

# Spiritual Gifts

## **A. Introduction:**

Read 1Cor 12:1-2

“Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant: You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led.”

(1Co 12:1-2 NKJVA)

Apostle Paul emphasized how important it is to have a good understanding of Spiritual Gifts:

It is not enough to be a Christian, a disciple of Jesus without the understanding of Spiritual Gifts.

Why is the understanding of Spiritual Gifts so important to us? 2 Reasons:

Because

1) the presence of the H-S and His gifts makes the difference between our former life when we could not hear God (serving dumb idols) and the present life of literally walking with God.

The old life was led by:

dumb idols 1Cor 12:2  
vanity of your minds Eph 4:17  
the course of this world Eph 2:2  
power of the air (evil spirit that are in rebellion against God) Eph 2:2, Jn 8:44

The new life, on the other hand, is led by:

The Holy Spirit Rom 8:14, Jn 16:13

The presence of the HS and the manifestation of His gifts is also what makes the big difference between the Jews (under the Law/Judaism) and the Christian:

“But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.” (Gal 5:18 NKJVA)

2) The Holy Spirit is the principal witness of Jesus (Jn 15:26-27)

Jesus named Him His Principal witness, and the Christians after Him

“But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

And you also will bear witness ..." (Jn 15:26-27 NKJV)

Jesus warned His disciples severely not to start their ministry until the HS comes

"Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high." (Luk 24:49 NKJV)

## **B. The Gifts of the HS?**

Read 1Cor 12:4-11

### **1. Nature and Principles of Operation of Spiritual Gifts**

1Cor 12:4-7

"There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all ..." (1Co 12:4-7 NKJV)

#### **i. Diversity in Oneness**

diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit  
differences of ministries, but the same Lord  
diversities of activities, but it is the same God

#### **ii. Everyone included**

Given to each person 1Cor 12:7, 11, Eph 4:7

"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one ..." (1Co 12:7)

"But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift." (Eph 4:7 NKJV)

Also, it is as each person exercise his gifts that the Body becomes strong and grows Eph 4:1 –

"Under his control all the different parts of the body fit together, and the whole body is held together by every joint with which it is provided. So when each separate part works as it should, the whole body grows and builds itself up through love." (Eph 4:16 GNB)

**iii. Under the Prerogative of the HS 1Cor 12:11**

“But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.” (1Co 12:11 NKJV)

“God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?” (Heb 2:4 NKJV)

**iv. For the benefit of the whole Body 1Cor 12:7, 1Pe 4:10**

For the Body, not for your personal advantage.

“... is given to each one for the profit of all ...” (1Co 12:7 NKJV)

“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” (1Pe 4:10 NKJV)

**v. The Spiritual Gifts in you make you a gift to the Body Eph 4:11**

“And He Himself gave *some to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers ...” (Eph 4:11 NKJV)

**2. The list of the gifts – 1Cor 12:8-11**

For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; 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: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.  
(1Co 12:8-11 KJV)

i. word of wisdom

Not gift of wisdom but gift of word (utterance) of wisdom.

God-given wisdom (as opposed to carnal/worldly wisdom) can be

a) Natural (innate disposition, age/experience in life)  
Job 12:12, 32:7

b) Acquired from the Word of God Col 3:16, 2Tim 3:15  
Ps119:130, 19:7, Deu 4:5-6

c) Imparted by the fear of God and prayer (wisdom from godliness) - as you seek to follow God Pro 1:7, 9:10; Job 28:28, Ps 111:10

The gift of word of wisdom is not any of the above. It is the spontaneous speaking forth (under the inspiration of the HS) of solution to a situation that might have been difficult to solve by human analyses.

Example

- a) Jesus promised us – Mat 10:19
- b) Stephen manifested it – Act 6:10
- c) James manifested it – Act 15:13-19

ii. word of knowledge

Not gift of knowledge but gift of word (utterance) of knowledge.

It is uttering (through the inspiration of the HS) something that is true but which we do not, humanly speaking, know about.

Example

- a) Jesus Christ in Jn 4:16-18
- b) Peter in Act 5:2-3
- c) Paul referred to it in 1Cor 14:24-25

iii. Faith

An extra-ordinary demonstration of confidence in God, beyond the basic faith that brings salvation.

Example

- a) Our Lord Jesus mentioned it in Mk 11:23
- b) It was what Paul described concerning Abraham in Rom 4:18-19
- c) It is what is being described in Heb 11:32-35

iv. gifts of healing

The health of a sick person can be restored through:

- i) Medication and care
- ii) Healing through faith in the Word of God
- iii) Healing through the prayer of other believers

They are all valid and good ways to be restored in health, but they are not the gift of healing.

When a believer is ill, his approach by default is to pray and exercise faith on the Word of God (Jas 5:13, Mat 8:17). Any Bible-believing person can pray for the sick (Mk 16:17-18). Ministers and Elders have special mandate to pray for the sick (Jas 5:14-15). These do not necessarily correspond to the manifestation of the gifts of healing referred to here.

v. working of miracles

As much as other manifestations of the HS are miracles in themselves, there is a gift of working of miracles.

Example

- a) Jesus walked on the water – Mat 14:25
- b) Jesus stilled the storm – Mat 8:26
- c) Jesus' feeding of multitudes – Mk 6:41-44
- d) Paul's judgement of Elymar the sorcerer Act 13:9-11
- e) Paul shook off a deadly serpent – Act 28:3-5
- f) Healing with shadow – Act 5:15
- g) Healing with piece of cloth – Act 19:11-12

vi. prophecy

Foretelling things yet to come or speaking forth the mind of God while preaching/teaching the Word of God. As much as prophecy can be related to preaching/teaching, not all preaching/teaching are prophecy.

It is the gift that we are told to desire above all others (1Cor 14:1, 39)

vii. discerning of spirits

By this gift, we recognize the spirit that is at work in a particular situation. We detect when the flesh or Satan and his evil spirits try to hijack what God is doing.

Note that this gift must not be confused with

- the spirit of seeing faults in others
- natural intuition
- reading people's mind
- psychological skill

Example

- In Mat 16:23, Jesus saw that it was Satan who was speaking, not Peter.
- In Act 16:16-18, what the young girl was saying was true and good, but Paul discerned that the spirit behind it all was evil
- In spite of the apparent loyalty of Simon the magician (Act 8:13), Peter later discerned the spirit that was behind him (Act 8:21, 23)

viii. divers kinds of tongues

It is speaking (under the inspiration of the HS) in a language that one has not learned.

The Word of God warned us not to forbid it (1Cor 14:39)

Examples: The disciples in Act 2:4, 10:45-46, 19:6

ix. interpretation of tongues

It is to accompany and give meaning to the gift of speaking in tongues.

### **3. How to receive the gifts of the HS**

- Receive the HS
- Exercise to godliness:  
“... Keep yourself in training for a godly life.”  
(1Ti 4:7 GNB)

“For this reason I remind you to keep alive the gift that God gave you when I laid my hands on you.” (2Ti 1:6 GNB)

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