

The Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit

The work of the Holy Spirit is twofold, to equip the saints to serve by the giving of gifts, running in parallel with the gifts, He burns the dross in our lives out of us, so that we become more like Jesus in power and character. It's not one or the other, but both together. We therefore need faith to destroy the works of the devil externally and his control over us internally.

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Altogether there are 9 gifts referred to in 1 Corinthians. These gifts are given as we give ourselves to God; as we read in Romans 14 and 1 Corinthians 12.

Romans 14 v 17-19

...for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. For he who in this way serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.

1 Corinthians 12 v 1-11

1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware. 2 You know that when you were pagans, you were led astray to the mute idols, however you were led. 3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed"; and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

In **verse 1** of Corinthians 12 Paul wants us to be aware concerning Spiritual gifts. To be aware doesn't simply mean to know about them but to enter into using them in our everyday life; Spiritual gifts are not simply to be used in church meetings. **Verse 2** we are reminded by Paul that there was a time when we were pagans, or unsaved. At the time we were led by the unholy spirit, satan. **Verse 3** Paul lays down the principal that no-one can say Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. What this means is that the speaking of the words by the natural man is meaningless unless the prompting of the Holy Spirit is present.

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The Gifts of the Holy Spirit fall into 3 areas:

1. Discerning Gifts

There are 3 of these gifts; they give us the ability to perceive through exterior things, to get to the root of the matter and by-pass natural or intellectual reasoning's and solutions.

- a) Word of wisdom
- b) Word of knowledge
- c) Discerning of spirits

2. Dynamic Gifts

Again, there are 3 gifts, the Holy Spirit provides such that change things supernaturally.

- a) Faith
- b) Gifts of healing
- c) Working of miracles

3. Declarative Gifts

And finally these 3 gifts proclaim and confirm God's words.

- a) Prophecy
- b) Tongues
- c) Interpretation

1 Corinthians 12 v 8-10

8 For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; **9** to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, **10** and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. **11** But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills. **12** For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.

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Verse 8 speaks of us being aware of the gifts; verse 9 refers to the variety of gifts but the same Holy Spirit. Verse 10 declares the diversity of ministries but the same Lord Jesus and verse 11 asserts the variety of effects, by the same God the Father. It is God the Father who decides to give us these gifts, or if we already have the gifts then to increase the blessing. There we have the Godhead at work. Verse 12, importantly, reminds us that we are given gifts, not for our edification, but for the common good. We have the gift of tongues for our personal edification and although a gift from God it is not the gift of tongues referred to in the nine gifts.

Let us look at each gift:

Word of Wisdom

Knowing God's wisdom by revelation.

1 Kings 3 v 5-12

In Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream at night; and God said, "Ask what you wish Me to give you." Then Solomon said, "You have shown great lovingkindness to Your servant David my father, according as he walked before You in truth and righteousness and uprightness of heart toward You; and You have reserved for him this great lovingkindness, that You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day. Now, O Lord my God, You have made Your servant king in place of my father David, yet I am but a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. Your servant is in the midst of Your people which You have chosen, a great people who are too many to be numbered or counted. So give Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people to discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?" It was pleasing in the sight of the Lord that Solomon had asked this thing. God said to him, "Because you have asked this thing and have not asked for yourself long life, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have you asked for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself discernment to understand justice, behold, I have done according to your words. Behold, I have given you a wise and discerning heart, so that there has been no one like you before you, nor shall one like you arise after you.

Word of Knowledge

Knowing by revelation hidden truth or things past or present.

Discerning Spirits

The ability to see through evil spirits or intellect, to know what you are dealing with.

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Faith

The gift to impart faith to a person or situation.

Matthew 17 v 20

... for truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.

Mark 11 v 22-24

And Jesus answered saying to them, "Have faith in God. Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be granted him. Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you.

Gifts of Healing

The ability to impart healing, to body, soul or spirit.

Working of Miracles

The overcoming of natural powers or laws. The changing of water into wine was the first miracle that Jesus performed.

Prophecy

Bringing God's word. This is different to the teaching of the written word or the known word; it is not just explanation, it is more of a *now* word from God.

1 Corinthians 14 v 1

Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.

Tongues

This is linked to prophesy, accompanied by the interpretation. It is used mainly when the whole church is gathered together.

Interpretation of Tongues

This is self-explanatory, the interpretation of the previous gift.

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The following scriptures speak of God appointing these gifts in the church but to desire the greater gifts.

1 Corinthians 12 v 28-31

And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues. All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not workers of miracles, are they? All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they? But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way.

1 Corinthians 12 v 11

But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

Romans 12 v 1

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

The Fruits of the Holy Spirit

Fruit has to do with our roots; gifts are to do with grace. The fruit of the Holy Spirit is pure; our fruit depends on whether we walk in obedience to the Spirit's leading.

Galatians 5 v 16

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

It is a simple exercise to examine whether you are walking by the Spirit or by the flesh; just check out the fruit of your action against the two examples in Galatians following, the first relates to fruits of the flesh, the second to fruits of the Spirit.

Galatians 5 v 19-21

Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

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Galatians 5 v 22-24

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

As we read in the above scripture, the fruit of the Spirit is love.

Joy is love's strength
Peace is love's security
Patience is love's endurance
Kindness is love's conduct
Goodness is love's character
Faithfulness is love's confidence
Gentleness is love's humility
Self-control is love's victory

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