

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Key Verse

1 Corinthians 12:7 - To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Exploring the Bible

I. The Promise

As we have seen in past lessons, the grand plan of Jesus was to multiply Himself in every believer through the Holy Spirit who indwells every believer. The goal was to have each believer operate on this earth with the same power and effectiveness that Jesus had when He ministered on this earth. This is the profound idea of the church, the body of Christ. Jesus made a promise to His disciples as He talked to them about the Holy Spirit who was about to be poured out on them

John 14:12 - Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

Question: If we believe, will we do lesser or greater works than Jesus?

Answer:

We have the promise of doing greater works than Jesus. In order to accomplish this, it requires supernatural gifts that only the Holy Spirit can provide. These gifts become our weapons of warfare as we engage the enemy on this earth and carry out Jesus mission of "destroying the works of the devil."

II. The Distribution of These Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:4 - Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit

Question: There are varieties of what?

Answer:

The word "gift" is special word called "charismata" that actually means "grace gift." It is from this word that we get our modern word charismatic. These gifts of the Spirit are gifts that are freely given from God's grace. That doesn't mean these gifts will give you a

"charismatic" personality. These gifts are designed to give you supernatural ability to deal with supernatural situations. As with any gift, these gifts can't be earned by anything we do. They are solely the gracious gift of God.

Read *1 Corinthians 12: 7-11*

Question: Why are these gifts given (verse 7)?

Answer:

Question: According to whose will are these gifts distributed?

Answer:

These gifts are given for the common good, not only of the body of Christ, but more importantly, mankind in general. Just as Jesus exercised these same gifts for the common good of all those He ministered to, so also we are given these gifts so that the common good of all those in the world to whom we minister with these gifts can be accomplished.

III. A Detailed Look at These Gifts

Let's take a closer look at these gifts. There are nine gifts listed here. They can be grouped into three sets of three which looks like this:

- REVELATION GIFTS:
 - The Creator of the universe reveals His truth to man, something not known through the physical senses
 - This group includes word of wisdom, word of knowledge and discerning of spirits
- POWER GIFTS:
 - Here God imparts His own divine powers and abilities to man; these are supernatural abilities and energy that man does not naturally possess
 - This group includes the gift of faith, gift of healing, and working of miracles
 - The gift of healing is referred to as the plurality gift
- INSPIRATION GIFTS:
 - These gifts bring God's anointing and His blessing to the church
 - This group includes the gifts of prophecy, tongues, and interpretation of tongues

- 1 Cor. 14:3 tells us that these gifts bring edification, exhortation, and comfort to us

Now let's take a look at each gift:

A. Revelation Gifts

- Word of Wisdom - Revealing of the prophetic future under the anointing of God or revealing of practical wisdom for a particular situation.
- Word of knowledge - Is the revealing of a FACT in existence that can only be supernaturally revealed. It cannot be seen or heard or known naturally. The word of knowledge is a revelation of a fact that exists (Carver and the peanut) or knowledge of facts about a person or a situation which could not be known by normal means.
- Word of wisdom - Revealing of the prophetic future (Daniel and the coming empires) under the anointing of God or revealing of practical wisdom for a particular situation (Carver an application of the knowledge of the peanut). Many times when we hear a word of practical wisdom our response is, "Oh, that makes sense, why didn't I think of that?"
- Discerning of spirits - This is not of just of demons but also of the human spirit-good and bad. Here the person can tell whether someone is lying or telling the truth. It can also discern the specific operation of the demonic when needed.

B. Power Gifts

- Gift of faith - Is God's bringing to pass a supernatural change. No human effort is involved.
- Working of miracles - DOES use a human instrument. It is a human performing a supernatural act by the divine energy of the Holy Spirit. Examples- Samson killing a lion bare handed and hundreds of soldiers with a bone.
- Gift of healing - Is God supernaturally healing the sick through a person anointed by the Holy Spirit. A person may be given a gift from the Spirit of God to pray for a particular kind of sickness or disease, or they might be able to pray for any disease. Remember, there are many ways to be healed. This includes only a small portion of them.

C. Inspirational Gifts

- Gift of tongues - Is the ministry of proclaiming in a public meeting a message from God in a language not understood by the person giving it. Because he

has not studied that language and does not know it, he does not give it from his mind, but from his spirit.

- Interpretation of Tongues - When a message in tongues has been given, then the interpretation of tongues goes into operation. The message that has been given in another language is interpreted supernaturally by the Holy Spirit through another person, without that person's mental faculties being involved.
- Gift of prophecy - Is the anointed speaking forth of words of edification exhortation and comfort - word supernaturally given to the church from God.

IV. The Nature of the Gifts

It is easy to look at a list like this and see these gifts as nine simple gifts operating in a very plain fashion through the lives of believers. But each of these gifts are like multi-faceted gem stones that have many sides through which the beauty and glory of God is displayed and demonstrated. One ministry has discovered a number of ways that God uses the gift of words of knowledge for healing. Imagine how many ways words of knowledge can manifest outside of the realm of healing. Now imagine the other eight gifts having the same incredible multiple facets of manifestation. Our God is magnificent and the nature of His gifts and how He disperses them in the body makes for an incredible kaleidoscope of beauty and effectiveness.

V. Which One Do I Have?

The first and most important point to make about these gifts is that EVERYONE who is a believer has one of these gifts. No one is left out because every believer is a member of Christ's body. Because these are gifts of the Spirit, you don't have to know about them or understand them in order to be flowing in your gift. Knowing and understanding your gift will help you greatly in using it effectively and wisely. One of the keys to identifying your gift is seeing if you are already operating in one of the above. As you look over the above list, stop and think about whether you have seen this particular gift flow in your life.

VI. How Many Gifts Can I Have?

1 Corinthians 12:7 says that the Holy Spirit distributes the gifts to the body for the common good. We all have one of these gifts that operates through us. But at any given time we might be in a situation where we need a gift that we don't normally have. We can ask the Lord to allow the needed gift to flow through us to meet the need. But, there is another way.

Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Question: How do we please God?

Answer:

When we step out in faith, any of these gifts can be exercised because faith pleases God and God can release that gift through us. It won't necessarily be comfortable or easy. It won't flow naturally like your normal gift. But, by faith, you can exercise any of these gifts. But, remember that the exercise of a gift is for the common good.

Practical Exercise:

Let's take some time to help everyone identify their gift. We don't have to pray for people to receive a gift, but we can pray to get wisdom and clarity from God to help identify the gift that a person may have.