

Spiritual Gifts through the Eyes of Paul - Session 4

7.27.22

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills. **I Corinthians 12:7-11 ESV**

Review: Spiritual gifts are special releases or disbursements of the Spirit's power into a moment for the purpose of equipping and building up the church. These gifts also aid the believer in witnessing, establishing God's kingdom, and accomplishing God's purposes in the world.

- Spiritual gifts must be understood as the spontaneous, sovereign release of God's power in a specific moment.
- These gifts must be distinguished from God-given capacities, talents, and skills that someone develops.

Revelation Gifts

- Word of Wisdom, Word of Knowledge, Discerning of Spirits

Power Gifts

- Faith, the Gifts of Healings, Working of Miracles

Proclamation Gifts

- Prophecy, Different Kinds of Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues

Discerning of Spirits review: When this gift is granted, the Spirit gives supernatural insight or knowledge to perceive and detect what type of spirit (good or evil) may be operating through a given situation or through an individual. It may also disclose the secret motives of a person's heart.

- Discerning of Spirits is not the same as possessing a discerning nature, being emotionally intelligent and having good intuition.
- **Paul and the slave girl at Philippi**
As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. ¹⁷ She followed Paul and us, crying out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the

way of salvation.” ¹⁸ And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour. **Acts 16:16-18**

Hindrances to the revelation gifts

- A dulling of the spiritual senses through neglect and a distant heart
- Excessive noise from the spirit of the age and world systems
- When a biblical worldview is overshadowed by worldly values and compromise
- When one chooses to lean on their own understanding
- Hearts lifted up in arrogance, stubbornness, and pride

Power Gifts

Power gifts are supernatural dispensations/allotments of power that enable us to believe and participate in the release of the extraordinary miraculous working of God.

Faith - sometimes called "special faith," is an allotment of extraordinary faith given in the moment regarding God's intended activity in a specific matter. It enables the believer to act decisively upon God's will, contrary to human reason and rationale. This gift often accompanies other gifts, such as the gift of healing and working of miracles. It also may accompany the Gospel's proclamation and martyrdom.

An example in the life of Paul: Now at Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet. He was crippled from birth and had never walked. ⁹ He listened to Paul speaking. And Paul, looking intently at him and seeing that he had faith to be made well, ¹⁰ said in a loud voice, “Stand upright on your feet.” And he sprang up and began walking.
Acts 14: 8-11 ESV

The Gifts of Healings - A special disbursement of supernatural healing power beyond the scope of natural, medical, or human intervention.

Other ways healing may be received:

- Someone simply asking the Lord directly for healing
- A gradual healing process involving prayer and other interventions
- God may sovereignly heal, independent from human entreaty (John 5:1-7).
- Healing may result when believers simply obey scriptural commands (Mark 16:18, James 5:14, 15).
- This gift in the Acts narrative (Acts 3:2-7, 5:15, 9:11, 9:33, 28:8)

Gifts of healings

- This gift is plural- God may choose to operate this gift as a cluster or healing specialty.
- It may be used as a powerful tool in the presentation of the Gospel.
- God is willing to heal the lost.

Working of miracles - This gift represents a supernatural intervention and/or superseding of a natural law or process for the accomplishing of God's purpose in a situation.

The gift of miracles might accompany the following situations:

- The proclaiming of the Gospel
- The protection of God's people
- Creative healing miracles
- To demonstrate the supremacy of God's power over other powers
- As a sign confirmation of assurance regarding God's promise

Receiving Spiritual Gifts

The most essential aspect of spiritual gifts is love (I Corinthians 13).

- Love of God, love towards people
- Agapé love

Availability

- Determine to serve others and receive gifts in humility (1 Peter 5:5)
- Be a reservoir of the Word and Spirit (Colossians 3:16)
- Walk in submission to spiritual authority (Hebrews 13:17)
- Live as a vessel of honor in regard to purity (Hebrews 12:1)
- Walk in peace and unity with other believers

Cultivating Desire for the Gifts

- Begin with honesty. The Father already knows your heart.
- Believe the Lord really can and does desire to release gifts through you (I Corinthians 12:7).

- Regularly ask the Lord to speak and release the gifts through you.
- Be grateful and content for whatever the Lord decides to express through you.

Willingness and Obedience

- Resolve not to quench the Spirit (I Thessalonians 5:19).
- Host the Spirit in a way He will remain ungrieved within you.
- Be willing to take risks and step into the moment.
- Treasure the Lord's desire above the fear of looking foolish.
- Be teachable, and willing to learn and grow.
- Show persistence if you make mistakes.
 - Be willing to take baby steps of obedience.

Expect opportunities through the gifts

- Gifts do not normally operate in a vacuum.
- Be willing to engage people.
 - Seek to serve them and witness to them.
 - Pray for people and with them at every opportunity.
- Seize the moment and do not analyze the opportunity away.