it will bring spiritual light to those who have need.

2. WORD OF KNOWLEDGE (1 Cor 12:8)

1. As with all the other Holy Spirit gifts, the Word of Knowledge comes “by the same spirit.”

This gift is not manifested by natural understanding or knowledge. It is a portion of God’s knowledge dropped into our spirits by the Holy Spirit. This gift often works together with the Word of Wisdom. To be wise, we need to know and understand the situation. The Word of Wisdom enables us to impart wisdom as to how to deal with a situation. The Word of Knowledge is also concerned with spirit revelation of the Holy Spirit, rather than just the natural things of this world. The knowledge of God is revealed during our personal daily communication with God. **Luke 10:17-21** Jesus

rejoiced in spirit, because the disciples were finding the victory in His name as they went to preach the gospel.

Rom 11:33 “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!”

2. Examples of this wonderful gift are seen throughout the Bible:

1 Sam 9:20: Saul went to Samuel, who told him “the asses are found”. The Lord gave Samuel this knowledge. Samuel was given this knowledge from God. Saul did not have access to this knowledge; he was still looking for the asses.

1 Kin 18:1, 41 Elijah heard the sound of rain, after three years of drought. He knew the rain was coming before it was visible in the clouds.

2 Kin 5:26-27 Elijah knew that Gehazi received secret gifts from the heathen King Naaman, contrary to Elijah’s instructions.

Study 2 Kings 4:27 Elisha was troubled because “the Lord has not told me”. Without the word from the Lord, Elisha did not know.

3. Jesus said that He did only those things the Father showed Him:

John 4:16-19 The lifestyle of the woman at the well was known to Jesus by the Word of Knowledge. He also operated a Word of Wisdom in his handling of the knowledge, and she responded in faith.

John 1:47-51 Nathaniel was greeted by a Word of Knowledge, and through that word received faith and was converted.

John 3:1-3 Jesus knew the unspoken spiritual needs of Nicodemus without any further conversation, and began immediately to address Nicodemus' inner needs.

Mark 5:30 Jesus had a witness in His physical body that the woman had touched Him because He realized that virtue had gone out of Him.

The disciples did not understand what Jesus had discerned, for many people were jostling Him in the crowd.

4. An example from Acts:

Acts 5:1-5 and 9-10 The sin of Ananias and Sapphira was revealed by the Word of Knowledge. The result was that a great reverential fear came upon the church, and all who heard about it. Notice that in all of the above examples there is an increase in spiritual revelation as the Word of Knowledge is given.

5. Some purposes of the Word of Knowledge:

- a. To give awareness of the root of a problem.
- b. To enable more effective prayer to be made.
- c. To stimulate faith in believers so that God can do His miraculous work.
- d. To reveal the exact area of sickness in which God wants to manifest His power.

6. Receiving a Word of Knowledge.

(i) **Physically:**

- a. A Word of Knowledge may be felt in the body of the preacher as an ache or a pain.
- b. A vision may be given of where the complaint is – like an X-ray, or of the part affected – e.g. hand, eye, knee, etc.

A word may appear written in vision form, giving the knowledge of what part of the body or soul is affected. E.g. insomnia, unforgiveness, back pain, etc.

- ### (ii) **Sensitivity by use** – By using the gift of the Word of Knowledge a greater sensitivity is developed. The Holy Spirit may reveal very accurate details concerning the person and his problem – e.g. when and how the problem began, what the person has already done concerning it, and so on.

7. The Word of Knowledge works with faith:

As with all gifts of the Holy Spirit, *there is always an element of faith in the use of the gift.* The Word must be spoken out by faith to bring a completion. However, some situations need to be dealt with privately rather than openly before the congregation. There may be a need for a Word of Wisdom to bring a solution once the problem has been revealed. This

applies especially when the Word of Knowledge is given concerning sensitive situations.

8. The Word of Knowledge and Other Gifts:

The Word of Knowledge needs to be followed through with the prayer of faith, or whatever gift is necessary to bring victory to a person's life. Many times this gift will operate together with the gifts of Faith and Healing. So we see that the collective use of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is a very powerful witness.

3 GIFT OF DISCERNING OF SPIRITS (1 Cor 12:10)

There are four types of spirits:

1. The Holy Spirit of God.

The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Godhead, co-equal and co-eternal with God the Father and God the Son. He is a real personality not just a good "force", and expresses the mind, will and emotions of God's personality in complete harmony with God.

Eph 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

1Th 5:19 Quench not the Spirit.

2. **Angels.**

The Scriptures show that angels are powerful, spiritual beings created by God to do His will. Job 38:7 reveals that the angelic beings sang together for joy in the creation of the heavens. In relation to redeemed mankind, angels are especially sent to minister and help. “Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister” (Hebrews 1:14).

Yet they do not have the experience of salvation – 1 Peter 1:12 says “which things angels desire to look into”.

There is much that can be said on this topic, but this is a separate study. However, many servants of God have encountered “angels unawares” as they have been serving God.

3. **Demon spirits.**

These spirits are the angels who joined with Satan in the rebellion against God before the foundation of the world (Isaiah 14:12-18 and Ezekiel 28:12-18). They are under the dominion of Satan, working to deceive man and turn him against God. They are full of deception and lies and manifest as “angels of light” and “ministers of righteousness.”

2Cor 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

Ephesians 2:21 and Ephesians 6:11-12 shows that there are levels of demonic opposition.

Eph 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Paul's revelation was given to the Ephesian church. Ephesus was at one time a major worship centre to the goddess Diana. The power behind this idolatry was evil spirits.

2 Cor 4:4 reveals that there is a blinding of the minds of the unbeliever by the "god of this world" – the devil.

4. Spirit of man.

Eph 2:1-6: The unregenerate spirit of man is dead to God because of the trespasses and sins in which he is living. Consequently man is under the authority of "the prince of the power of the air" (the devil) until his spirit is quickened by the Holy Spirit in the new birth. Then the transformation takes place when the redeemed man sits with Christ Jesus in heavenly places.

All spirit-filled ministers must learn to discern the spiritual needs of people who attend meetings.

SOME EXAMPLES IN THE SCRIPTURES

The Workings of the Holy Spirit:

John 3:8 Jesus says that while the Holy Spirit is not seen (as wind is not seen) the works of the Spirit are made visible by what He (the Holy Spirit) is doing.

Matthew 3:13-17 John the Baptist knew by the Spirit that Jesus was the Lamb of God, and God Himself added His testimony by speaking from heaven.

John 2:1-11 Jesus first miracle was initiated by the spiritual discernment of His mother Mary.

Matt 16:15-17 The wonderful recognition of Peter that Jesus was the Christ, was a mighty revelation of the Holy Spirit.

Examples of Angels in the New Testament:

Acts 5:19-20 An angel sent from God freed the apostles from prison, and commanded that they continue to preach Christ.

Acts 11:7-10 Peter was delivered from the depths of the prison by an angel.

Acts 27:22-25 Paul recounts how an angel from God reassured him that everyone aboard the ship would be saved.

Luk 22:43 records that an angel from heaven strengthened Jesus in His agony in Gethsemane.

However, Jesus refused to have angels deliver Him from the crucifixion, saying “how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be” (Matthew 26:53)

The Workings of Demon Spirits:

1. Many times Jesus cast out demon spirits that were the cause of blindness, palsy, epilepsy, dumbness.

Matt 9:32 & 33 – the dumb man is delivered of a devil.

Matt 12:22-24 – the blind and dumb man is delivered of a devil.

2. It is obvious that the Pharisees totally lacked the spirit of discernment to be aware that these miracles were workings of God.

Matt 9:33-34 – The Pharisees thought that Jesus was casting out devils through “the prince of the devils”. They did not discern that the power of God was among them.

Luk 7:30-35 – Jesus challenged the Pharisees for their lack of spiritual discernment regarding the source of both His ministry and that of John the Baptist.

3. Jesus was able to discern the source of illness in a person who was in need of healing. He knew when the sickness was a direct result of sin, and when the sickness was caused by an evil spirit.

Compare **Mark 1:40-44** (healing a leper), **Mark 2:5** (forgiving and healing a man sick of the palsy), and **Mark 9:25-27** (delivering a man of a dumb and deaf spirit).

4. The demon spirits recognized Jesus as Son of God.

Mark 5:1-16. The deliverance of the demonic reveals that the evil spirits recognized Jesus as the Son of God. This scripture also shows that multiple spirits may inhabit one body. (See also Luke 4:33-36 and 41).

5. Demon spirits have names revealing their strength.

Mar 5:9 And he asked him, What *is* thy name? And he answered, saying, My name *is* Legion: for we are many.

They work on the physical body – spirit of deafness, dumbness, blindness, infirmity, uncleanness (Matthew 12:22, Luke 13:11, Mark 7:25).

Examples of discernment and workings of the unregenerate spirit of man:

Matt 16:12-13 Jesus rebuked Peter for being influenced by Satan when Peter came against Jesus' teaching of His coming death and resurrection.

Luke 9:51-56. The human spirit of the disciples suggested that they call down fire on those who rejected Christ in Samaria. However, Jesus rebuked them.

John 1:47 Jesus saw Nathaniel coming to him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!"

Acts 13:8-12 Paul dealt differently with Elymas the sorcerer as compared to the evil spirit in the woman of Acts 16:16-18 (which spirit he cast out). It was the human spirit of the man Elymas and his greed that stood in the way of the gospel. Of course, the devil uses evil men to hinder the gospel. (See also Acts 13:50 and Acts 14:19).

The spirit of the unregenerate man is easily deceived in spiritual matters and can be stirred into opposing the gospel.

1 Cor 15:32 Paul refers to the spirit of man that opposed the gospel in Ephesus as “beasts”.

1 Tim 1:19-20 Paul recognized that the spirit of man was ruling Hymenaeus and Alexander whom he then “delivered unto Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme”.

Discerning an evil spirit:

1. We may receive a physical sense of ill-being in our own body – of heaviness, foreboding, nausea, foul smell or some sign that alerts us that a demon spirit is present.
2. We may have a vision, a word or a revelation, that shows us that we are dealing with an evil spirit.
3. The demon spirit may express its presence in a person by unusual activities – i.e. throwing the person to the ground, by strange, inappropriate or unseemly destructive behaviour, by the use of excessive strength, or strange speaking and mutterings, false tongues etc. (Mark 9:18)

4. As with all Holy Spirit gifts, this gift is developed by use, and needs to be combined with the Word of Wisdom.

CASTING OUT DEVILS

1. The believer has the authority of Jesus Christ to command evil spirits to come out in the Name of Jesus.

In **Mark 16:17** Jesus gave this authority to the believer. The work is accomplished because of the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ.

In **Luke 10:17-20**, the disciples returned from ministry trips rejoicing that the devils were subject to them in the Name of Jesus.

2. The devils know the spiritual authority of the one who is praying for the demon possessed person. To guarantee total deliverance, the person must destroy all idols, fetishes, and charms and receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour.

We note in **Acts 19:13-16** where the sons of Sceva held some authority in the religion of the Jews. They prayed in the name of Jesus, but they were not followers of Jesus and so they had no authority in His Name to cast out the evil spirit. Hence, they were overcome by the demon possessed man.

3. Evil spirits are subject to the Name of Jesus (**Acts 10:38 and Acts 16:16-19**). Evil spirits need

to be commanded with a word of faith in the Name of Jesus to leave the person who is possessed or oppressed. Jesus cast out the evil spirits with His Word. - **Matthew 8:16, 32 and Mark 9:25.**

4. Prayer and fasting is necessary for the casting out of strong devils – see Matthew 17:21 and Mark 9: 28-29. To have a continuing ministry in casting out devils, the believer needs to have a dedicated prayer and fasting lifestyle.

5. The ministry gifts needed to bring deliverance to persons who are possessed or oppressed with demon spirits are as follows: the gift of Discernment, the gifts of word of Knowledge and word of Wisdom as well as the word of Faith must be used by spirit filled ministers or believers.

III. POWER GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. THE GIFT OF (EXTRAORDINARY) FAITH (1 Corinthians 12:9)

There are several types of faith mentioned in the Scriptures:

1. Saving Faith: **Eph 2:8-9** and **John 3:16**, and **Rom 6:23.**

Salvation is a gift from God received by accepting the finished work of Jesus – His death and resurrection.

2. Daily Faith: Our faith grows day by day as we live in relationship with God, and trust in His Word. The development of faith is seen in Jesus ministry as He raised the dead:

Mark 5:35-43 Jairus’ daughter had just died, and with his close disciples Peter, James and John, Jesus raised her from the dead. This event occurred early in His ministry.

Luke 7:11-16 The son of the widow of Nain had been dead longer, and Jesus raised him in the sight of “much people”. This was later in His ministry.

John 11:14-45 The raising of Lazarus after he had been dead for four days, before a crowd of unbelieving people including the Pharisees was a great miracle of faith.

We can expect that our faith will also grow as we continue to minister the Word of God, taking every opportunity.

3 Great Faith: **Luke 7:9**

Luk 7:9 When Jesus heard these things, he marvelled at him, and turned him about, and said unto the people that followed him, I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

The faith of the centurion amazed Jesus. He was a skillful soldier, who knew how to take care of himself, however he needed great faith for his servant who was dying needed a miracle.

- 4 Strong Faith: See also Romans 4:20 where Abraham is described as being strong in faith.

Rom 4:20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

The gift of extraordinary Faith is one of the power gifts of the Holy Spirit. This gift usually operates when there is an extraordinary need, which requires an extraordinary level of faith. The gift may be needed in any circumstance of life and ministry. Often the gift of Faith will be used with other gifts of the Holy Spirit – for instance healing, miracles to acting on a prophetic utterance. Some believers are gifted to move in outstanding feats of Faith.

Examples to be found in Scripture:

Matt 14:29 When Peter walked on the water in response to the Lord's invitation (not a usual occurrence).

Matt 14:15-21 When Jesus fed the five thousand with the five loaves and two fishes. Jesus then followed this by walking on the water.

Matt 15:34-37 When Jesus fed the four thousand with seven loaves and a few little fishes.

Acts 27:10-35 Paul, because of the word from the Lord, was able to show the gift of Faith throughout the storm and shipwreck, even though it appeared all would drown.

5 THE GIFTS OF HEALING (1 Cor 12:9)

These numerous gifts of healing are an integral part of the gifting of the Holy Spirit. They are the divine anointing gifts that heal the sick. God has placed natural healing processes within the physical body. Medical interventions may strengthen or adjust what is already there. Gifts of Healing impart healing over and above the natural healing processes of the body. Many times this is miraculous.

In **Mark 16:16** Jesus promised that the believer would lay hands on the sick and they would be healed in His name. Healing in the Name of Jesus is a continuation of the ministry which Jesus began on earth. Incidents of healing in response to the laying on of hands and the prayer of faith have been recorded even in the darkest days of church history. The Lord continues to be faithful to His promise. The gifts of Healing are a mighty evangelistic tool for the ministry of the gospel that demonstrates the power of the risen Christ.

It is God's will to Heal.

God's healing power of God has been well documented in both the Old and New Testaments. Many miracles are recorded in the Word of God, culminating in the ministry of Jesus while on earth.

The will of God is that all sick folk be healed. This is especially true of those who are His servants. The book of Job reveals that Job's sicknesses were not from God, but from Satan. (Job 2:6)

Exo 15:26....I am the Lord that healeth thee (Jehovah Rapha)

Psa 105:37 He brought them forth...and there was not one feeble person among their tribes.

Deut 28:27-29 describes the curse under which Israel would labour if she forgot the word of the Lord. Every disease is covered in these verses. But

Gal 3:13 announces the good news that Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law.

The will of God concerning healing is expressed in the ministry of Jesus.

1. Jesus made no conditions in His healing ministry – everyone who came to him in faith was healed (even the Syrophenician woman as recorded in **Mark 7:26**) Christ's compassion reached out to all. (**Matthew 8:3, 7;15-16, and Luke 7:22**).

2. Many times His healing ministry touched the sick. (**Matt 8:3 and 9:29, Luke 13:12**) Sometimes the people touched Him. (**Matt 9:20-22**) Jesus

Christ totally identified with every person. He healed them all.

3. Jesus spoke the word of healing also:

Matt 8:5-13 The centurion recognized the authority of Jesus, and that His word alone had authority to heal.

Notice the prophetic verse in **Psalm 107:20** He sent his word, and healed them . . .

OPERATING THE GIFTS OF HEALING

1. The laying on of hands:

It is to be noted that prayer for the sick is intimately associated with the laying on of hands. This gives an identification of the healer with the one that is about to be healed. It is also a point of contact for the prayer of faith.

2. Anointing with oil:

Jam 5:14-16 gives the promise of healing to the Church. The elders of the church were instructed to anoint the sick person with oil. Throughout the scriptures, oil is a type of the Holy Spirit. Often, I have been asked to pray over bottles of oil that were later used as anointing oil by others who laid their hands on the sick and prayed a prayer of faith. Let's be clear, it is the prayer of faith, not the oil that ultimately heals the sick.

3. The prayer of faith:

A healing prayer is simply a believing prayer that is prayed in Jesus name. If we join faith to faith with another believer great power is released. This prayer of unity is based on scriptures such as:

Matthew 8:17 Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses

1 Peter 2:24 “By whose stripes ye were healed”.
(A work accomplished by Jesus on the Cross at Calvary fulfilling the prophecy in Isaiah 53).

Isa 53:4 Surely **he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows:** yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

Isa 53:5 But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; **and with his stripes we are healed.**

The Gifts of Healing are plural:

1. Many gifts can be drawn upon to meet the need of the person. The gifts of Healing can flow with the Word of Knowledge, the gift of Faith, the gift of Miracles, etc.

2. With regard to the ministry of healing, the exercise of the healing gifts can be greatly varied: One person or minister may be particularly anointed to pray for particular or special needs – e.g. blindness, deafness, or lameness. On other occasions

there may be a mighty anointing for a particular disease – e.g. cancer, or creative miracles of the restoration of body parts such as heart, lungs, liver and so on.

3. Those that are broken in spirit (emotionally wounded) can be made whole by this mighty gift of the Holy Spirit. (Luke 4:18).

The above scriptures show clearly that it is the will of God to heal all manner of sickness and disease in Jesus name.

6 THE GIFT OF MIRACLES (1 Cor 12:10)

This gift is the third of the great power gifts of the Holy Spirit. This gift is usually manifested together with another gift of the Spirit such as the gift of Faith or the gifts of Healing. Such miracles as raising the dead would be a manifestation of this gift.

Some Miracles recorded in the Book of Acts:

Acts 9:36-42 Peter raised Dorcas from the dead.

Acts 20:9-11 Paul raised Eutychus from the dead when he fell from the loft.

Acts 19:11-12 Special or unusual miracles of healing were achieved when handkerchiefs that had touched Paul's body were laid upon the sick. Many

were healed from sickness and diseases; or delivered from evil spirits.

Acts 5:15 The shadow of Peter passing by healed many sick.

Acts 28:4-6 Paul shakes off the poisonous viper – a working together of the gift of Faith and the gift of Miracles.

Numbers of miracles of raising the dead are recorded in the ministry of Jesus.

Matt 9:25 Raising of Jairus' daughter.

Luke 7:15 Son of the widow of Nain.

John 11:43 Raising of Lazarus.

The gift of the Working of Miracles was often manifested where the gospel of Jesus Christ was demonstrated in power, and mighty miracles attest to the power of the risen Lord. It is the will of God to confirm His word with signs and wonders. See Mark 16:20, Acts 3:5-8, and Acts 15:12.

Act 15:12 Then all the multitude kept silence, and gave audience to Barnabas and Paul, declaring what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by them.

As you have read in the above paragraphs the gift of the Working of Miracles also works with other gifts of the Holy Spirit so that mighty signs and wonders may be done in the Name of Jesus.

CONCLUSION:

This completes this basis survey of the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit. Let us stretch out our healing hands and in the Name of Jesus pray and believe to see these gifts manifested in greater ways as we pray for the sick. God's power is ever the same. His anointing is the same today as it was in the days of the Apostles Paul, Peter, John and others.

Hebs 13:8 says "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever."

All of the above scriptures are given to us as examples and inspiration. Wherefore we may boldly say, "The Lord is my Helper." The Holy Spirit desires to manifest His anointing through the believers in all of the nine gifts of the Spirit. Some believers may bless the body of Christ worldwide as they exercise vocal gifts; other believers may move deeper into ministries operating the various healing and miracle gifts under the power of the Spirit. But every believer can be used of the Spirit by obeying the word of the Lord found in 2 Timothy 1:6:

Mar 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Mar 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Mar 16:17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

Mar 16:20 And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with *them*, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

**STIR UP THE GIFT OF GOD WHICH IS IN
THEE.**