

Gifts of the Spirit 03

with Dr. Bob Abramson

The Three Power Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:4, 9-10 (NKJV) "There are diversities of gifts, but 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."

Faith

The gift of faith 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.
- As the Apostle Paul did, certain people can recognize and use objects to bring God's healing (a shadow, a cloth etc.)

The gift of faith is neither saving faith nor general faith. **It is extraordinary mountain-moving faith. It is God-given special faith for supernatural results in a specific situation.** When we receive this gift of faith, it empties us of all doubt and unbelief. It is given by God to whom He wills, as a supernatural supply of faith that goes beyond "ordinary" faith.

The gift of faith expects great things from God. It does not look to a promise, but to the One who makes the Promise. **It is an elevated level of faith. It releases God's power beyond normal expectations.** It is an unusual explosion of assurance and trust in God - no matter what the circumstances appear to be. Daniel had this gift in the lion's den.

Daniel 6:23 (NKJV) "Then the king was exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God."

In 1540, Martin Luther's good friend and assistant, Friedrich Myconius, became sick and was expected to die within a short time. From his bed he wrote a tender farewell letter to Luther. When Luther received the message, he immediately sent back a reply. He replied with the gift of faith. Here is Luther's reply.

"I command you in the name of God to live because I still have need of you in the work of reforming the church. The Lord will never let me hear that you are dead, but will permit you to survive me. For this I am praying, this is my will, and may my will be done, because I seek only to glorify the name of God."

God gave Martin Luther his gift of faith. Although Myconius had already lost the ability to speak when Luther's reply came, he recovered. He lived six more years. He died two months after Luther died.

While pastoring my Church in the Fiji Islands, my assistant pastor, Emitai Ratalatala told me this story. It happened when he led a missionary team in Papua New Guinea. Here is the story.

Pastor Emitai and his team were crossing mountains and rivers to reach a people far into the interior of Papua New Guinea. They came to a river full of crocodiles. There was a small boat for hire to get people and their goods safely across. The team only had enough for one trip across. A single trip would get both them and their equipment across. The boat was too small. Emitai gathered his team and said, "*We're going to pray and then put the equipment on the ferry. Then, we will swim.*" He told me they safely swam the crocodile infested waters and arrived at the other side.

When Pastor Emitai told me the story, he ended it by saying, "*We swam with great faith, but we swam really fast!*" (Even the gift of faith will never take God's grace for granted.)

The gift of this special kind of faith expects and trusts in the supernatural intervention of God.

Biblical encounters that show this supernatural gift of faith include David's triumph over Goliath (2 Samuel 17) and Elijah's victory over the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18).

Gifts of Healings

1 Corinthians 12:9 (NKJV) *“to another faith by the same Spirit, to another **gifts of healings by the same Spirit,**”*

1 Corinthians 12:28, 30 (NKJV) *“And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, **then gifts of healings,** helps, administrations, varieties of tongues... {30} **“Do all have gifts of healings?”***

These **gifts (plural)** are different from normal praying for the sick, or visiting a doctor. God gives gifts of healings to some Christians who then have consistently miraculous results. These are supernatural events with supernatural outcomes. They may include more than prayer. As it was with the Apostle Paul, these gifts can manifest in the use of objects to heal. Even the presence of people with these gifts, without saying or doing anything, can bring healing. An example of this is Peter's shadow (Acts 5:15).

Sickness was not a part of God's original plan for us.

- There was no drug store in the Garden of Eden.
- There was no hospital in the Garden of Eden.
- There was no aspirin bottle in the Garden of Eden.

In the Garden of Eden, God called to Adam *“Where are you?”* Adam did **not** say, *“I'm in bed with a fever. My nose is dripping and I am having a problem with my arthritis.”* There was no sickness in the garden. With the fall of man, however, sin, sickness and death came. Since then, God has been the Healer.

*Psalm 103:2-4 (NKJV) “Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: {3} Who forgives all your iniquities, **Who heals all your diseases,** {4} Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies,”*

Healing is more than just the physical deliverance from sickness. God also heals emotional hurts and sickness.

*Psalm 147:3 (NKJV) “**He heals the brokenhearted** And binds up their wounds.”*

Jesus is the Healer

Matthew 4:23, 24 (NKJV) “And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the

kingdom, and **healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.** {24} Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and **He healed them.**”

Luke 4:18 (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.”

The root of sickness is sin and/or Satan. Sickness may also be the result of naturally occurring diseases. These afflict us because we live in a corrupted, fallen, sin-filled world. All sicknesses and disease are **bondage and oppression.**

Luke 13:10-16 (NKJV) “Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. {11} And behold, there was a woman who had **a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up.** {12} **But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, “Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity.”** {13} And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. {14} But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, “There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day.” {15} The Lord then answered him and said, “Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? {16} “So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, **whom Satan has bound; think of it; for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?**””

Acts 10:38 (NKJV) “how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and **healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.**”

Physical healing, health and well-being were obtained for us on the cross of Christ.

Isaiah 53:5 (NKJV) “But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.”

Matthew 8:14-17 (NKJV) "... that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sickness.""

1 Peter 2:24 (NKJV) "who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness; by whose stripes you were healed."

Here is how you should operate in the anointing with the gift of healing.

1. Prepare yourself spiritually.

- Spend time in prayer, specifically aimed at healing.
- Learn the healing Scriptures. Then, at any time, you can use the Word of God to pray for someone's healing.
- Stay in close relationship with the Holy Spirit. You will be prepared when He directs you to pray.

2. Be motivated by love and compassion.

Jesus was moved with compassion when He healed people. Get compassion in your heart before you pray.

*1 Corinthians 13:1-2 (NKJV) "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. {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, but have not love, I am nothing**"*

3. Here are Practical Steps to a Successful Healing Ministry.

- a. Find out the reason someone needs healing.
- b. Ask if he or she believes it is God's will that they be healthy.
- c. Ask if the person is a believer. (Salvation is more important than healing.)
- d. Ask if he or she believes that Jesus can heal them.
- e. Listen to the Holy Spirit for a word of knowledge or word of wisdom about the situation before you pray.
- f. Is there unforgiveness or bitterness toward someone?
- g. After praying, when the healing is manifested, direct the glory and praise to the Lord. If it has not yet manifested itself, do the same. Give God glory and praise.
- h. If the healing is not immediately manifested, encourage the person to stand on the Word of God and resist the devil. Faith will bring healing.

Working of Miracles

*1 Corinthians 12: 10a (NKJV) "to another **the working of miracles...**"*

The Greek word for miracles, used here is "dunamis." It means, *power, wonderful works, mighty works, power of God, ability, miracle, great power, power of the highest, power of the Spirit, authority and power.*

- The working of miracles is "allowing the mighty power of God to flow through you."
- True miracles always confirm and bear witness to the Gospel. They always give glory to Christ, the Healer.

Acts 2:22 (NKJV) "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested (proved) by God to you by miracles (dunamis), wonders (teras), and signs (semeion) which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know;"

Mark 16:20 (NKJV) "And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen."

Acts 14:3 (NKJV) "Therefore they stayed there a long time, speaking boldly in the Lord, who was bearing witness to the word of His grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands."

- **Signs** may be defined as, "significant displays of power that point beyond themselves."
- **Wonders** may be defined as, "that which emphasizes the marvelous aspect of the signs." The word "wonder" is never used by itself. It is always used with other words, such as sign.
- **Miracles** are defined as "mighty works that bring out this truth: In Christ's miracles, there is supernatural power." The word "miracles" (dunamis) means, "the working of God's power that interrupts, disregards and displaces the natural laws of nature."

When God's power, works through a person's gift, He interrupts the way things naturally occur. Through the person He uses, He interrupts or disrupts His own design and order. All of God's miracles will exalt Jesus.

Acts 19:11 (NKJV) "Now God worked unusual miracles (dunamis) by the hands of Paul, [12] so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them."

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

Beware of Lying Wonders - Beware!

*Matthew 24:24 (NKJV) "For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles **to deceive even the elect--if that were possible.**"*

*2 Thess. 2:9 (NKJV) "The coming of the lawless one...according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and **lying wonders...**"*

The Greatest Miracle

The greatest miracle was God coming to earth, born of a virgin, as fully human. He never lost His divine attributes. He voluntarily veiled them to become fully man, but was always remained fully God. Thirty years later, the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus. Then, Jesus unveiled some of His divine attributes. When He arose from the dead, He unveiled all of them. Now, He is alive and active through the Holy Spirit with His miraculous power to heal.

Jesus was crucified and resurrected to reconcile us to Him. Salvation is the greatest miracle any of us will experience. Do you know Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior?

(Ephesians 2:8-9 NKJV) "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, {9} not of works, lest anyone should boast."

(2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV) "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

ADDENDUM

We have been blessed to receive this gift of faith at times our own personal lives. In 1999, when we were sitting in a doctor's office we heard these words spoken to my husband, "you have cancer, you've had it for a long time. It is like a runaway freight train going down a hill and it will most likely kill you." Immediately, instantaneously, we both received the gift of faith. We did not receive what was spoken as truth. We continued listening to the doctor about all that would happen next, then got up and walked out of the doctor's office in perfect peace - no worry, no anxiety, no doubt. We truly believed in our hearts that all was well. It was supernatural. It was unexplainable and incomprehensible to us. We received a "gift of faith" for that specific time and circumstance. It stayed with us for eight months. For eight months, regardless of the complication, and pain and doctor's negative reports, the gift of faith stayed with us. Now at the same time, we also made a conscious decision to exercise our general faith. God did His part and we did our part. We put away the TV, and radio, stopped reading the newspaper, and stayed in the Word day and night. (Show them the Healing Scriptures book.) We kept worship music going 24/7 and parked ourselves in the "secret place of the Most High." We coupled the gift of faith we received from God with our general faith. We did all we knew to do.

Pastor Nancy Abramson's Testimony

One morning in our full-time Bible school in Fiji one of our students asked for prayer for his uncle who was dying in the hospital. We all prayed as a class and then I heard the Holy Spirit speak to me. "Go to the hospital now and pray for him." I told Bob what the Lord has spoken to me and right away, Patrick and I went to the hospital. The gift of faith was in operation. As we were climbing the stairs to get to ICU, we met Patrick's uncle's doctor in the stairwell. He told Patrick that he was glad to see him so early in the morning, because he did not think that his uncle would live much longer. All of his major organs had stopped functioning. He was on a breathing machine because his lungs were no longer working and his kidneys and liver had stopped functioning. I heard the words that the doctor was saying, but I was not moved by them. I was not deterred, I did not begin to doubt, we just continued to climb the stairs in faith. Patrick and I walked into ICU and there was his uncle, a strange color of gray, with his eyes taped shut and all kinds of tubes in him and machines around him. The gift of faith was in operation and I knew in my heart that if we prayed for him he would be healed. You see how these two gifts can work in tandem. So Patrick and I laid hands on him, prayed and then went back to school. I was certain that God would heal him, and he did. He was released from the hospital shortly thereafter and returned home to his village. That day, the gift of faith and the gift of healing were the gifts that I received from the Holy Spirit. For that day, and that circumstance, they were the

most important gifts. As Kenneth Copeland says, “The most important gift is the gift you need at the time.”

Kenneth Hagin tells us that the anointing is transferable (20), transmittable (23), measurable (29), and tangible (33).

Page 166 - Kenneth Hagin knew exactly the day that he received the special anointing to pray for the sick.

Acts 10:38 tells us that Jesus was anointed by God to do the miracles.

(Acts 10:38 NKJV) “how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.”

If Jesus healed through the anointing, we also need the anointing. But what happens when we do not sense the anointing? When the anointing does not seem to be present, we can also stand in faith on the Word of God for healing. [Read page 151-152.]