

## Exploring the Gifts of the Spirit, Part 1

### Key Verses:

Romans 15:18, 19 - *For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, v.19 by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God...*

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

### Objective:

Disciples are called to be fruit-bearing followers of Jesus. Through the Holy Spirit's work in our life, we are enabled to bear personal fruit which resembles the character of Christ, and ministry fruit through the manifestation and power of the Spirit's gifts. In the last discussion, we identified the fruit of the Spirit. In this lesson, we will explore the gifts of the Spirit as listed in the Scripture.

The gifts are the unique manifestations of the Spirit's power in the life of a believer for the purpose of \_\_\_\_\_ the lost and \_\_\_\_\_ the saints.

The three realms in which these ministry gifts are to be used are the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_.

### Five Categories of Spiritual Gifts

Note: The first three categories are comprised from 1 Corinthians 12:7-11. The Helps category is primarily found in Romans 12:4-8 and 1 Corinthians 12:28. The main list for the equipping gifts is found in Ephesians 4:11-12.

- 1) Revelation
- 2) Utterance
- 3) Power
- 4) Helps
- 5) Equipping

## The Revelation Gifts

These are also called the \_\_\_\_\_ gifts of 1 Corinthians 12.

1 Corinthians 12:7-11 NKJV - *But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: v.8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, v.9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, v.10 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. v.11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.*

1) The Word of \_\_\_\_\_

- a) The word of knowledge is the supernatural revelation by the Holy Spirit of certain facts residing in the mind of God.

Note: This gift is called the “word of knowledge” not the “gift of knowledge.” There is no such a thing as the gift of knowledge.

- b) Not Natural Knowledge - The word of knowledge is a supernatural manifestation, as are all the gifts of the Spirit. None of them are a natural gift.
- c) The word of knowledge can be manifested in many different ways. It can come through visions, inward witness, prophecy, and angels. Often these gifts work together.
- d) The revelation that the word of knowledge brings is always present knowledge, or knowledge of something that happened in the past.
- i) Example: Ananias and the Word of Knowledge

*Acts 9:10-12 - Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” And he said, “Here I am, Lord.” v.11 And the Lord said to him, “Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, v.12 and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.*

- ii) God imparted a word of knowledge to Paul that Ananias would restore his sight. He also imparted a word of knowledge to Ananias that he was to restore Paul's sight.

2) Discerning of \_\_\_\_\_

- a) The discerning of spirits gives us insight into the spirit world. It is a very important gift because of three things.

- i) First, it's the gift that is operating when we are allowed to see into the spirit realm.

(1) Elisha saw the hills filled with horses and angelic warriors.

(2) Isaiah saw the Lord high and lifted up.

(3) Stephen saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

- ii) Second, it is how we judge what spirit is motivating a person.

New Testament example: Acts 16:16-18 (Paul and the little fortune teller girl.)

- iii) Thirdly, it is how we judge that a supernatural manifestation is from God or the enemy.

- b) Can we discern spirits without this gift operating? YES! How can we do this? If we know the Word of God and are walking by the Spirit of God, we will have an inward witness that will lead us to distinguish between what is true and what is false.

However, the discerning of spirits is a remarkable gift since it gives a revelation of the spirit realm, opening our \_\_\_\_\_ to a world that we have no conception of naturally.

3) The Word of \_\_\_\_\_

- a) The word of wisdom is a supernatural revelation by the Spirit of God concerning the \_\_\_\_\_ in the mind and will of God.

- b) The word of wisdom usually speaks to the future. God reveals His plan for the future through the word of wisdom.
- c) This is not natural wisdom that comes from study or experience. The word of wisdom is supernatural revelation coming in the moment by the Holy Spirit.

Note: Natural wisdom can be acquired by anyone. James 1:5, 6 - *If any lacks wisdom...* The word “any” implies everyone. Yet, 1 Corinthians 12:11 says of the word of wisdom, as with the other gifts, He gives them “as he wills.”

- d) The word of wisdom and the word of knowledge often work together.
  - i) Acts 9:15, 16 - *But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. v. 16 For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”*
  - ii) As we saw a minute ago, the Spirit revealed through a word of knowledge exactly where Paul was (this was present knowledge). Then the Spirit revealed what Paul was going to do (he revealed God’s plan and purpose for Paul’s life). We can see these two gifts operating together.

Note: The word of wisdom and knowledge are often revealed through a prophecy.

A prophetic message is very powerful because it often releases the other revelation gifts.

### The Utterance Gifts

These are called the \_\_\_\_\_ gifts of 1 Corinthians 12.

1 Corinthians 12:7, 10-11 NKJV - *But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: ...v. 10 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. v. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.*

1) \_\_\_\_\_

a) Prophecy is a supernatural utterance from the Spirit in a known tongue (language).

- i) When a person is being used in the gift of prophecy, he/she comes under the inspiration of the Spirit and will speak powerful words of encouragement and comfort to the listeners.

1 Corinthians 14:3 KJV tells us that prophecy is for “edification, exhortation, and comfort.”

b) Paul considers this one of the most important gifts because...

- i) Prophecy edifies the church.

1 Corinthians 14:4 - *The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church.*

- ii) Prophecy is important because it was considered to be a sign of the Spirit’s outpouring in the last days.

Acts 2:17 - *And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy...*

c) Prophecy is simply speaking what God is revealing to you at the moment to the right people. It could be knowledge, wisdom, or a simply an inspired work of encouragement.

One thing is for sure; when it is happening by the Spirit, people are being edified.

d) We should seek to edify the church through the gift of prophecy.

1 Corinthians 14:12 - *So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.*

Note: Operating in the gift of prophecy does not make you a prophet. Phillip the evangelist had four unmarried daughters that prophesied. This does not mean they were prophets (Acts 2).



2) Different Kinds of \_\_\_\_\_

- a) Divers (KJV) kinds of tongues is a supernatural utterance by the Holy Spirit in languages never learned by the speaker, not understood by the mind of the speaker, nor necessarily always understood immediately by the hearers.
- b) The gift of “tongues” and the gift of “interpretation of tongues” are distinctive to the New Testament church age.

“Tongues” and “interpretation of tongues” came after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost.

Utterances in tongues in a public service is the least of the gifts and often times people make it the highest.

- c) Jesus said speaking in tongues would be a sign that marks the life of His disciples.

Mark 16:17-18 NIV - *And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; v.18 they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.*

- d) There are two applications for the gift of tongues: a devotional gift and a public ministry gift.

i) The \_\_\_\_\_ Gift

The gift of tongues is primarily a devotional gift. Although it has a public manifestation, the majority of its use is in our own prayer life and worship of God.

1 Corinthians 14:2 NIV - *For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit.*

1 Corinthians 14:4, 5 - *The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. v.5 Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy...*

1 Corinthians 14:18 - *I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you.*  
*Note: Paul was speaking of his private devotional use of tongues.*

ii) The \_\_\_\_\_ Gift of Tongues

God will use some people in the public utterance of tongues, but that gift is not for everyone. When using this gift publicly, it becomes a prophetic manifestation of the Spirit and should always be accompanied by its sister gift, the “interpretation of tongues.”

1 Corinthians 14:26-28 NIV - *What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up. v.27 If anyone speaks in a tongue, two-or at the most three-should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. v.28 If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and God.*

1 Corinthians 14:39-40 - *Therefore, my brothers, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. v.40 But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.*

3) \_\_\_\_\_ of Tongues

- a) The Interpretation of tongues is the supernatural showing forth by the Spirit the meaning of an utterance in an unknown tongue.
- b) The purpose of interpretation of tongues is to render an utterance from the gift of tongues intelligible to the hearers, so that the church may know what has been said and therefore be edified.
  - i) 1 Corinthians 14:5 NIV - *...The one who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be edified.*
  - ii) It is interpretation of the message spoken in tongues and not a translation.
- c) The gift of the “interpretation of tongues” can operate in your \_\_\_\_\_ prayer life.

- i) Paul tells us that we should pray for the gift of interpretation. The reason for this is not that we interpret publicly, but that we could pray effectively.

1 Corinthians 14:12-15 NIV - *...Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, try to excel in those that build up the church. v.13 For this reason the one who speaks in a tongue should pray that they may interpret what they say. v.14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. v.15 So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding.*

- ii) Knowing what we are praying would greatly edify us spiritually and if God chooses to use us publicly, that would be an added blessing.
- iii) Note: It is not necessary that everything we utter in an unknown tongue during our private prayer time be made clear to our understanding. As we are praying in tongues, we are allowing our spirit to communicate beyond our intellect.

1 Corinthians 14:14, 15 NIV - *For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. v.15 So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding.*

We need to remember, we are not talking to ourselves; we are talking to God. What we are praying is clear to Him and that is what matters.

1 Corinthians 14:2 NIV - *For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit.*

- d) Interpretation in Our \_\_\_\_\_ Ministry

- i) It should be done orderly.

1 Corinthians 14:27-28 NIV - *If anyone speaks in a tongue, two-or at the most three-should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. v.28 If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and God.*



- ii) Paul is telling us that the gifts of prophecy, tongues, & interpretation of tongues can sometimes bring confusion and/or error. That is why we need to “weigh carefully what is said” and bring gentle correction as needed.

1 Corinthians 14:29-33 NIV - *Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said. v.30 And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop. v.31 For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. v.32 The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets. v.33 For God is not a God of disorder but of peace...*

- iii) Would it be better to not allow the utterance gifts from operating? No!

A message in tongues can be a powerful manifestation if an unbeliever is present and hears a supernatural message coming from a person who does not know that language.

1 Corinthians 14:22 - *Thus tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for believers.*

1 Corinthians 14:39-40 NIV - *Therefore, my brothers and sisters, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. v.40 But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.*



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## REFLECT

1. Review the purpose of the gifts of the Spirit (there are at least two listed in this lesson). Discuss what they are and how these are playing out in your life.
2. Pastor Ron listed three realms in which ministry gifts are used. Give examples of these working in your church, work, and family.
3. Discuss the difference between the devotional gift of tongues and public gift of tongues. Have you received your devotional gift of tongues as a believer? If yes, how has this changed your Christian walk? If not, would you like to receive this gift?
4. What questions do you have about any of the ministry gifts of the Spirit?

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## ACT

If you do not yet have the devotional gift of tongues, this is an excellent time to ask for it and receive it. You can do this alone, with your coach, or with your group.

If you do have the devotional gift of tongues, you may want to ask the Holy Spirit to use you in other ministry gifts of the Spirit. Set aside a few moments to pray to this end.