

Gifts of the Spirit Part 2

1 Cor 12:7-11

We established last week the Holy Spirit indwells every believer and He gives gifts, and the power to use the gifts, to every believer – to each one as He wills. We saw how we are not to be ignorant of the Gifts of the Spirit and are to actually covet (earnestly desire) them. Today we're going to explore the 9 Spiritual gifts listed in 1 Cor 12:7-11 by looking at what they are and examples of them in use in Scripture. These gifts are supernatural and are abilities you do not have in the natural.

Word of Wisdom.

The Greek word “logos” is used which means what is declared, a thought, declaration, a weighty saying. It is supernatural wisdom to know things about what is to come that would otherwise not be known. There is a difference between wisdom and knowledge. Knowledge is book-smarts, Wisdom is the ability to apply knowledge.

Like every spiritual gift, a word of wisdom is designed to edify and encourage the Church. It is to prepare believers for what is to come and be witnesses of God's character to the world.

The word of wisdom is commonly manifested for three purposes:

1. To help believers witness to something God is doing or about to do
2. To prepare for something that is going to happen in the future
3. To seek to change a future event through prayer and/or fasting

“And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.”—1 Corinthians 2:4-5

Jesus operating in the gift of Word of Wisdom Matt 17:24-27

Practical application – you have a job offer and want to know if God would have to take it. Ask God for wisdom to know what you should do. The answer may come in unexpected ways.

Word of Knowledge.

Notice this gift is also a word (logos). The Word of Knowledge is simply the Holy Spirit transmitting His specific knowledge to you on something that you would have no ability or means to be able to know. It is supernatural knowledge and insight being given directly to you by the Holy Spirit Himself, not by your own mind.

Ex: Pastor Dave received a word about him not being disqualified. That was a Word from the Lord for Dave from another person who could not have known this in the natural. This happens to me when I get stuck programming. I just can't figure something out so I ask the Lord to give me a Word of Knowledge and He does.

Jesus exercised this gift in John 4:15-18

Practical application - You may find yourself in prayer for someone and you have a sense to pray for a particular thing for that person. Another example is asking the Lord to help you find something.

Faith

Everyone is given faith at salvation (Romans 12:3, Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast). Since this is listed as a gift the Holy Spirit gives as He wills it must be different in either kind or quality than the measure everyone gets when they are saved.

The gift of faith is a supernatural ability to believe God will do the impossible. When you are operating in this gift there is no room for doubt or unbelief. You know with 100% surety what you are believing for will happen.

Example: Mark 11:22-24, Hebrews 11 (Abraham, Sarah, etc.)

Practical Application – Settle in your heart the Word is true and act accordingly, even if what you see in the natural is contrary.

Gifts of Healings

A sign of every believer is they will lay hands on the sick and they will recover (Mark 16:17). The gifts of healings are above and beyond the laying on of hands. Notice this gift is plural, which means there are different kinds of healings the Lord will want to do.

Healing is defined as a work God does in a body to restore health. What people who walk with this kind of anointing on a regular basis have found is that some people will be more gifted and anointed in some areas than they will be in other areas. For instance, some people the Lord will use to heal bad backs, where another may have a stronger anointing for healing cancer. In other words, the Lord will sometimes specialize on the kinds of healings He will want to do through an individual believer.

There are a lot of examples of Jesus, Paul and Peter operating in this gift.

Example: John 5:5-9, Acts 9:33-34

Working of Miracles

This gift is also plural which means this gift can manifest itself in many ways. A miracle is a supernatural act that invokes the creative power of God. Miracles include a phenomenon that transcends natural laws, a divine act by which God reveals Himself to people and an intervention in the natural universe by God. Raising people from the dead is an example of a miracle. Other examples in Scripture include;

- Jesus turning water into wine at the wedding of Cana.
- Jesus feeding crowds by multiplying loaves of bread and fish.
- Peter walking on water.

Example: Acts 19:11-12

Prophecy

Prophecy is not necessarily speaking prophetically of some future event. It actually means to speak the hidden wisdom of God. Biblical teaching or expounding, making the Word of God easy to understand, is an example of prophecy. Prophecy is a sign for believers (I Cor 14:22).

The Bible tells us that God uses the gift of prophecy to speak edification, exhortation, and comfort to other people 1 Cor 14:4

True prophecy always lines up with Scripture. If it does not, it should be immediately rejected. God will never go against His own Word when delivering a prophetic word.

Again, any believer can have the Lord manifest this gift through them at anytime He will want to do so. You do not have to hold the actual office of a prophet in order for God to manifest this gift through you from time to time.

The Bible tells us that in the latter days God will be pouring out His Holy Spirit upon all flesh and when He does, it says our sons and daughters will be prophesying. Joel 2:28-29.

The one gift we are to pursue and desire is Prophecy 1 Cor 14:1;39 – why? Because it is used to help others understand what God has said which is more valuable, and works in conjunction with, the other gifts.

Example: Mathew 26:11-13

Discerning of Spirits

Notice this is not a gift of discernment. The word “discerning” means distinguishing or judging. It is the ability to discern spirits, whether they are good or bad. This gift is one that is really needed in the dangerous and perilous times we are now living in.

The first thing to notice about this gift is that the “s” in the word “spirits” is with a small “s.” This means it is not referring to the Holy Spirit. The only other spirits out there this gift is referring to are:

1. Demonic spirits
2. God’s angels
3. Human spirits (ex: spirit of pride, spirit of fear, etc.)

What happens in this gift is that the Holy Spirit will give you supernatural discernment, insight, and knowledge involving these three kinds of spirits. Many of the times, this gift will be used to fully expose what is really going on and operating behind the scenes with someone.

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.” (1 John 4:1-4)

Example: Mark 5:1-8, Acts 8:18-23 (human spirit of bitterness, etc.)

Different kinds of tongues

This is different from the sign that follows every believer (Mark 16:17 that they will speak in tongues) which is for the edification of the believer, to build up their faith. This gift is to be used in a Church setting where someone is gifted to give a message in tongues for the congregation. There are specific rules for how this gift should operate as explain in 1 Cor 14:27-28 (no more than 2 or 3 to speak, done orderly, only if there is an interpretation).

There are two types of tongues He can give you. One is a tongue of this earth. For instance, if your native language is English, then He can give you the ability to speak in Chinese, Japanese, or Spanish. The other type of tongue that He can give you is a tongue direct from heaven, a heavenly language that is not of this earth. The Bible tells us in 1 Corinthians 13:1 that there are “tongues of angels.”

But in either event, it will be a foreign language that you will not be able to speak out on your own, and only the Holy Spirit’s supernatural transmission of this language out of your spirit will give you the ability to be able to speak this language out. And tongues on their own is a sign for unbelievers (I Cor 14:22).

Example: Acts 2:1-4

Interpretation of Tongues

This is the ability to understand a message given in tongues. It works with the gift of different kinds of tongues. An example of this is in Acts 2:11

Note the gift of different kinds of tongues and interpretation of tongues working together is the same as prophecy (1 Cor 14:5). This is because God has a message for the Church and He is giving it through tongues and interpretation.

Conclusion: We have set the case that the Gifts of the Spirit are in operation today as the Spirit wills. They are to be used in humility, motivated by love and for the Glory of God. A mature body of believers will have each member exercising their gift. Ask God to show you what your gift is as you learn about them and earnestly desire to operate in it.