

The Holy Spirit Gives us Gifts

1 Corinthians 12 verse 4-14

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. 6 There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. 7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 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. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. 14 For the body is not one member, but many.

The gifts are for all believers that are baptised by the Holy Spirit and we are encouraged to understand about them. But our desire and endeavour should be out of love.

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1 Corinthians 14 verse 1

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

The gifts of the Holy Spirit fall into three areas

1. Discerning Gifts

(a) Word of wisdom, (b) Word of knowledge, (c) Discerning of spirits

These give us the ability to perceive through exterior things, get to the root of the matter and bypass natural or intellectual reasonings and solutions.

2. Dynamic Gifts

(a) Faith, (b) Gifts of healing, (c) Working of miracles

These give us the gifts that change things supernaturally.

3. Declarative Gifts

(a) Prophecy, (b) Tongues, (c) Interpretation

These give us gifts to proclaim God's Word.

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1 Corinthians 12 verse 1-10

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. 4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. 6 There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. 7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 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.

Altogether there are nine gifts mentioned above, but do notice **verse 1** which speaks of us being aware of them and **verse 4** which speaks of a variety of gifts but the same Holy Spirit. **Verse 5** speaks of a variety of ministries but the same Lord Jesus and **verse 6** which speaks of the variety of effects, by the same God the Father. It is God the Father who decides or gives us increase. There we have the Godhead at work. **Verse 7** also is another important verse, we are given gifts, not for our edification, but for the common good. **Verse 8** We have the gift of new tongues for our personal edification although a gift from God, it is not the gift of tongues referred to in the nine gifts.

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Let us look at each gift.

Word of Wisdom - Knowing God's wisdom by revelation.

Word of Knowledge - Knowing by revelation hidden truth or things past or present.

Discerning of Spirits

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

Faith

The ability to impart faith to a person or situation.

Matthew 17 verse 19-20

Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not drive it out?" And He said to them, "Because of the littleness of your faith; 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.

Hebrews 11 verse 1

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

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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 the water into wine was the first miracle that Jesus performed.

Prophecy

Bringing God's word. Different to the teaching of the written word or the known word, not just an explanation. More a present word from God.

1 Corinthians 14 verse 1-2

Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. 2 For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God; for no one understands, but in his spirit he speaks mysteries.

Tongues

Linked with prophecy accompanied by the interpretation of the tongue. Used mainly when the whole Church is gathered together.

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Interpretation

Self explanatory, the interpretation of the above tongues.

1 Corinthians 12 verse 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. 29 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? 30 All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they? 31 But earnestly desire the greater gifts.

The scripture speaks of God appointing these gifts in the Church but to desire the greater gifts but there is a more excellent way - love.

1 Corinthians 13 verse 1-3

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 13 And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

God given gifts are a starting place for all of us.

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Romans 12 verse 6-8

Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; 7 if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; 8 or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

All gifts and all things are from God but the following are gifts which all of us can serve with as mortals.

Prophecy, Service, Teaching, Exhorting, Giving, Leading, Mercy.

Finally, there are two other gifts mentioned.

1 Corinthians 12 verse 28

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.

The gift of helps and the gift of administration. What an abundance we have from our Heavenly Father.

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1 Corinthians 14 verse 1

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

The Mission of the Church

1. Making Disciples of all the Nations.

Matthew 28 verse 16-20

But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated. 17 When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful. 18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Before we can make disciples, we have to become a disciple.

Luke 9 verse 57-62

As they were going along the road, someone said to Him, "I will follow You wherever You go." 58 And Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."

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59 And He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father." 60 But He said to him, "Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God." 61 Another also said, "I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say goodbye to those at home." 62 But Jesus said to him, "No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

Luke 14 verse 25-35

Now large crowds were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them, 26 "If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. 27 Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. 28 For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? 29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, 30 saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' 31 Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and consider whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand? 32 Or else, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. 33 So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions. 34 "Therefore, salt is good; but if even salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned? 35 It is useless either for the soil or for the manure pile; it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

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Matthew 22 verse 14

For many are called, but few are chosen."

Becoming a disciple is costly. The cost is high, count the cost. Do you still want to be a disciple? Being unwilling to pay the price means no power in the life. If you don't pay the electricity bill your power is cut off!

2. Follow in His Footsteps.

Mark 16 verse 9-20

Now after He had risen early on the first day of the week, He first appeared to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons. 10 She went and reported to those who had been with Him, while they were mourning and weeping. 11 When they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they refused to believe it. 12 After that, He appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking along on their way to the country. 13 They went away and reported it to the others, but they did not believe them either. 14 Afterward He appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at the table; and He reproached them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who had seen Him after He had risen. 15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. 16 He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

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17 These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." 19 So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. 20 And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed. And they promptly reported all these instructions to Peter and his companions. And after that, Jesus Himself sent out through them from east to west the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation.

Signs followed, they continued where Jesus had left off.

Psalm 110 verse 1

The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."

3. Care for each Other- Love One Another

John 13 verse 34-35

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

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John 21 verse 15-17

So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My lambs." 16 He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Shepherd My sheep." 17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Tend My sheep.

Shepherds are called to care for the flock and tend the lambs.

Galatians 6 verse 10

So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

4. Possess the Land Outside.

Evangelise the whole world, starting with our own families and neighbours. Our own example of holy living and supernatural behavior will be like a magnet to them.

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