

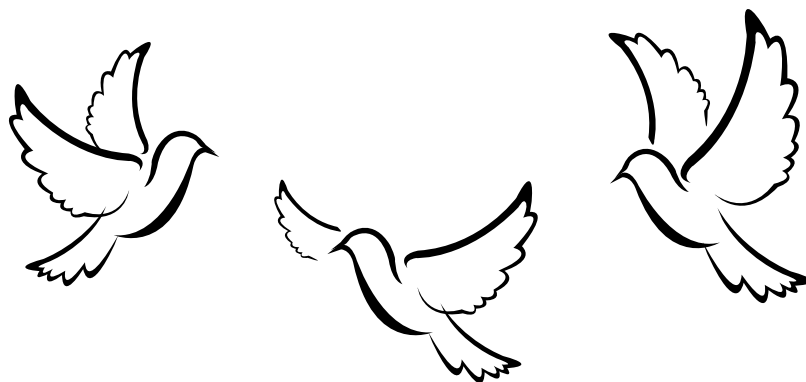
Lesson 8

Gifts of the Spirit

IT IS BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED, THROUGH FAITH-
AND THIS IS NOT FROM YOURSELVES. IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD.
EPHESIANS 2:8 (NIV)

The New Testament describes many wonderful gifts that God has given to His children. The most amazing one is salvation. Search your heart and make sure you have accepted this gift!! As we study about gifts, it's natural to want to focus on what we are doing, or somehow take credit for the gifts. However, our focus should always be on God's character and His works, not what we're doing. We want to glorify Him, not ourselves. How exciting to learn about such beautiful gifts from our Triune God.

EACH OF YOU SHOULD USE WHATEVER GIFT YOU HAVE RECEIVED TO SERVE OTHERS,
AS FAITHFUL STEWARDS OF GOD'S GRACE IN ITS VARIOUS FORMS.
IF ANYONE SPEAKS; THEY SHOULD DO SO AS ONE WHO SPEAKS THE VERY WORDS OF
GOD. IF ANYONE SERVES, THEY SHOULD DO SO WITH THE STRENGTH GOD PROVIDES,
SO THAT IN ALL THINGS GOD MAY BE PRAISED THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.
TO HIM BE THE GLORY AND THE POWER FOR EVER AND EVER. AMEN.
1 PETER 4:10-11 (NIV)



GIFTS IN SCRIPTURE

MOTIVATIONAL

from Father

Romans 12:6-8
 Prophecy
 Service
 Teaching
 Encouragement
 Giving
 Leadership
 Mercy

MANIFESTATIONAL

from Holy Spirit

1 Cor 12:1-11
 Prophecy

 Wisdom
 Knowledge
 Faith
 Healing
 Miracles
 Discernment
 Languages
 Interpretation

MINISTERIAL

from Jesus

1 Cor 12:28-30
 Prophecy
 Service
 Teaching

 Healing
 Miracles

 Languages
 Interpretation
 Apostleship
 Administration

MINISTERIAL

From Jesus

Eph 4:11-16
 Prophecy

 Teaching

 Apostleship
 Evangelism
 Pastors

DEFINITIONS:

"GIFTS" - given to us by God

"NATURAL GIFTS" - human traits and talents given through God's physical order (may be developed without the aid of Holy Spirit)

"SPIRITUAL GIFTS" - talents or supernatural energy through God's spiritual order (inspired, directed, ordered, empowered and produced only by Holy Spirit)

"MINISTRIES" - intentional developing or exercising of spiritual gifts

"OFFICES" - granted by Jesus to equip His people for works of service

"GIFTS" involve service, while **"FRUIT"** describes character

MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS, ALSO CALLED REDEMPTIVE GIFTS

These are talents or capabilities given to us by the Creator at birth. They are what motivates us to do what we do. We will study these in depth later on in this course. A list of of redemptive gifts are found in Romans 12:6-8.

MANIFESTATIONAL GIFTS, ALSO CALLED SPIRITUAL GIFTS

These are “operational” gifts and are demonstrated only at the discretion of the Holy Spirit through willing, yielded and empowered believers. They do not reside in the believer demonstrating them and do not operate at the option of the believer. They are special, divine endowments of supernatural energy that are given only when God sovereignly chooses. We open our hearts to be willingly used by God in this way and since He loves to give His children good gifts, **ASK HIM OFTEN.**

A list of manifestational gifts are found in 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

POWER TO KNOW

WORD OF WISDOM

The word of wisdom is the supernatural revealing to man of God’s thinking on living. When you supernaturally receive communications from God concerning how to live or how to proceed, you have received a word of wisdom. (Mark 10:21-22; 2 Peter 3:15)

WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

The word of knowledge is the inspired comprehension of a scriptural principle or truth. If you are reading the Bible, and a verse pops out and seems to just fit your circumstances, that’s a word of knowledge. Or if you’re reading the Bible and have an insight about the meaning, that’s it. The word of knowledge is also divine knowledge about what God is doing. For instance, if you’re out in public and you get the feeling you should offer an encouraging word to a stranger, that could be a word of knowledge. It is seeing others through God’s eyes and knowing His heart for others. (Luke 10:22; Eph. 1:16-19a; John 1:47-49)

DISCERNING OF SPIRITS

The ability to discern between spirits is the gift by which a believer knows whether the spirit at work is an evil spirit, the Holy Spirit, or a person’s spirit. (Acts 8:18-21; 16:16-18)

POWER TO DO

GIFT OF FAITH

The gift of faith is different from the saving faith we have when we become children of God. It is a special gift of knowing everything is going to work out, or knowing for certain that God is in control and He is faithful and good. This kind of faith produces extraordinary mountain-moving results. (Matt. 9:20-22; Acts 3:6-8,16)

GIFT OF HEALING

The gift of healing is the ability to heal the sick through prayer and laying on of hands. It is supernatural and not able to be explained by doctors. It is clear in Luke 9:11 that Jesus healed those who had need of both spiritual and physical healing. (Acts 5:12-16; 28:7-10)

WORKING OF MIRACLES

The working of miracles is the divine ability to perform supernatural feats that contradict the laws of nature. (John 2:11; Matt 14:25-33; Mark 6:38-44)

POWER TO SAY

GIFT OF PROPHECY

Prophecy is a divinely inspired and anointed message from the Spirit of God. It is thoughts from the heart of God, which are spoken through a person to His people. God will use anyone He desires to communicate His thoughts. And, Paul tells us that prophecy is the gift we should most desire.

If we are to clearly receive prophecy, we must communicate well with God. We must be well-acquainted with His Word, His ways, and His character. This requires lots of time in prayer.

Sometimes, but not always, prophecy will communicate a message of correction. We know from scripture that a prophetic word will always build us up, encourage us, and comfort us.

BUT WHEN SOMEONE PROPHESES, HE SPEAKS TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE, TO BUILD THEM UP, AND TO BRING THEM COMFORT. 1 CORINTHIANS 14:3 (TPT)

GIFT OF TONGUES

The gift of various kinds of tongues or languages is the ability given by the Holy Spirit to speak in an unknown language. This gift appears to have been manifested in two ways:

Private prayer language which needs no interpretation. (Mark 16:15-18; Acts 2:1-8, 10:44-46 1 Cor. 14:13-15) This private gift of tongues edifies the individual. This is done by worshiping God in prayer and allowing our mouths to vocalize without thinking about the sounds produced. Our focus remains on loving God and His will and in return we are encouraged, comforted and edified. This is also a wonderful way to pray God's will in a situation when we do not know how to pray. This is the Spirit praying through us.

When a gift of tongues is given to the body of believers accompanied by an interpretation, it then becomes like prophecy. (Acts 19:1-6; 1 Cor. 14:1-5)

This public gift edifies the body of Christ.

INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

The gift of interpretation of tongues is the power to interpret the prayer or message given. Paul established an order for their use. (1 Cor. 14:13, 18-19, 26-28, 39-40)

MINISTERIAL GIFTS, ALSO CALLED GOVERNMENTAL GIFTS

These gifts are offices or titles for believers who have been endowed physically and spiritually for positions of authority in the Church. These are appointed by Christ through election by Holy Spirit in the body of believers they are raised up to serve. Not everyone who ministers a gift holds an office.

See 1 Corinthians 12:28-30 and Ephesians 4:11-13 for scriptural reference to ministerial gifts.

FRUIT AND GIFTS

Love must be an integral part of our Christian lives in order for us to truly represent Christ, in character (fruit) and works (gifts of Holy Spirit). Our purpose is to honor and glorify Jesus and treat others with love as we use the gifts.

In the Old Testament, the High Priest's garment was decorated around the hem with alternating pomegranates and golden bells (Exodus 28:33). The pomegranates symbolize the fruit of the Spirit and the golden bells symbolize the gifts.

As the golden bells on the High Priest's robe sounded, assuring the people he was ministering for them, so the spiritual gifts today assure people that Jesus is alive and ministering for them in heaven. Pomegranates are sweet in flavor, attractive in color, and loaded with reproductive seeds. The fruit of the Spirit is like that too, bearing fruitfulness and Christlike qualities in the life of a Christian.

CONCLUSION

LOVE (A FRUIT) IS THE GREATEST GIFT!

NOW EAGERLY DESIRE THE GREATER GIFTS.

AND YET I WILL SHOW YOU THE MOST EXCELLENT WAY.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:31 (NIV)

In every case, regardless of the situation or the classification of the gift, those who minister spiritual gifts are exhorted to serve with love, humility, faithfulness, maturity and unity. They are given at random as Holy Spirit chooses for the benefit of the entire body or the individual. Gifts are never a sign of holiness in the one ministering them, and are not a merit badge for spiritual achievement.

When we love God for who He is, we have the potential for truly loving others as Jesus does. Then we are equipped to minister the gifts of the Holy Spirit as God intended. Our gifts become blessings to us, and others, under His control and guidance. The gifts glorify and reveal Him as His work is accomplished on earth through us. Is there anything more spectacular than this?

...SO ABOVE ALL ELSE, LET LOVE BE THE BEAUTIFUL PRIZE FOR WHICH YOU RUN.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:13B (TPT)