

HOW TO  
UNDERSTAND  
THE  
GIFTS & CALLINGS  
OF THE  
HOLY SPIRIT



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# **UNDERSTANDING THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT**

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# Forward

Every believer is, and should function as, a vital part of the body of Christ. God has bestowed many gifts upon His church. He has endowed the members with special abilities and ministries for the benefit of the body as a whole, both locally and worldwide.

**Romans 12:3** For I say, through the grace given to me, to every one who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. **4.** For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, **5.** so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. **6.** Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; **7.** or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; **8.** he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

The concept of the human body is to teach how Christians should live and work together. Just as the parts of the body function under the direction of the brain, so Christians are to work together under the command and authority of Jesus Christ (see 1 Cor. 12:12-31; Ephes. 4:1-16).

The gifts are given so we can build up his church. To use them effectively, we must (1) realize that all gifts and abilities come from God; (2) understand that not everyone has the same gifts; (3) know who we are and what we do best; (4) dedicate our gifts to God's service and not to our personal success; (5) be willing to utilize our gifts wholeheartedly, not holding back anything from God's service.

Gifts differ in nature, power, and effectiveness according to his wisdom and graciousness, not according to our faith. The "measure of faith" (Romans 12:3) or the "proportion to his faith" means that God will give spiritual power necessary and appropriate to carry out each responsibility.

We cannot, by our own effort or willpower, drum up more faith and thus be more effective teachers or servants. These are God's gifts to his church, and he gives faith and power as he wills. Our responsibility is to be faithful and to seek ways to serve others with what Christ has given us.

Prophecy in Scripture is not always predicting the future. Often it means preaching God's messages (1 Cor. 14:1-3).

## **1 Cor. 14:1-3**

**Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy. [2] For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. [3] But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.**

**Look at the gifts and imagine the kinds of people who would have each gift. Prophets are often bold and articulate. Servers (those in ministry) are faithful and loyal. Teachers are clear thinkers. Encouragers know how to motivate others. Givers are generous and trusting. Leaders are good organizers and managers. Those who show mercy are caring people who are happy to give their time to others.**

**It would be difficult for one person to embody all these gifts. An assertive prophet would not usually make a good counselor, and a generous giver might fail as a leader. When you identify your own gifts, ask how you can use them to build up God's family. At the same time, realize that your gifts can't do the work of the church without the help of others. Be thankful for people whose gifts are completely different from yours. Let your strengths balance their weaknesses, and be grateful that their abilities make up for your deficiencies. Together we can build Christ's church.**

**The functioning of the service gifts discussed in this presentation are only a part of the multiple ways that God endows believers with just the right gift and just time to accomplish his purpose.**

**The present day church may not be functioning at a whole body. If we attend church and listen to the musicians and the speaker, how is the gift God has given to us utilized?**

**I am not covering the gift of listening, but many believers have to do a lot of that while their gifts lie dormant. The gifts God has given you will have a place for fulfillment. It may be on the job, at home with your family or at leisure, but remember that there is a place for your gifts to operate.**

**There are multiple ways to use life's experiences to fulfill your gifts.**

**When I was a child, my family owned a farm and cattle ranch. This required constant cooperation to make everything work. When working the cattle, our dad assigned us our job. Everyone had to do his or her part. We sometimes would grow tired, but could not stop until the job was complete.**

**An individual who does not communicate with God in prayer, or who does not spend time in studying the word of God, may demonstrate gifted traits, but will do little or no spiritual good. This will bring no heavenly reward.**

**When fishing, the pastor should not be the only one with a fishing pole, but everyone should be given a pole. No wonder the church grows slowly with only a few fishing, and others paying to watch.**

**I declare that you are mighty in God.**

**When I see struggling young people who are trying to find their way and place in the world, I cannot but to think of the way I felt when I was young.**

**When I was fifteen years old the Lord spoke to me to become a minister. I felt that I wanted to be sure it was the lord so I asked the Lord to confirm the calling.**

**My request was for the Lord to give me music ability. I became interested in singing and playing the piano. I took a few piano lessons and learned how to read notes and identify the keys on the piano.**

**At age 17, I was invited to play the piano for my first revival. The evangelist became ill, and stepping in, I began my preaching ministry.**

**Now 61 year later, I have played for many public meetings and school functions. I have been both an evangelist and a pastor.**

**Everything wasn't just given to me, but I sought every opportunity to develop the talents the Lord had given me. I was never the best, but I was present.**

**Proverbs 18:16**

**A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men.**

**As you study many different gifts, you will likely find that you may identify with many of them. Look into the word of the Lord. That is where the answer lies.**

**When the gifts God has given you are fully embraced and employed in the fullness of all the spiritual dimensions, some rather wonderful thing will happen.**

**God gives both talents and gifts. Spiritual gifts are somewhat different in that they have a powerful nature and are dedicated to the service of the Lord.**

**You may follow these steps to fully explore each gift you have:**

**1. Study the Scriptural passages on the gifts in general as well as specific gift you feel you may have. Find out how each gift can be used.**

**2. Give thanks and accept the gifts God has given you.**

**1 Peter 4:10**

**As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.**

**If you wish to become serious about discovering and using your gifts to fulfill God's purpose, then pray for guidance. This will open your understanding and insights.**

**Make a commitment to do whatever you are asked to so you will become an individual who is equipped for the task. Allow your gifts to glorify God.**

**See how God is already at work in your life. What excites you? What appeals to you? What needs draw your attention?**

**Check yourself to see if you are using your gift to help others and glorify God.**

**Look for results. Have your initial efforts been in some manner fulfilling?**

**Pray for guidance and strength in the use of your gifts and ask God to open your eyes to the needs of others that your gifts may be used to minister to these needs.**

**The support of small Christian groups and individuals may be used as instruments of sharing.**

**Support others in the use of their gifts by confirming with them that you see good results from their efforts. Your feedback will help them to develop and fulfill their gifts to the glory of God.**

**Remember: All gifts given are for the glory of God. The moment you want to be honored and recognized, you will have no heavenly reward.**

**Proverbs 16:18**

**Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.**

**Isaiah 42:8**

**I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.**

**All member of the body of Christ would benefit from the study and function of the understanding and use of the spiritual gifts.**

**This study is divided into two Parts: (1) The Ministerial Office Gifts, and (2) The Supernatural Spiritual Gifts.**

**May the enlightenment of God's word fashion your mind to develop a clear understanding of the identity and use of these gifts.**

### **The Ministerial Office Gifts**

**These gifts are also called the Five Fold Ministry Gifts.**

#### **Ephes. 4:11**

**And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;**

**The church must be motivated by these ministerial gifts.**

**Without the operation of these gifts in the church, the church can never reach its full potential.**

#### **Apostles:**

**Apostles have a special ability that God gives to certain member of the body of Christ that allows them to exercise leadership over a number of churches in spiritual matters.**

**These people are called to lead, inspire and develop the churches that they may become grounded in the doctrines of Christ.**

#### **Biblical references:**

##### **1 Cor. 12:28**

**And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.**

##### **Romans 1:14-16**

**I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. [15] So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. [16] For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.**

**Paul was the first practical teacher, the one who began to lay down rules for churches to follow. This is proof that apostleship did not die with the first 12 apostles**

**The Bible gives reference to others who were called apostles.**

#### **James**

**Galatians 1:19** But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother.

#### **Barnabas**

**Acts 14:4** But the multitude of the city was divided: and part held with the Jews, and part with the apostles.

**Acts 14:14** Which when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of, they rent their clothes, and ran in among the people, crying out.

#### **Epaphroditus**

**Philip. 2:25** Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellow soldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants.

#### **Silas and Timothy**

**1 Thes. 1:1** Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**1 Thes. 2:6** Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ.

#### **Andronicus and Junia**

**Romans 16:7** Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen, and my fellow -prisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.

A number of other references are made to: "And other breathern".

Those called to be an apostle will likely feel an urgency to build churches, or develop teaching centers where the Gospel of Jesus Christ will be taught. A God called apostle will likely be drawn to become an ordained minister.

Any one exercising this gift will become involved in starting and strengthening churches or reaching out to those who may have little access to the Gospel.

Building churches is not the exclusive domain of ordained clergy.

Traits often associated with the calling to be an apostle:

- (1) One who believes God has called him to build churches.
- (2) He or she has an urgency to take the Gospel to new places.

- (3) Seeks ways untraditional to express God's love.**
- (4) Has a calling to preach to people who need to hear the Gospel.**

**Apostles have a special calling. They are selected by Christ and speak in his behalf.**

**Prophet:**

**A prophet discerns and proclaims God's word. A prophet is focused on the immediate voice of God. He seeks the mind and heart of God, and declares it to the people. A person operating in the ministry of a prophet equip the church to hear the voice of God for themselves and to move in the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit.**

**Scriptural References:**

**Paul at Philips house**

**Acts 21:8-11 And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him. [9] And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy. [10] And as we tarried there many days, there came down from Judaea a certain prophet, named Agabus. [11] And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owns this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.**

**Obviously the gift of prophecy was given to both men and women. Women actively participated in God's work (Acts 2:17; Phil. 4:3). Other women who prophesied include Miriam (Exodus 15:20), Deborah (Judges 4:4), Huldah (2 Kings 22:14), Noadiah (Neh. 6:14), Isaiah's wife (Isaiah 8:3), and Anna (Luke 2:36-38).**

**Fifteen years earlier, Agabus had predicted the famine in Jerusalem (Acts 11:27-29).**

**We need to be very careful about personal prophecies. A prophecy to an individual usually confirms what the person already had been told.**

**Prophecy can be spoken, written, or come in the form of a dream or vision. This gift is highly commended by Paul as an understandable. It builds and comforts those listening, first Corinthians 14:1,5.**

**The anointing to prophesy is often quite powerful, but still under the control of the believer. I Corinthians 14:32**

**Some refer to a prophet as someone who declares the word of God**

## **Evangelist**

**The gift of evangelism is a special ability that God gives to believers to present the gospel to unbelievers in the clear and meaningful way, which calls for response. This gift enables the evangelist to tell the story of Christ – and saving resurrection with simplicity, with clarity, and effectiveness. The evangelist possesses the gift of understanding the gospel and also feels the burden for those entrapped in the darkness of sin.**

### **Biblical references:**

**Ephes. 4:7 But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.**

**Ephes. 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;**

**Our oneness in Christ does not destroy our individuality. The Holy Spirit has given each Christian special gifts for building up the church. Now that we have these gifts, it is crucial to use them.**

**2 Tim. 4:5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.**

**As he neared the end of his life, Paul could confidently say he had been faithful to his call. Thus he faced death calmly, knowing that Christ would reward him.**

**Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. [19] Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: [20] Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.**

**God gave Jesus authority over heaven and earth. On the basis of that authority, Jesus told his disciples to make more disciples as they preached, baptized, and taught. With this same authority, Jesus still commands us to tell others the Good News and make them disciples for the kingdom.**

### **Traits often associated with those called to be an evangelist:**

- (1) A desire to talk to people who do not know Christ**
- (2) Is able to explain the Gospel so it can be easily understood.**
- (3) Does not become easily upset when others do not agree with him.**
- (4) Leads others to Christ and helps others find their calling.**

**The gift of evangelism is needed greatly in the church to enable members of the body to develop ministries for true discipleship.**

### **Pastors**

**It has sometime been said that as the pastor goes, so goes the church.**

**That, of course, is not entirely true, but it is a neighbor to the total truth.**

**When a pastor feels it is ok to commit certain sins contrary to the teaching in the Bible, the congregation will sometime not feel condemned, even though the Bible may strictly say they are forms of sinfulness.**

**From “Grace to You” <http://www.gty.org/resources/questions/> , an excellent summary concerning the responsibilities are given:**

**What is the pastor’s responsibility, besides preaching and studying?**

**1 Peter 5:1-4; John 10:11; Jeremiah 23:1-4; Ezekiel 34:2-10**

**One of Jesus' favorite metaphors for spiritual leadership, one He often used to describe Himself, was that of a shepherd--a person who tends God's flock. A shepherd leads, feeds, nurtures, comforts, corrects, and protects--responsibilities that belong to every church leader. In fact, the word pastor means shepherd.**

**Peter wrote these words to elders who would have been familiar with sheep and shepherding:**

**I exhort the elders among you ... shepherd the flock of God ... exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory (1 Peter 5:1-4).**

**To give you a more complete picture of your pastor's role, here's a look at the nature of sheep, the task of shepherds, and how they compare to the pastor's role among the church. Note the principles of church leadership it contains--they determine what should fill your pastor's schedule.**

### **Shepherds Are Rescuers**

**A sheep can be totally lost within a few miles of its home. With no sense of direction and no instinct for finding the fold, a lost sheep usually will walk around in a state of confusion, unrest, and even panic. It needs a shepherd to bring it home.**

**And so when Jesus saw the crowds, lost, spiritually disoriented, and confused, He likened them to sheep without a shepherd (Matthew 9:36). The prophet Isaiah described lost people as those who, like sheep, have gone astray--each one turning to his own way (Isaiah 53:6).**

**Like lost sheep, lost people need a rescuer--a shepherd--to lead them to the safety of the fold. A pastor does that by pointing the lost toward Jesus, the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep (John 10:11).**

### **Shepherds Are Feeders**

**Sheep spend most of their lives eating and drinking, but they are indiscriminate about their diet. They don't know the difference between poisonous and non-poisonous plants. Therefore the shepherd must carefully guard their diet and provide them with pasture rich with nutrients.**

**In His encounter with him described in John 21, Jesus drove home to Peter the importance of feeding the sheep. Twice in His command to Peter, Jesus used the Greek term bosko, which means "I feed" (vv. 15, 17).**

**The pastor's goal is not to please the sheep, but to feed them--not to tickle their ears, but to nourish their souls. He is not to offer merely light snacks of spiritual milk, but the substantial meat of biblical truth. Those who fail to feed the flock are unfit to be shepherds (cf. Jeremiah 23:1-4; Ezekiel 34:2-10).**

### **Shepherds Are Leaders**

**Peter challenged his fellow elders to "shepherd the flock of God among you" by "exercising oversight" (1 Peter 5:2). God entrusted them with the authority and responsibility of leading the flock. Pastors are accountable for how they lead, and the flock for how they follow (Hebrews 13:17).**

**Besides teaching, the pastor exercises oversight of the flock by the example of his life. Being a pastor requires getting in among the sheep. It is not leadership from above so much as leadership from within. An effective pastor does not herd his sheep from the rear but leads them from the front. They see him and imitate his actions.**

**The most important asset of spiritual leadership is the power of an exemplary life. First Timothy 4:16 instructs a church leader to, "Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you."**

### **Shepherds Are Protectors**

**Sheep are almost entirely defenseless--they can't kick, scratch, bite, jump, or run. When attacked by a predator, they huddle together rather than running away. That makes them easy prey. Sheep need a protective shepherd in order to survive.**

**Christians need similar protection from error and those who spread it. Pastors guard their spiritual sheep from going astray and defend them against the savage wolves that would ravage them. Paul admonished the pastors at Ephesus to stay alert and to protect the churches under their care:**

**Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them (Acts 20:28-30).**

### **Shepherds Are Comforters**

**Sheep lack a self-preservation instinct. They are so humble and meek that if you mistreat them, they are easily crushed in spirit and can simply give up and die. The shepherd must know his sheep's individual temperaments and take care not to inflict excessive stress. Accordingly, a faithful pastor adjusts his counsel to fit the need of the person to whom he ministers. He must "admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, and be patient with all" (1 Thessalonians 5:14).**

### **The Good Shepherd and His Undershepherds**

**Jesus is the perfect example of a loving shepherd. He epitomizes everything that a spiritual leader should be. Peter called Him the "Chief Shepherd" (1 Peter 5:4). He is our great Rescuer, Leader, Guardian, Protector, and Comforter.**

**Church leaders are undershepherds who guard the flock under the Chief Shepherd's watchful eye (Acts 20:28). Theirs is a full-time responsibility because they minister to people who, like sheep, often are vulnerable, defenseless, undiscerning, and prone to stray.**

**Shepherding the flock of God is an enormous task, but to faithful pastors it brings the rich reward of the unfading crown of glory, which will be awarded by the Chief Shepherd Himself at His appearing (1 Peter 5:4).**

**If your pastor is faithfully carrying out the duties required in his job title, remember to follow this admonition of Scripture:**

**Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you (Hebrews 13:17). (Reference completed)**

**A spirit of arrogance does not belong in any office of the church, especially in that of a pastor. A Pastor should be the most humble person in the church. Jesus paid great detail to the poor and those with special needs.**

**We cannot improve on this plan.**

### **Teachers**

**To understand the ministry of teaching, one must understand that to be a Bible teacher, he or she must teach sound biblical doctrine and bring disciple to maturity in Christ. Christians must spend much time in the Bible They should also study and pray.**

**Christ centered ministry teachings take believer in Jesus Christ from understanding the basic things of God's word to learning and applying the depth of God's word.**

**The ultimate goal is to bring disciples into full spiritual maturity or Christ-likeness. Our passion is to share exciting revelations and insights worldwide, to encourage, stimulate, and facilitate serious study of the Bible as God's infallible Word. Allow your head knowledge to become heart knowledge.**

**Such on-line Bible Colleges such as Great Commission Bible College, gives those who study an opportunity to truthfully learn the word.**

**One time when I was reading the Bible, I saw the words moving around, and immediately I knew that Word of God is alive. Fill yourself up with life.**

### **The Supernatural Spiritual Gifts**

**In I Corinthians 12:28-30 a list that combines elements from each of the preceding categories:**

**1 Cor. 12:28-30**

**And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. [29] Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? [30] Have all the gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?**

### **Word of Wisdom**

**A word of wisdom is used in supernatural impartation of a word given for a specific purpose and time to give understanding concerning a situation.**

**Scripture References:**

## **1 Cor. 12:1-8**

**Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant. [2] Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led. [3] Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. [4] Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. [5] And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. [6] And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God that worketh all in all. [7] But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. [8] For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;**

**The presence of the Holy Spirit is in some way shown in each believer for the good of all. To some is given the spirit of wisdom.**

## **James 3:17-18**

**But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. [18] And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.**

**The depth of a person's character can measure pure wisdom. Just as you can identify a tree by the type of fruit it produces, you can evaluate your wisdom by the way you act. Foolishness leads to disorder, but wisdom leads to peace and goodness.**

## **2 Peter 3:15**

**And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you**

**Both the apostles Peter and Paul were given revealed wisdom to minister and to write the Scripture.**

**With the gift of the spirit of wisdom comes an understanding of God's will and work as it relates to the living of life.**

**In the early church the word of wisdom and prophesy were exercised frequently. The wisdom Paul received consisted in the use of much Scripture.**

**Study the various Bible verses to clarify the difference between a word of wisdom and the use of wisdom.**

**A word of wisdom may be for your knowing, or for sharing with others.**

**God will help you to understand how to share when needed.**

**Every gift is given to glorify God. When an individual feels a personal pride or glory, he or she will become useless to the work of God, and will have no heavenly reward.**

**How do I receive this wisdom you may ask?**

**James 1:5**

**If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.**

**It could be said that the word of wisdom deals with life and life situations, while the word of knowledge deals with the use and understanding of the Scriptures.**

**Word of Knowledge**

**A word of knowledge is the impartation given supernaturally in the utterance of facts.**

**“Biblical References”**

**Romans 12:2**

**And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**

**Col. 1:10**

**That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;**

**1 Cor. 12:8**

**For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;**

**1 Cor. 14:6**

**Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine?**

**A word of knowledge establishes truth in the body of Christ. Through this word of knowledge spoken or written information can be clarified. It assists in the growth and well being of the church body.**

**This gift builds understanding in an exceptional way of God's truth, and gives insight into their relevance to specific situations. This kind of knowledge is tied to God's revealed word and its application to the time at hand.**

**To function effectively in the word of knowledge, a person must have a high level of comprehension and internalization the Scripture.**

**The Holy Spirit will ready a person for receiving this spiritual knowledge, and give forth a message of truth. Through the gift of knowledge, a person is not only given a revealed word, but also is given the ability to apply and to use this knowledge for the time and situation at hand.**

**With a word of knowledge, the Scriptures can be applied correctly.**

**Without being able to apply the word of God correctly, there will develop doctrines contrary to God's plan for salvation.**

**If you wish to function in the supernatural word of knowledge, then become familiar with the word of God and how it is related to life's situations.**

**Faith**

**Faith is a supernatural impartation of assurance in God**

**The beginning point of faith believes in God's character. He is who he says he is. The end point believes in God's promises. He will do what he says he would do.**

**When we believe that God will fulfill his promises, even though we don't see those promises immediately materializing, we demonstrate true faith (see John 20:24-31).**

**Scriptural References:**

**1 Cor. 12:9**

**To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;**

**1 Cor. 13:2**

**And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.**

**Hebrews 11:1-3**

**Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. [2] For by it the elders obtained a good report. [3] Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things that are seen were not made of things that do appear.**

**John 20:24-31**

**But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. [25] The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.**

**[26] And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. [27] Then saith he to Thomas, reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. [28] And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. [29] Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.**

**Through the gift of faith, Christians have unfailing confidence in God's promises, power, and presence so that they can take actions with confidence for the present and future needs.**

**A believer with the gift of faith is able to see the Holy Spirit at work, and trusts God without knowledge of the road ahead.**

**As with all the supernatural gifts, faith is accompanied by the knowledge of the word of God. Faith comes by hearing. Hearing comes from the word of God. We could say. Faith comes by hearing the word of God.**

**To increase my faith and understanding the word of God, I sometimes read the entire Bible through in a month. This requires reading about forty pages each day. Other times, I listen to tapes of someone reading the Bible about two hours or more each day. This will take you through the New Testament in about a week.**

**There is a need for the gift of faith to be in operation at all times.**

**As you receive faith, you need to become an expert in the word. Review the chapter of Hebrew 11. Here the history of faith is recounted. Internalize these accounts and identify with people who had faith of great proportions.**

**The gift of faith is to bring glory to God. When an individual wishes to be known for their faith, they are setting themselves up for a fall.**

**Faith is like a babbling brook that passes through our lives. Look, and admire, or step right in and let your thirsty soul overflow with faith refreshing.**

**Whatsoever is not of faith is sin. Rom. 14:23**

**Faith is believing the word of God even when you cannot see the immediate results.**

**The gift of faith is when a supernatural anointing of the Holy Spirit moves upon an individual or group to believe for the manifestation of the working of God in order to accomplish God's purpose.**

**Say it. sing it, pray it, or shout it. Faith will bring substance.**



## **Gifts of Healing**

**The Gift of Healing is the supernatural ministry of health to the sick.**

**The Holy Spirit can manifest this special gift through a believer so he or she can speak healing to anyone to heal any disease.**

**Because of the Adamic nature that was received from the fall, there will always be sickness and disease. If you wish to be healed, you must repent of any unforgiveness in your heart.**

**Even Jesus couldn't do many great works in his hometown because of their unbelief. Healing requires faith.**

**The Lord can heal you with your own personal prayer to the Lord, but he can also use you as an anointed vessel to manifest his healing power through you to bring healing to someone else.**

**See my book, "Atonement, The Path to Healing" By Harold Bollinger**

**In the great commission, the disciples were instructed to heal the sick.**

### **Mark 16:15-18**

**And then he told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone, everywhere. [16] Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned. [17] These signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak new languages. [18] They will be able to handle snakes with safety, and if they drink anything poisonous, it won't hurt them. They will be able to place their hands on the sick and heal them."**

**The stripes were laid on Jesus for our healing.**

**Isaiah 53:5**

**But he was wounded and crushed for our sins. He was beaten that we might have peace. He was whipped, and we were healed!**

### **Working of Miracles**

**The working of miracles is a supernatural intervention of natural laws. It often implies instantaneous results.**

**It is given by God to certain members of the Body of Christ to show forth the wonders of God. God performs acts that altar the very course of nature.**

**Miracles remind us of the power and wonder of God and often give us insights into signs of his love for us.**

**Some such miracles recorded in the Old Testament could be when (1) God parted the Red Sea. Ex 14:21-22 (2) Another miracle would be when Daniel was in the lion's den and was not killed. Daniel, Chapter 6**

**Some miracles in the New Testament are: (1) Jesus turning water into wine. John 12:1-11 (2) Jesus feeding 5000 men besides woman and children from 5 loaves and 2 fish. Matt. 14:13-21**

See my book: “Old Testament Miracles”.

**One happening that I consider a miracle concerned the tires on my car.**

**We went to hold a revival that was more than 1000 miles from our home.**

**When we returned, I went to a town to have the tires recapped. They could not recap them because there were hundreds of holes in the tires from stickers on the dirt road. We had traveled more than 2000 miles without a flat on the car. To God be the glory.**

## **Prophecy**

**Prophecy is a supernatural inspired utterance from God. Such an utterance will never contradict nor is equal to the written word of God.**

**Prophecies are to be judged. (I Cor. 14:29, I Thes. 5:20-21)**

**1 Cor. 14:29**

**Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.**

**1 Thes. 5:20-21**

**Despise not prophesying. [21] Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.**

**This gift provides the ability to proclaim and to speak God's truth so that the believers may be edified, encouraged, and consoled, and so that nonbelievers may be convinced. The gift of prophecy is mentioned in all of the major scriptural passages. Paul believed it to be valuable**

**Today, the primary source of prophecy comes from the Scripture itself under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is understood that every prophecy and policy is subject to Christ and to the Scriptures.**

**The focus of prophecy today is about Christ, who is the living Word of God, but it is recognized that the spirit is free to give direct guidance.**

**The biblical teaching and the wisdom of the believing community will test any such guidance.**

**Many of the past teachers, including Martin Luther King, are often cited as people who have the Gift of prophecy. Some individuals such as George Washington have given predictions of a nation or other predictions.**

**Some ministers, such as David Wilkerson, receive a prophecy to pass on to the people concerning the conditions of the world or of the church.**

**Application:**

**I have been in church gatherings where the Holy Spirit would move on an individual to speak out a message. Often such spoken messages will be an encouragement to the people. Sometimes, it is a warning.**

**The messages to the seven churches of Asia are spoken prophecies to each church. John the Revelator recorded what he heard.**

**An example of a prophecy given in a present charismatic church might be something like:**

**“ I have found in you such as is required to bring this fellowship and its commission to an understanding of my word. Hasten to my throne. You do not walk alone. You have my life, my word and my love. Stand fast for the coming of the Lord draws near”.**

**Such a message does not contradict the promises found in the Bible.**

**The prophets of old were moved upon by the Holy Spirit to give warning and guidance to the people. When recorded, this is the way laws were known and the Bible was written.**

**All true prophecy must agree with the Scripture.**

## **Discerning of Spirits**

**The discerning of spirits is the supernatural ability to discern a person's spiritual character and the source of his action and messages. Such spirits identified may be different kinds of evil spirits, the human spirit or from the flesh.**

**This is not referring to discerning when the Holy Spirit is present, but discerning such spirits as demonic spirits, the spirit of angels, or the human spirits. He Holy Spirit is always with believers.**

**The Holy Spirit will give supernatural discernment, insights, and knowledge involving these three kinds of spirits,. At times, this gift will be used to fully expose what is really going on in operating behind the scenes with someone, or with the church.**

## **Scripture references:**

### **Romans 9:1**

**I say the truth in Christ. I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost,**

### **1 Cor. 2:10-13**

**But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. [11] For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man that is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. [12] Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit that is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. [13] Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.**

### **1 Cor. 2:15**

**But he that is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.**

### **1 Cor. 12:10**

**To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:**

**When certain behaviors are manifested. The gift of discerning of spirits gives a special ability, which enables a person to know with assurance whether certain behavior is of God, or in reality is of Satan. Some, such evil spirits might be witchcraft, lying spirit, or the spirit of control, such as a Jezebel spirit.**

**Jesus warned us to beware of false teachers and doctrines. The gift of discernment plays a critical role in helping the church stay on course, understanding the true doctrine of Christ.**

**Him. Anyone who is operating in the gifts of the discernment is compelled to expose heresy, false, doctrine, and untruths. Care must be exercised to expose untruths with clarity and kindness.**

**Identifying a demonic spirit:**

**There is an evil spirit for every work of the flesh. Please note that those who commit themselves to the works of the flesh shall not inherit the kingdom of God.**

**Galatians 5:19-21**

**When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, your lives will produce these evil results: sexual immorality, impure thoughts, eagerness for lustful pleasure, [20] idolatry, participation in demonic activities, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, divisions, the feeling that everyone is wrong except those in your own little group, [21] envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other kinds of sin. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.**

**Identifying the Fruits of the Spirit**

**Galatians 5:22-25**

**But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23] gentleness, and self-control. Here there is no conflict with the law.**

**[24] Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there**

**Identifying the human spirit:**

**The spirit of man is the very essence of life. All individuals are born with an Adamic nature to sin. Believing and accepting Jesus Christ as savior and Lord will bring forgiveness of sin, and guarantee**

**bring eternal life with Christ.**

**Discerning the human spirit may include the understanding that a situation may be a human idea, and may not be evil or good**

**Eccles. 11:5**

**God's ways are as hard to discern as the pathways of the wind, and as mysterious as a tiny baby being formed in a mother's womb.**

**Isaiah 44:24**

**The Lord, your Redeemer and Creator, says: "I am the Lord, who made all things. I alone stretched out the heavens. By myself I made the earth and everything in it.**

**Psalm 139:13**

**You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body  
and knit me together in my mother's womb.**

**Psalm 139:16**

**You saw me before I was born.  
Every day of my life was recorded in your book.  
Every moment was laid out  
before a single day had passed.**

## **Identifying Angelic spirits:**

**Angels appear at the beginning and at the end of Christ's visible stay on earth. An angel announces the conception of the Savior. Angels appear to the Shepherds to tell them the Messiah is born.**

**When the disciples saw Christ ascend into heaven, they kept looking up and said, The angels told the disciples that Christ will come again, but, in His majesty.**

**Peter, John, and Paul, are three principal New Testament spokesmen for the angel. They wrote on the angels not only during Christ's visible stay on earth or during apostolic times, not only until the end of the first century of Christian history, but they also foretell how the angels just as they had been with Christ on His physical stay on earth, so they will stay with His Church until the end of Time.**

**Discerning the presence or spirit of angels is a part of spiritual discerning of spirits.**

**When people express fear at the appearance of angels, the angels comfort them, saying something like to "Fear not" (see, for example, Daniel 10:12; Luke 1:13, 30; Revelation 1:17). Yet, this elusive being in Job 4 prefers to remain obscure and daunting, something atypical throughout God's Word.**

### **Daniel 10:12**

**Then he said, "Don't be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in heaven. I have come in answer to your prayer.**

### **Luke 1:13**

**But the angel said, "Don't be afraid, Zechariah! For God has heard your prayer, and your wife, Elizabeth, will bear you a son! And you are to name him John.**

### **Rev. 1:17**

**When I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. But he laid his right hand on me and said, "Don't be afraid! I am the First and the Last.**

**I would like to share two of the times that angels came to help me when in distress.**

**When my wife and I were teaching school in a village school in Alaska, I needed to change the oil in the generator that brought electricity to the school and to our residence. I stopped the more motor and was trying to install a new part without success. Suddenly, a man stood by me, told me how to do the job, and then took the part and fixed it. I begin to tighten it up, and the man was no longer present. I knew all the men in the village, and it was not one of them.**

**Another time, I was trying to go to a real estate office near Palmer, Alaska where I worked. Suddenly, my car was pushed sideways into a snowdrift. When I got out of the car, a pickup was parked in front of the car. A man with a chain pulled me out. When I got to the bottom of the hill, there was a big pile up of wrecked cars. The pickup ahead of me was no longer visible. I had been saved from an accident. I am sure it was an angel sent by God for my protection.**

**The Lord has made angels visible to me many times. They seem to be everywhere.**

## **Different Kinds of Tongues**

**This gift is a supernaturally imparted utterance in an unlearned language. This message, when given in public must be accompanied by an interpretation. Praying in tongues is to edify one's spirit.**

**1 Cor. 14:14**

**For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.**

**1 Cor. 14:27**

**If any man speaks in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret.**

**This gift of different kinds of tongues may be somewhat different than the "Gift of the Holy Ghost" which every believer can receive for edification to their spirit. This is discussed in Acts 2:4**

#### **Acts 2:4**

**And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.**

**In relating to this experience, I recall how I became aware of the opportunity to receive the Holy Spirit and speak in tongues.**

**While in Junior High School, I made a habit of writing a list of names of boys that I wanted to pray for to see them saved. Every day, I went to a place on our ranch to pray for these classmates. One day while praying for these friends, I began to ask the Lord to fill me with the Holy Spirit. In a short time, I was praying in another language. I was overjoyed and laughed and cried. It was wonderful. Through the many years since that time, I usually pray in the spirit each day. The Apostle Peter said it is for everyone.**

#### **Acts 2:39**

**For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.**

**I knew a minister who was holding a revival near the Mexican border. In a service, the Holy Spirit moved on him and he spoke in another language. He did not know what language he was speaking.**

**After service, some men from Mexico asked him to come and preach at their church in Mexico. When he arrived, he discovered that this was mostly a Spanish speaking group.**

**He told these men who had invited him, that he could not speak Spanish and would leave and not preach. They told him that he had spoken Spanish for a short time when preaching in the American church. He accepted the invitation to preach. He preached for about an hour in Spanish. He was unaware of what he was preaching, but people at the church were blessed and many saved.**

**When in Bible College, I knew a man from India, who is president of a great Bible School there. I asked him if he had ever heard people who received the Gift of the Holy Spirit in India, speak in English. This was an unknown language to them. He said that he had heard people in India speak in English when they received the Holy Spirit.**

**It is not necessary to know which language you are speaking. That is why it is called, “unknown tongue”.**

**Interpretation of Tongues**

**This is the supernatural interpretation of a message in tongues into the understandable language of the hearers. It may not be a translation, but an interpretation.**

**When I was a young minister, I used to feel like speaking in tongues while I was preaching under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, but I thought maybe the interpretation would not come.**

**Later, I lost that fear, and gave a message in tongues, the interpretation followed immediately. I never spoke in tongues in public without the interpretation following. I did not do this often. Later, when the Holy Spirit moved on me, I would give a word of prophecy that is equal to speaking in tongues and giving the interpretation.**

**The interpretation is sometime a translation, rather than a word for word interpretation.**

**Many years ago, I was working as superintendent of an Alaskan Native school. All The board meetings were in the Native language. While they were discussing the school plans, the Holy Spirit gave me an understanding of what was being said. After the meetings, I could not understand their language. So you see, understanding may be given in different ways.**

**All have some gifts and callings. Use what you have been given. You will be a blessing.**