



The 9 Gifts of The Spirit

A STUDY OF 1 CORINTHIANS 12:8-10

H2O
A Heart of Wisdom

'But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.' I Corinthians 12:7-11

When we have the Holy Spirit, he distributes gifts to the believers as he chooses, some people may exhibit one gift, others more than one. The ultimate goal is that all the gifts are to benefit the body of Christ.

In this study we will go through each of the gifts of the Spirit, how to identify them and what they are supposed to do in the life of a believer.

Day 1

Laying the Foundation (1)

Gifts or Fruit?

There is sometimes confusion between the gifts of the Spirit and the fruit of the Spirit. The two are designed to go hand in hand to equip us to walk effectively, but they're not the same.

The gifts of the Spirit – as identified in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 which is the focus of this study – are diverse in nature and given by the Holy Spirit to members of the body of Christ as He wills. The Bible also tells us in Romans 11:29, “For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.” This means that once the Holy Spirit has given someone a gift, He may not take it back even if the person isn't walking closely with him.

Therefore, we should be careful not to be overawed by the gift(s) we or others demonstrate. Neither should we place less emphasis on the fruit (single not plural – it's one fruit which has different expressions) of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22 tells us, 'But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness...'

The gifts of the Spirit are wonderful, and we should certainly covet them, but at the same time we should also strongly desire a close walk with the giver of the gifts. Why? Because the closeness of our walk with the Holy Spirit is a yardstick of the extent to which we have yielded to Him and allowed Him to modify us internally (the state of our heart, our desires, thought processes, etc.) to reflect Christ. This is an ongoing journey as we by the help of the Holy Spirit are continuously being transformed so we can live and walk in Him (Galatians 5:25).

As we go through this study on the Gifts of the Spirit, please keep the following scriptures in mind:

'There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: ' I Corinthians 12:4-7

'And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.' I Corinthians 13:13

Ultimately our desire for the manifestation of the gifts should not be driven by making ourselves look/feel good, but on love.

Day 2
Laying the Foundation (2)
The Gift Groups



The gifts of the Spirit tend to function in groupings which can be summarised as shown above.

The gifts are grouped as shown above of because of the manner in which they tend to manifest and work together in a given circumstance. For example, you may often see a manifestation of the word of wisdom and word of knowledge in a given circumstance. Likewise, the gifts of faith, healing and working of miracles may be manifested at the same time in another circumstance.

Revelation Gifts: What characterises these gifts? They are revealed by the power of the Holy Spirit (meaning not through human effort) and provide insight into things that would be impossible for the person demonstrating the gifts to fathom by natural means. How does the Holy Spirit reveal these things to us? It could either be in a dream, vision, through an angel, an inner impression, a still small voice, an audible voice or any other means the Holy Spirit chooses. He's not limited in any way and knows what the best way is to get across to us in that given circumstance.

Power Gifts: These gifts are manifested as a demonstration of God's power in a given circumstance e.g. during a crusade there could be demonstrations of healing and other miracles. These gifts are not limited to church programs but can manifest in any situation as part of God's plan to fulfil His purpose.

Vocal Gifts: These gifts are manifested or demonstrated in speaking/saying something by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Our study will go through each of these gifts according to this grouping.

Day 3

Word of Wisdom

The word of wisdom is supernatural revelation from God giving you direction about what to do concerning a situation. This is not the same as 'common sense' or based on intellectual capacity or experience. Rather it is direction that could never have come from human understanding, it is a supply of intelligence that's beyond this realm.

Let's look at some illustrations in the Bible.

'Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. So Daniel blessed the God of heaven.' (Daniel 2:19). Daniel received direction from God concerning King Nebuchadnezzar's dream as well as the interpretation.

In Genesis 41:1-36 Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dream concerning the coming years of plenty and drought and gave direction on how to prepare for them.

Throughout the New testament, we see the Pharisees constantly asking questions of Jesus, not to seek knowledge but because they were looking for ways to trap him. However, Jesus confounded them as he consistently demonstrated the word of wisdom. In John 8:1-11 Jesus demonstrated this in response to the scribes and Pharisees when the woman caught in adultery was brought to him.

'So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first." John 8:7.

In John 8:19, Jesus responded to their questioning of his lineage by the Pharisees: 'Then they said to Him, "Where is Your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither Me nor My Father. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also.'"

Jesus also demonstrated this gift in relating with his disciples, for example when giving specific instructions regarding preparations for the room to be used for the Passover : 'So His disciples went out, and came into the city, and found it just as He had said to them; and they prepared the Passover.'

Manifesting this gift need not always be dramatic. In our daily lives it could be manifested as supernatural revelation from God giving us direction on how to solve a complex problem, or respond to a situation at home, work, etc.

Day 4

Word of Knowledge

The word of knowledge is the supernatural revelation about a person or event/situation in the past or present. Here God gives you revelation about something that has already occurred or is occurring which you could not have known if it had not been revealed to you.

Biblical illustrations include:

'And one of his servants said, "None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom." 2 Kings 6:12. The king of Syria thought there was a spy in his camp as the king of Israel always knew how he had planned to attack him. He later found out that it was Elisha giving the king of Israel the information through supernatural revelation.

"Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" (John 4:29). In John 4, Jesus spent some time with the Samaritan woman, telling her things about her life he could not possibly have known if the Spirit hadn't revealed them to him. This was to the end that the woman and other Samaritans in the city would believe in him.

'But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? ' (Acts 5:3). In Acts 5 there was no way Peter could have known that Ananias and his wife kept back some of the money they made from selling their land had it not been revealed to him.

'Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." John 1:50. Here Jesus was responding to Nathanael after the Spirit had revealed where he was sitting to Jesus.

We can see from the examples above that there's no way the information could have been obtained had it not been revealed by the Holy Spirit which is why the word of knowledge is a tool the Spirit uses to build up faith both in believers and unbelievers about God's superiority.

Day 5

Discerning of Spirits

The gift of discerning of spirits provides supernatural insight into the spirit world. This gift takes us out of the limitations of the realm of the physical and gives us the ability to understand the spiritual origin/source and motive behind an action. Simply put, discerning of spirits helps a believer determine what is motivated by the spirit of God and what isn't, for the protection of the body of Christ.

In 1 Kings 22:1-22 the prophet Micaiah was given spiritual insight into the spiritual source of the words from the other prophets who were promising victory and encouraging the king of Israel to go into battle.

'And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour.' (Acts 16:18) In Acts 16:16-18 Paul discerned that though the slave girl spoke a fact concerning he and Silas, she was wasn't functioning by the power of Holy Spirit.

'Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men." (Matthew 16:22-23). In the prior verses, Jesus had been telling his disciples how he would be killed and resurrected. Peter's response could easily have been deemed the action of a good friend, but Jesus perceived his words were motivated by the devil and therefore rebuked him (Satan).

These examples show us that not everyone who appears to be speaking the truth in a specific situation is actually motivated by the Holy Spirit, so the gift of discerning spirits helps to keep the believer in accuracy.

Day 6

Gift of Faith

There is a difference between the measure of faith that all believers have (Romans 12:8) and the gift of faith identified in 1 Corinthians 12:9. All believers have been given a measure of faith which can be grown/strengthened through our growing in intimacy with God, studying the word of God, experiencing different circumstances, etc.

The gift of faith on the other hand is given by the power of the Holy Spirit to believe God with total certainty in specific situations. It's not something that one can engineer by oneself or 'work up', rather it's given by the Holy Spirit as an impartation of faith which brings about an unusual boldness or audacity in the person working in the gift.

As we shared earlier, in the context of 1 Cor 12:8-10 this gift works closely with the gifts of healing and working of miracles all of which are grouped as 'power' gifts. In working with the other two power gifts, the Holy Spirit deposits this gift of faith in a person and then the person demonstrates the healing/miracle by the power of the Holy Spirit.

As an illustration, you could have been working with the gifts of healing, been used by God to heal ailments such as fevers, headaches, etc. and have been growing in faith because of the results you've been seeing. Someone now brings a paralysed person in a wheelchair to you and asks you to pray for that person's healing. At this point your measure of faith may not be enough to believe God for such. But when the Holy Spirit imparts the gift of faith, it gives you the certainty that the person will be healed. Because of this gift of faith, you not only pray for the person, but pull the person out of the wheelchair and instruct them to start walking. Peter demonstrated something similar in Acts 3:2-8.

Can the gift of faith be in operation even when the person receiving the gift isn't working a healing? Yes, it can. There are various scenarios where the Holy Spirit can gift us faith in order to enable us to complete a task/assignment or address an emergency situation we're faced with.

Day 7

Gifts of Healing

The gifts of healing is the supernatural transmission of healing power through one individual to another. Note that it's gifts (plural) of healing, which means that there are various forms/expressions of healings – different physical, emotional conditions, etc. Recall we said yesterday that the gift of faith typically precedes the manifestation of the gifts of healing in a given situation. As such, the gifts of healing are inspired by the Holy Spirit and not necessarily dependent on the faith of either the person being healed or the person demonstrating the gifts.

We see several examples in the Bible of the manifestation of the gifts of healing in the ministry of the apostles.

'Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.' Acts 3:6-7

'His father was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him. When this had happened, the rest of the sick on the island came and were cured.' Acts 28:8-9

Someone who fully embodied these gifts and demonstrated them throughout his earthly ministry was Jesus as he went about healing a multitude of people of a variety of illnesses – blindness, deafness, leprosy, paralysis, among many others.

'..how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.' Acts 10:38

Can people still function in the gifts of healing today? Absolutely. There's nowhere that it's stated that the gifts were restricted to those in biblical times alone, but rather 1 Corinthians 12 makes it clear that it's something made available to the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit as He wills.



Day 8

Working of Miracles

The working of miracles is the supernatural ability to suspend the laws of nature. It's God's power working through a person to create outcomes that are typically deemed impossible and defy human logic. The purpose for the miracles isn't promotion of the person through whom the miracle is being demonstrated, but to stimulate faith in both believers and unbelievers and show God's wonder and superiority. It must always point people to God.

The Bible is filled with examples of miracles, far too many to list here so we'll look at just a few. In Exodus 14, the Lord instructed Moses to lift up his rod, and stretch out his hand over the sea and divide it so the Israelites could cross over on dry land into the land God promised them.

In 1 Kings 17:7-16 God used Elijah to confirm His word concerning supernatural provision of food in the home of the widow of Zarephath for both Elijah and her family during a drought. 'For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah' (1 Kings 17:16).

In 1 Kings 18:27-38 Elijah had a face off with the prophets of Baal to demonstrate God's superiority and called down fire from heaven which consumed the items and the water surrounding them. 'Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!" (1 Kings 18:39).

In Matthew 14:15-21 Jesus fed 5000 people (excluding women and children) with 5 loaves and 2 fish and there were still 12 baskets full of left-overs. This was just one of a multitude of miracles Jesus worked during his earthly ministry.

In Acts 20:9-12 a young man falls to his death, but Paul brings him back to life.

These are just a few of the many examples of miracles in the Bible. It's worth spending some time reviewing a few for yourself and be reminded yet again of the awesome wonder of our God.

Day 9

Diverse Tongues/Interpretation of Tongues

'Tongues' can simply be defined as a 'language'. In the context of 1 Corinthians 12 -14, we draw a distinction between different types of languages: that which is learned and that which is inspired by the infilling of the Holy Spirit (meaning the person communicating didn't learn how to speak it, but was inspired by the Holy Spirit to do so). The language inspired by the Holy Spirit could be that which can be understood by men or the language of communication which causes a believer filled with the Holy Spirit to speak mysteries to God (1 Cor 14:2).

'And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance...And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language.' Acts 2:4,6

When the believers in Acts 2 were filled with the Holy Spirit, by the inspiration of the Spirit they spoke in languages that other Jews 'from every nation under heaven' could understand even though they hadn't learned those languages. This was a sign to unbelievers that something supernatural was going on.

There is a language that speaks mysteries to God by the Spirit and edifies one's spirit which is available to all who have been filled with the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 14:2,6; Mark 16:17). Paul noted that if someone is communicating to the church in this language, then it is expedient to have someone interpret so that the message being communicated may be of benefit to the church (1 Cor 14:5-19).

The gift of interpretation of tongues is the supernatural ability to interpret what someone speaking in tongues is saying. It may not be a direct word-for-word translation, but more of giving a sense of what God is communicating. Interpretation of tongues is required within the context of a gathering of a group of believers in order to communicate the mind of God (1 Cor 14:26-27). When God communicates a message through a person speaking in tongues, that person could either interpret it himself/herself or someone else in the gathering can receive the gift of interpreting and share the interpretation with the gathering.

Day 10

Prophecy

The gift of prophecy is the supernatural ability to state what is going to happen in the future by the power of the Holy Spirit. The gift is given for the purpose of building up the body of Christ, it always edifies (builds up), exhorts (encourages) and comforts.

We should all desire the gift of prophecy however, the fact that someone prophesies does not automatically make that person a prophet. The office of the prophet is a specific calling/appointment by God where He appoints someone to speak on His behalf. Therefore, while all prophets have the gift of prophecy (amongst other gifts), not all who have the gift of prophecy necessarily occupy the ministry office of a prophet. For examples Acts 21:8-9 notes that Phillip had 4 daughters who prophesied, however they were not called prophets.

“And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy...’ Joel 2:28a

‘Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy...But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.’ I Corinthians 14:1,3

The Bible is full of examples of prophecy (far too many to share here) some of which speak to future events, as well as bringing instruction and/or correction.

‘Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.’ Isaiah (7:4) foretelling the birth of Jesus hundreds of years before his birth.

Agabus foretelling the famine that would come upon the land which enabled the disciples prepare to send relief to Judea in advance (Acts 11:27-29).

Acts 13:1-3 illustrates how prophecy provided divine direction for Barnabas and Saul’s ministry.

In receiving any prophecy, it’s important to keep 1 John 4:1 in mind: ‘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.’

Thanks for completing the study. We'll love to hear from you, so please connect with us on:

[Instagram](#)

[Facebook](#)

Or send us an Email: aheartofwisdom@gmail.com

©Aheartofwisdom

