

# Gifts of the Spirit 01

with Dr. Bob Abramson

## Introduction

*1 Corinthians 12:1 (NKJV) "Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant..."*

*1 Corinthians 12:4-10 (NKJV) "There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. {5} There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. {6} And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. {7} But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: {8} for to one is given the **word of wisdom** through the Spirit, to another the **word of knowledge** through the same Spirit, {9} to another **faith** by the same Spirit, to another **gifts of healings** by the same Spirit, {10} to another the working of miracles, to another **prophecy**, to another **discerning of spirits**, to another different kinds of **tongues**, to another the **interpretation of tongues**."*

God's desire is for us to experience the gifts of the Spirit. He wants us to understand their purpose and be effective in their use. Too many of us are ignorant of what they are, why they are given and how they can be used.

## Three Revelation Gifts

"Revelation" means "the making known of information."

### 1. WORD OF WISDOM

A word of wisdom is a word, proclamation, or declaration, that is supernaturally given by God. Its purpose is to meet the need of a particular future occasion or problem.

- It is given to a person through words, visions or dreams. It provides understanding and instruction on what action must be taken.
- It is not revealed through human ability or natural wisdom. It is a God's revelation of His plans and purposes.

### 2. WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

This communicates past or present facts or events that cannot be known through our natural senses. They are revealed to the speaker by the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Their purposes are edification, instruction, or correction.

### 3. DISCERNING OF SPIRITS

This is the supernatural recognition of the presence or activity of spiritual forces, either good or evil.

Nowhere in the Scriptures are the gifts specifically defined. They often overlap and operate together.

Be careful not to put such tight labels on the gifts that you hinder your ability to be used by God. Keep an open mind and be led by the Spirit.

God uses these three revelation gifts to reveal things supernaturally that we could not know through our natural senses.

## Three Power Gifts

“Power” refers to “the supernatural power that comes from God.”

### 4. GIFT OF FAITH

This is not normal faith. It is the supernatural faith that God gives, which you receive for special needs and opportunities. This faith arises to do the following:

- It sustains those that receive it in times of persecution, hardship or imminent danger. Stephen had this gift as he preached to his soon-to-be murderers (Acts, Chapter 7).
- It is also the faith God gives to those who operate in extreme levels of power. Through these people, God does signs and wonders, and other unusual and amazing events.

### 5. GIFTS OF HEALINGS

These gifts (plural) are more than the believer’s normal activity of praying for the sick or visiting a doctor. They are special gifts of healings, given to some Christians by which they have consistently positive results.

- These gifts are always supernatural. They often do the impossible. What they accomplish are miracle events.
- They may be done with prayer, but can include more than prayer, or can be a command or a touch.
- As the Apostle Paul did, certain people can recognize and use objects to bring God’s healing (a shadow, a cloth etc.)

### 6. WORKING OF MIRACLES

The word *miracles* (Greek: *dunamis*) means this: *The working of God’s power that interrupts, disregards and displaces the natural laws of nature*. It is God’s power, working through a believer’s gift. God, Himself, through the person He uses, interrupts or disrupts His own design and order - to bring about His will.

God’s intention is supernatural intervention, through us, to use these power gifts to destroy the works of the devil.

“Working of miracles is not a passive gift. It acts to do the miracle.”  
(Kenneth Hagin, *The Holy Spirit and His Gifts*, P.119)

## Three Vocal/Utterance Gifts

### 7. GIFT OF PROPHECY

Prophecy includes two separate functions.

- To foretell: This means to speak of things to come.
- To forthtell: This means to speak correction and instruction in the present time.

The Old Testament prophets, who were God's covenant enforcers, spoke more forthtelling than foretelling. The gift of prophecy continues today. God still speaks to His church through prophecy, both to forthtell and to foretell.

## 8. GIFT OF TONGUES

This is the most prominent of the utterance gifts. *It is a supernatural sign, by supernatural utterance of the Holy Spirit, through the tongue of a believer.* It is evidence of being baptized in the Holy Spirit. It is used in public ministry and in our private times. It is primary a devotional gift. It is a point of contact, communion and conversation between the believer and God.

## 9. INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

Tongues, when combined with interpretation, are the equivalent of prophecy. The interpretation comes by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Tongues and interpretation is given by God to us, so we can edify believers, and convict unbelievers of their sin and show them that God is real.

God uses these nine gifts to speak supernaturally through the person He chooses. The gifts are intended to make our lives and those we touch with them better.

### Distribution of the Gifts of the Spirit

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

The nine gifts of the Spirit are distributed to each one individually as God wills. This means that He decides what gifts He gives and to whom He gives them. This does not stop us from asking Him for a particular gift. In fact, the Bible tells us to desire spiritual gifts. We all have a responsibility to ask for them. God has given us this opportunity. Asking for them is our right as believers. Remember, it is always Him operating through us. We must never take His glory by trying to take credit for a spiritual gift. Humility is our door to the power these gifts hold. Every believer is called and empowered by the Holy Spirit to move in signs, wonders and the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

### Understanding Your Spiritual Gifts (They are Special Endowments)

1 Corinthians 12:1 (Literal translation of the Greek New Testament) “Now about spiritual gifts - **the special endowments of supernatural energy**, I do not want you to be uninformed or have any misunderstanding about them.”

**Principle: You cannot correctly operate what you do not correctly understand.**

We must understand the correct operation of the nine gifts of the Spirit. We must be able to explain their Scriptural basis to others. Operating in the gifts of the Spirit is more than having feelings and enjoying the experiences. We must not let anyone or any traditions rob us of the opportunity to operate in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. This is God’s plan for us and we must not allow anyone or anything to tell us otherwise.

## **Hindrances to the Operation of the Gifts**

### **1. THE TRADITIONS OF MEN** - They rob us and defile the gifts.

Religious traditions and many current denominations say the operation of the nine gifts of the Spirit ceased in the first century. These traditions of men would rob us of the miraculous, supernatural power of the Spirit’s gifts. In Mark, Chapter 7, Jesus responded to the Pharisees, when they criticized His disciples for their lack of respect for tradition and doctrine. Jesus used the example of “corban.” This was the practice of a person arranging to give his wealth and estate to the temple when he died. This neglected his aging parents. They were left with nothing. Jesus said the following:

*Mark 7:6b-13 (NKJV) “All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition... making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do.”*

Jesus said the Pharisees made the Word of God of no effect through traditions. They were breaking the Law of God in order to preserve the traditions of men.

Here are additional hindrances to the operation of the gifts of the Spirit.

- 2. LACK OF KNOWLEDGE (ignorance of the Word)**
- 3. NOT KNOWING THE GIVER OF THE GIFTS INTIMATELY**
- 4. LACK OF DESIRE**

You must not be spiritually lazy or lukewarm (Acts 6:4). You must be willing to nurture and express your spiritual gifts. The early church nurtured and practiced them as a lifestyle. Notice in Acts, Chapter 3, how Peter and John interrupted their visit to the temple. They stopped and Peter used his spiritual gift of healing to make whole the lame beggar. Peter boldly expressed his gift. We need Peter's boldness.

## **5. FEAR OF MAN**

2 Corinthians 5:9 tells us our highest priority is to be well pleasing to God. If we fear that some person will not be pleased, we must not allow our fear to stop us from using our spiritual gifts.

## **6. FEAR OF REJECTION**

## **7. FEAR OF MAKING A MISTAKE OR OF MISSING GOD**

Comparisons and self-consciousness are killers! We are all uniquely made to do good things for God without regard to what people might say or think.

*1 Timothy 4:14 (NKJV) "Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership."*

*Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV) "For we are all His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."*

## **8. A LOW DEGREE OF FAITH**

*Romans 12:6 (NKJV) "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;"*

## **9. A LACK OF GENUINE, SELF-DENYING LOVE FOR OTHERS**

*Galatians 5:6b (NKJV) "... faith working through love."*

Has the Holy Spirit come upon you? Then you have received (past tense) power! It is right there inside of you.

*John 14:12 (NKJV) "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father."*

## **Additional Purposes of the Gifts of the Spirit**

We are not called to be the “audience” or “spectators” of God. We are called to be the “army” of God. The Spirit of the Lord anoints you to participate, to wage battle, and not just to watch.

*Luke 4:18-19 (NKJV) “The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; {19} To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.”*

Here are some additional purposes of the gifts of the Spirit.

A. To evangelize the lost (See also - Acts 3:1-5:16)

Spiritual gifts do the following:

1. They capture people's attention.
2. They open the door for the preaching of the Gospel.
3. They bring glory to God through:
  - (a) their demonstration of supernatural power
  - (b) their effective result, which is to validate the Gospel as the Holy Spirit draws people to salvation.

B. To bring (through you) God's compassion for the sick, oppressed and possessed

Matthew 9:35-38; 14:14; 15:32; 20:34; Mark 1:40-42; Luke 7:13

C. Jesus is our example. He used His gifts to destroy the works of the devil, to free the captives and proclaim their liberty.

*1 John 3:8 (NKJV) “He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.”*

D. To edify the Church

God the Holy Spirit uses His gifts in us to do the following:

1. To enable us to minister to one another - 1 Peter 4:10
2. To establish us and to give us boldness - Romans 1:11
3. To bring glory to God through Christ - 1 Peter 4:10-11

The ultimate purpose of the gifts is to bring glory to God.

## **Perspective on the Gifts**

Your part is to be open to God and sensitive to the Holy Spirit. As you obey the task God gives you to do, He accomplishes His will through you. If you are not obedient to the voice of God, you will probably not see a great measure of the gifts operating through

you. You must submit to God. He wants to use you every day, in every way possible.

- Do not say, “*I cannot do it.*” The truth is that you cannot do it yourself. God knows that. He wants to work through you.
- Do not look back to the past or what you have not done.
- Do not look at your own abilities. Do not be self-centered.
- Your approach to spiritual gifts must be God-centered.

When God gives you an assignment, the Holy Spirit will come and equip you for it. The key is not to focus on the gifts, but to recognize them as God moves through you. Focus on the Giver of the gifts! There is nothing more important than your relationship with God. Increase your relationship to Him through loving communion and obedience. Then, you will find God using you through your gifts. His desire is two-fold:

1. To be ever closer, ever more intimate with you
2. To use you more effectively for His purposes and His glory

### **Your Part**

1. Yield and obey!
2. Receive and believe!
3. Step out in faith and boldness!
4. Exercise the gifts of God!

### **A Final Thought**

Rev. Kenneth Copeland has said, “The most important gift is the gift you need at the time (you need it).”