

Episode 004

Supernatural Gifts of the Spirit (Based on 1 Cor 12)

Overview on the Nine Gifts of the Spirit

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 (NIV)

4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. 7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8 To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

There are basically 3 groupings with specific functions in the Gifts of the Spirit:

1. Gifting of Revelation

- Function: Thought
- Gifts: Word of Knowledge, Word of Wisdom, Discernment of Spirits

2. Gifting of Power or Demonstration

- Function: Deed/Action
- Gifts: Faith, Healing, Miracles

3. Gifting of Inspiration (utterance)

- Function: Word
- Gifts: Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues, Prophecy



Description of the Various Gifts

1. Word of knowledge

A supernatural revelation by the Holy Spirit of facts in the mind of God to the believer. This differs from the Word of wisdom in that wisdom is the ability to use information to its advantage. Gen 41:25-32 refers to Word of Knowledge. Upon Joseph to interpret what the dream was about.

Genesis 41:25-32 (NIV)

25 Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "The dreams of Pharaoh are one and the same. God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do.

26 The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good heads of grain are seven years; it is one and the same dream.

27 The seven lean, ugly cows that came up afterward are seven years, and so are the seven worthless heads of grain scorched by the east wind: They are seven years of famine.

28 "It is just as I said to Pharaoh: God has shown Pharaoh what he is about to do.

29 Seven years of great abundance are coming throughout the land of Egypt,

30 but seven years of famine will follow them. Then all the abundance in Egypt will be forgotten, and the famine will ravage the land.

31 The abundance in the land will not be remembered, because the famine that follows it will be so severe.

32 The reason the dream was given to Pharaoh in two forms is that the matter has been firmly decided by God, and God will do it soon.

The gift operates through pure revelation from God. It comes as a deep impression in the spirit and the revelation comes into the mind/thoughts of the recipient. Excellent for counselling purposes or uncovering deception. Requires integrity of heart and wisdom in operating in this gift.

Jesus exercising the Word of knowledge with regards to the Samaritan woman.



John 4:18 (NIV)

18 The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”

2. Word of Wisdom

A supernatural revelation by the Spirit of God of a fragment of God’s wisdom to bring to pass His will in a given situation. May come as a brainwave. Its results often reveal it. Used in understanding the will of God in personal guidance, strategies, etc. But wisdom must be linked with humility. Gen 41:33-36 refers to Word of Wisdom.

Genesis 41:33-36 (NIV)

33 "And now let Pharaoh look for a discerning and wise man and put him in charge of the land of Egypt.

34 Let Pharaoh appoint commissioners over the land to take a fifth of the harvest of Egypt during the seven years of abundance.

35 They should collect all the food of these good years that are coming and store up the grain under the authority of Pharaoh, to be kept in the cities for food.

36 This food should be held in reserve for the country, to be used during the seven years of famine that will come upon Egypt, so that the country may not be ruined by the famine."

3. Discernment of Spirits

A supernatural revelation by the Spirit of God as to the kind of spirit operating at a certain time and its level of activity. Able to distinguish that of the divine, human and satanic. Helpful in setting the oppressed free, ruling spirits over areas, etc. It comes as Word of Knowledge in the realm of spirits in casting out demons.

Acts 19:14-16 (NIV)

14 Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. 15 One day the evil spirit answered them, “Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?” 16 Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.

Function with faith and confidence in the mighty name of Jesus.



4. Gift of Healing

Impartations of healing by the Holy Spirit to an individual which in turn are passed on to those who are sick. A resource or tool to meet a need. Must have the love and faith in the one ministering and the one being prayed for. Can also operate in conjunction with the discernment of spirits. Acts 3:1-8 Peter healing the beggar, crippled from birth.

Acts 3:6-8 (NIV)

6 Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."

7 Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong.

8 He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.

5. Gift of the Working of Miracles

Involves acts of power initiated by sudden and sovereign acts of God. Transcends natural laws of nature and intelligence. The operation of this gift is attended by a surge of dunamis power imparted at the moment of manifestation. Faith must operate it. Prayer and fasting are very much practised by those who move in this gift.

Matthew 17:20 (NIV)

20 He replied, "Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."



6. Gift of Faith

A supernatural endowment by the Holy Spirit of a deposit of God's faith to bring to pass an event, word spoken or a purpose in the will of God. Faith can be cultivated by:

Learning of the character, nature and ways of Christ.

Hebrews 12:2 (NIV)

2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Facing and accepting the challenges given to us by God. The exercise will make faith stronger.

Romans 1:17 (NIV)

17 For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

Daring to be obedient to His Word. The habit of obedience enhances faith. Avoid that which erodes a faith attitude in one's life.

7. Gift of Prophecy

A supernatural utterance inspired by the Spirit in which a believer conveys a message for the edification, exhortation or comfort for the house of God. Must act in sincere faith, act in scriptural order, exercise self-discipline over speech. Every prophecy is to be judged and tested.



8. Gift of Tongues

A supernatural ability to utter languages, whether human or angelic, previously unknown to the believer. There must be an interpretation so that other believers will understand and be built up. Tongues is a God-given language. It is not the ability to learn a new foreign language.

If a Christian speaks in tongues that non-believers can understand, they may repent and accept Christ. In Acts 2, the disciples spoke in tongues that each person in the crowd heard in his own native language. This event caused 3000 people to accept Christ!

9. Gift of Interpretation of Tongues

A supernatural ability to interpret the gift of tongues without any previous understandings of such a message. This is a God-given ability, not the natural ability of a person who knows the language. It may not be a word for word translation.

If there is no one interpreting the tongue, the speaker should prayerfully ask God to give oneself the ability to interpret it. The length of speaking in tongues and that of its interpretation are not always the same.



Discussion Questions

1. Out of the nine spiritual gifts based on 1 Cor 12, which one(s) are you operating in presently? How have you been developing in this specific gifting(s) all this while? Share some testimonies to give God the glory.
2. Is there another gifting that you are desiring to develop more in? What steps would you need to take to help you in your spiritual development? (mentoring to grow in this gifting, resource materials, etc)





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