

THE HOLY SPIRIT

LESSON 5: THE HOLY SPIRIT IS NATURALLY SUPERNATURAL

Main Idea: Everyone needs to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit can help you pray, worship, and live a holy life. You also need the baptism in the Holy Spirit so that the kingdom of God can show up in the lives of other people. This all happens through the gifts of the Spirit.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12-14



SIGHTLINE: Acquire Your Target

What did the Scripture mean to the original author and audience? As you explore information on the author, content, culture, history, land, and language of the Bible, you will gain a better understanding of the intended message of God's Word.

Every believer has spiritual gifts, natural talents, and skills. While this lesson focuses on spiritual gifts, an inspection of the following chart may be helpful to understand the differences between the three.

Spiritual Gifts	Natural Talents	Skills
Given by the Holy Spirit	Natural abilities	Learned abilities
Discovered after spiritual birth	Naturally present from birth	Acquired with training
God-given to all members of the body of Christ	God-given to all people	Developed by people

As you work through this lesson, think about the following questions. First, is the culture you live in afraid of the supernatural? The answer is, no. A large number of movies and TV shows these days are filled with supernatural themes. Consider that this trend shows you are living in a culture that is not afraid of the supernatural but is actually hungry for it. Second, does the Holy Spirit use natural people like you to do supernatural things? The answer is, yes.

This lesson does not examine the two gift classifications known as **ministry gifts** and **motivation gifts**. However, it would be good to know where these gifts are discussed within your Bible. Ministry gifts include apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors (or shepherds), and teachers. These are found in Ephesians 4:11-12. Motivation gifts include serving, teaching, exhortation, giving, leading (administration, leading, organizing), and mercy. These are found in Romans 12:6-8. All of the gifts in these two classifications offer opportunities for Christian service which are open to you for the exercise of the gifts discussed in this lesson.

Keep in mind that the gifts of the Spirit are different than the fruit of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22-23 speaks about the fruit of the Spirit, which are behavior patterns that result from the presence of the Holy Spirit within a believer. In contrast, the Scriptures about spiritual gifts refer to capacities given for service for Christ. The fruit of the Spirit deal with attitude, whereas the gifts of the Spirit deal with action in service. Both are indications that the Holy Spirit is present in a believer's life. The following chart might help you distinguish between the gifts and fruit of the Spirit.



Gifts	Fruit
Related primarily to collective body	Related to individual believers
Related to ministry	Related to character
Classified in order of importance	All are essential
Can be misused	Can never be misused
No one typically receives all the gifts	Everyone may bear fruit all the time
No gift can be demanded of all	All are commanded to manifest fruit





CROSSHAIR: Focus on Your Target

What does this study say to you? Through studying the biblical explanations and principles in this study below, you will better understand what God is saying to you today.

Two-hundred years ago, if someone had told you that there are frequencies in the air which, with the right radio receiver, would allow you to hear someone speaking in a city miles away, would you have believed it? Two-hundred years ago, one might have described this technological advance as supernatural. Today, we understand the science. While radio waves are invisible, a receiver helps us access their power.

The same principle is true in the Spirit-filled life. You cannot see the Holy Spirit, but He is there, and His power is available. His gifts are offered to you. You just have to raise your receiver, so to speak, and begin to access them. That is why Paul calls you to walk in the Spirit. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is not a one-time experience. It is the beginning of a lifestyle of walking in the power of the Spirit, which continually deepens our relationship with Him.

The apostle Paul in his first letter to the church in Corinth gives instructions about spiritual gifts. Read 1 Corinthians 12:1: “Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed.” Being uninformed could be the reason some are afraid of spiritual gifts. People tend to be afraid of things they do not understand.”

This is why Paul takes some time to discuss what the gifts are. Read what Paul has to say in 1 Corinthians 12:7-12:

“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills. For just as the body is one and has

many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.”

These are gifts of the Spirit. As such, it is really not appropriate to tell people you have the gift of the word of knowledge or the gift of healing. You do not possess any of them. Rather, it is the Holy Spirit who has them all. And it is the Holy Spirit who distributes to **each one** for the **common good**. It is more accurate to say you can minister in any gift at any time the Holy Spirit allows.

These nine gifts of the Spirit are nine different ways the kingdom of God can show up through you. Any believer can move in any of these. They are available through the *pneumatikos* (Gk.), the wind of the Holy Spirit. They are naturally supernatural. The following from Howard Ervin provides a good foundation on the gifts of the Holy Spirit:

The Greek word here for gift or spiritual gift is the word *charisma* (where we get the term charismatic). Oftentimes, people who are Spirit filled are referred to as charismatic. The definition of *charisma* is the instantaneous enablement of the Holy Spirit in the life of any believer to exercise a gift for the edification of others.

Charis is the Greek word for grace. When you put the “*ma*” on the end—its means gift. Charisma means grace gift. Use the term charismatic to describe a gifted individual. “Spiritual”—Greek word *pneumatikos*—empowered by breath or wind.¹

Look at the first part of the Greek word *pneumatikos*. It is the word *pneumatic*. Perhaps you have heard of a pneumatic drill that is powered by air. When Paul says, “concerning spiritual gifts,” he is talking about gifts empowered by the Holy Spirit, empowered by the breath of God. These are gifts you can only move in if you allow the Holy Spirit to breathe in you.

Let’s look at how each gift is naturally supernatural. The gifts can be placed into three categories: discerning, declarative, and dynamic.

DISCERNING GIFTS

Word of Knowledge: “*to know something specific without having learned it by natural means.*”²

1 Ervin, Howard, “Pneumatology,” Class Lecture, Oral Roberts University, Tulsa, OK, March 1995.

2 Ervin, Howard, “Pneumatology,” Class Lecture, Oral Roberts University, Tulsa, OK, March 1995.



This is the gift Jesus operated in during His conversation with the woman at the well.

Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.” The woman answered him, ‘I have no husband.’ Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband;’ for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband” (John 4:16–18).

How did Jesus know that? Some might say it’s because He is Jesus, and Jesus knows everything. In reality, when Jesus was on earth, He ministered in the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, “The Spirit of the Lord is **upon** Me” (Luke 4:18). This is the same thing Jesus told His disciples when He said, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come **upon** you” (Acts 1:8). If Jesus operated in the gifts of the Spirit, you can too.

Many times, this gifts come to people during prayer. For example, while you’re praying for someone, you might get a sense about a particular issue they are facing or feel an urge to pray about a specific area in their life. A good way to handle this situation may be to say to the person, “This is what I sense God showing me. Does this mean anything to you?”

Word of Wisdom: *“a divine answer or solution for a particular event.”³*

Perhaps you are facing an overwhelming situation and you need a solution. Another gift of the Spirit is called is the word of wisdom. God can use somebody to speak to you about a solution for the problem you are facing. When you a pray about a particular project or situation at home, work, or school the Holy Spirit can give you a divine solution to it. This is a word of wisdom.

Discerning of Spirits: *“to be made aware of the presence of a demonic spirit.”⁴*

In Acts 16, a girl who was a fortune teller kept following the apostle Paul and calling out, “These men are servants of the Most High” (Acts 16:17). Paul knew a demon was speaking through her. He cast it out. This gift is called the gift of discerning of spirits. It is not to be confused with discernment between right and wrong, which is expected of all Christ followers.

3 Ervin, Howard, “Pneumatology,” Class Lecture, Oral Roberts University, Tulsa, OK, March 1995.

4 Ervin, Howard, “Pneumatology,” Class Lecture, Oral Roberts University, Tulsa, OK, March 1995.



DECLARATIVE GIFTS

Prophecy: *“message of encouragement from God through a person.”*⁵

One who prophesies speaks edification, exhortation, and comfort. This gift is not to be used for correction but rather for encouragement. Some people say, “I have the gift of prophecy,” and they think they can correct other people with this gift and validate the prophecy with the phrase, “Thus saith the Lord.” Read what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 14:31: “For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be **encouraged**.”

Not all prophecies are of God. A word of prophecy is not the same as Scripture. You should always validate what is being said with Scripture. For example, if someone says you should divorce your wife because you have fallen in love someone else, that would not be from God because it violates His Word. The Bible admonishes us to test every prophecy (verse 29).

Tongues: *“a message from God in a language unknown to the person through whom the message comes.”*⁶

Paul talks about tongues as a gift of the Spirit that is intended to be a manifestation of God’s kingdom to others. Remember, these gifts are for the profit of all. This means that a message in tongues is different than speaking in tongues as part of the baptism in the Holy Spirit, which some call a prayer language. A prayer language is for your edification—it builds you up. A message in tongues is for others. In fact, it is designed to get people’s attention.

Interpretation of Tongues: *“understanding and expressing the thought or the intent of the message in tongues.”*⁷

This gift always goes with the previous gift. When a utterance in tongues is given, the interpretation of tongues follows. Paul instructs believers not to give a message in tongues if they are not ready to give the interpretation. Notice Paul says the interpretation of tongues, not the translation. What is the difference?

Translation is word for word. For example, the United Nations does not

5 Ervin, Howard, “Pneumatology,” Class Lecture, Oral Roberts University, Tulsa, OK, March 1995.

6 Ervin, Howard, “Pneumatology,” Class Lecture, Oral Roberts University, Tulsa, OK, March 1995.

7 Ervin, Howard, “Pneumatology,” Class Lecture, Oral Roberts University, Tulsa, OK, March 1995.



have interpreters; they have translators because they need to know every word is being translated exactly as it is being said. An interpreter's job is different. Interpretation expresses the overall thought or intent of what was said.

First Corinthians 14:5 reads,

“Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.”

Do you believe the entire Bible is God-breathed? If you do, then you understand that Paul's hand may have scribed these words but God is the one who actually wrote them. When Paul says, “I want you all to speak in tongues,” he makes a pretty strong statement about the importance of tongues in the life of a believer. No matter what your religious background is, you are going to have to come to grips with this verse.

DYNAMIC GIFTS

Faith: *“a supernatural impartation of belief and confidence for a specific situation.”*⁸

Every believer has faith. This gift is not referring to faith in general but rather special faith for a specific situation.

Healings: *“a supernatural endowments of divine health.”*⁹

Some have negative feelings about this gift. Perhaps they know someone who prayed for healing but continued to be sick or even died. While God does heal today, it does not mean everyone you pray for will get healed. However, some will. You have to conclude, as with all of the spiritual gifts, that He is God and you are not. Your responsibility is to do the natural and leave the supernatural to God.

Miracles: *“a divine intervention that alters our natural circumstances.”*¹⁰

8 Ervin, Howard, “Pneumatology,” Class Lecture, Oral Roberts University, Tulsa, OK, March 1995.

9 Ervin, Howard, “Pneumatology,” Class Lecture, Oral Roberts University, Tulsa, OK, March 1995.

10 Ervin, Howard, “Pneumatology,” Class Lecture, Oral Roberts University, Tulsa, OK, March 1995.



In light of what the Bible teaches, how could someone believe that God has quit doing miracles? God cannot stop doing miracles because He cannot stop being God. If you have been saved, you have experienced a miracle.

There are two parts to every miracle: your part and God's part. God does the supernatural; you do the natural. The miraculous always involves both the natural and the supernatural. But what is your part? How can you operate in the power of the Spirit?

ASK IN FAITH

Luke 11:11-13; 1 Corinthians 14:1

There is no supernatural without the natural. You must first act in faith for the kingdom of God to show up. The woman at the well did not accept Jesus until Jesus began a conversation with her and then said, "You have had five husbands." No one gets baptized in the Holy Spirit and speaks in tongues until they open their mouth and begin to speak. No one hears a word of prophesy until someone has the courage to walk across the room and say, "When I was praying, God spoke to me about you. This is what He said. Does that mean anything to you?" The kingdom of God does not show up until someone takes a risk to put it on display in everyday situations.

The Holy Spirit will not do anything in your life without your cooperation and obedience. People seem to be afraid of the Holy Spirit because they think He will make them do something embarrassing or weird. The power of Holy Spirit is real but He is not weird. This could be why some people struggle to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit and pray in the Spirit for the first time. They ask for the Holy Spirit but then they just sit and wait for God to do everything.

Because this experience is naturally supernatural, it involves you. You have to speak and open your mouth. So, you could say your part is opening your mouth, and God's part is filling it. Your part is speaking, and God's part is to make what you are speaking a language.





BULLSEYE: Zero in on Your Target

How can this study apply to your life? By listening to the Holy Spirit's leading as you answer this series of questions, you can gain useful insights that will help you apply the truth of God's Word to your daily life.

Write down your answer to the following questions here or in your journal:

- Who appears in the passages you read?
- Where are these passages taking place?
- When are these passages occurring?
- Why are these passages important?
- What is happening in these passages?
- What verse stood out to you? Why?



- From the lesson, what does the word “*charisma*” mean?

Look at the gifts in this chart and describe a time in your life when you either personally experienced or witnessed the gift in operation. Which gifts (if any), did you experience more than others? Why do you think that is the

Helper Role	Summary
Word of Knowledge	
Word of Wisdom	
Discerning of Spirits	
Prophecy	
Tongues	
Interpretation of Tongues	
Faith	
Healings	
Miracles	



- From the lesson, what is the difference between the interpretation of tongues and translation?
- Describe any thoughts you might have about the gift of healings.
- How well do you operate in the power of the Holy Spirit daily? How can you improve?
- Describe the difference between the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the fruit of the Spirit. How do these integrate with each other?

USING MY *FIREBIBLE*

Read the study notes for the following verses in the *FireBible* and answer the accompanying questions:

- 1 Corinthians 12:1. With which of the four purposes of gifts do you most resonate? Why?



- 1 Corinthians 12:1-6. Provide your insights in regard to spiritual gifts.

- 1 Corinthians 13:13. What are the two reasons God honors Christlike character more than the use of spiritual gifts? Why do you think this is so?

- 1 Corinthians 14:39. How do verses 37-39 apply to you?

- Read the *FireBible* chart “The Gifts of the Holy Spirit.” What thoughts come to your mind?

- Read the *FireBible* article “Spiritual Gifts for Believers.” Summarize the four general perspectives on the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Then in the chart on the following page, summarize in your own words the individual gifts of the Holy Spirit.



Individual Gifts	Summary
Message of Wisdom	
Message of Knowledge	
Faith	
Gifts of Healing	
Miraculous Powers	
Prophecy	
Distinguishing between Spirits	
Speaking in Different Kinds of Tongues	
Interpretation of Tongues	





TRIGGER PULL: Hit Your Target

How does this study affect your relationship with God and others? You experience God's Word in action as you use it to direct your journey with Him and those around you. Answer the following questions and record the answers below or in your journal.

- Take some time to listen to the Lord about what you just studied. How did this study help deepen your love for God?

- Write down a thought from this study that you experienced this week.

- As a result of your deepened love for God, how can you practically demonstrate the thought you experienced to your family and to others around you?

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