

**The Gifts of the Holy Spirit:
"Are the Sign Gifts
for Today?"**

Romans 12:3-8

I Corinthians 13:8-13

Romans 12:3-8

³ For through the grace given to me I say to each one among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound thinking, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

Romans 12:3-8

⁴ For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function,

Romans 12:3-8

⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another,

Romans 12:3-8

⁶ but having gifts that differ
according to the grace given to us:
whether prophecy, in agreement
with the faith;

Romans 12:3-8

⁷ or service, in his serving; or he
who teaches, in his teaching;

Romans 12:3-8

⁸ or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with generosity; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Spiritual Gifts and Church Offices

- A spiritual gift is a supernatural, God given ability to serve for the building up of the church.
- A church office is a position of leadership in the church that is filled by gifted men for the building up of the church.

Offices of the Church

Apostles

Prophets

Evangelists

Pastors-Teachers

Elders (I Timothy 3:1-7)

Deacons (I Timothy 3:13)

The Qualifications for the Office of Apostle

1. Companionship with Jesus and the disciples Acts 1:21,22a
2. Eyewitness to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ Acts 1:22b
3. A personal call and appointment by Jesus Christ Acts 1:2

There are no "Apostles" today!

- 1. They are all now with the Lord**
- 2. All those who claim to be "apostles" do not qualify to own that title.**

Ephesians 4:10,11

¹¹ And He Himself gave some as apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers,

Ephesians 4:10,11

¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ,

1 Peter 4:10,11

¹⁰ As each one has received a gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God—

I Peter 4:10,11

¹¹ whoever speaks, as one speaking the oracles of God; whoever serves, as one *serving* by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and might forever and ever. Amen.

Introduction

- Serving Gifts
- Speaking Gifts
- Sign Gifts

Serving Gifts

- Service- Acts 4:32-37
- Giving- Phil. 4:10-18
- Mercy- Rom. 12:15; Gal. 6:2
- Helps- Rom. 12:7
- Administrations- Titus 1:4,5

Speaking Gifts

- Prophecy- 1 Cor. 14:1-25
- Teaching- James 3:1
- Exhorting- Acts 11:23,24; 14:21,22
- Leadership- Rom. 12:8; 1 Tim. 3:5
- Speakers

Sign Gifts

- Prophecy
- Tongues (Known Languages)
- Interpretation of Tongues
- Gifts of Healings
- Miracles

I Corinthians 12:7-10

⁷ But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for what is profitable.

I Corinthians 12:7-10

⁸ For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit;

I Corinthians 12:7-10

⁹ to someone else faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,

I Corinthians 12:7-10

¹⁰ and to another the workings of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to someone else various kinds of tongues, and to another the translation of tongues.

I Corinthians 12:27,28

**²⁷ Now you are Christ's body,
and individually members of it.**

I Corinthians 12:27,28

²⁸ And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, *various kinds* of tongues.

Sign Gifts

- Prophecy
- Tongues (Known Languages)
- Interpretation of Tongues
- Gifts of Healings
- Miracles

I. What are the sign gifts?

- The "Sign Gifts" were spiritual enablements from God given to the Apostles and others in the church to validate the revelation that God
- Sign gifts given through the Apostles and New Testament prophets

A. The Gift of Prophecy

1. The spiritual gift of prophecy, in the sense of the Apostles receiving new revelations from God to be proclaimed and written by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, ceased with the completion of the Bible.

A. The Gift of Prophecy

2. With the completion of the New Testament, prophecy changed from declaring new revelation to declaring the completed revelation God has given us in the Bible, which is Biblical teaching/preaching.

B. Speaking in Tongues (Known Languages)

- 1. First occurred on the day of Pentecost Acts 2:1-4

Acts 2:1-4

¹ And when the day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all together in one place.

Acts 2:1-4

² And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

Acts 2:1-4

³ And there appeared to them tongues like fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them.

Acts 2:1-4

⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

B. Speaking in Tongues (Known Languages)

- 2. The crowd heard their own languages Acts 2:11

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Acts 2:11

¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—we hear them in our *own* tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God.”

C. Interpretation of Tongues

1. The gift to understand what a tongues-speaker was saying.

I Corinthians 12:30

C. Interpretation of Tongues

2. The interpretation would be communicated to the entire church

I Corinthians 14:13

D. Gifts of Healings (plural)

The supernatural work of God through a person with a gift of healing that brings about healing from disease and/or infirmity.

I Corinthians 12:9

God still heals!

- Healings come as a result of God accomplishing His purposes
- Sometimes God heals, and sometime God withholds healing

James 5:14,15

¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? *Then* he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

James 5:14,15

¹⁵ And the prayer offered in faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.

E. Miracles

- 1. All miracles of the Apostolic era were instant and permanent
- Acts 5:15, 16

Acts 5:15,16

¹⁵ to such an extent that they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, so that when Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on any one of them.

Acts 5:15,16

¹⁶ Also the multitude from the cities in the vicinity of Jerusalem were coming together, bringing people who were sick or afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all being healed.

E. Miracles

- 2. All miracles were directly connected to the Apostles
- Acts 2:43; 5:12; I Cor. 12:12

Acts 2:43

**43 And fear came upon every soul;
and many wonders and signs were
taking place through the apostles.**

II. The Role that Miracles Have Played in the Plans and Purposes of God

- A. There are three distinct time periods during which God did miracles through gifted men to authenticate revelation

1. Miracles were common during the time of Moses and Joshua

- From the Exodus to the end of Joshua's leadership**
- From about 1445 BC to 1380 BC**
- About 65 years total**

2. Miracles were common during the time of Elijah and Elisha

- From about 860 B.C. until 795 B.C.
- A period of about 65 years

3. Miracles were common during the time of Jesus and His disciples

- Beginning with Christ and His ministry
- Extending through the early church while the Apostles were alive

- Between Adam and Moses, about 2500 years passed with precisely zero miracles.

- After Moses and Joshua,
another 500 years passed with
no miracles until the arrival of
Elijah and Elisha.

- From Elijah/Elisha, 870 to 850 BC until Jesus, there were no miracles.

- For the 6000 years (young earth view) of mankind, less than 200 years saw miracles performed by about 100 individuals.

- With the closing of Apostolic age, the church functions with the power of Gospel accomplishing the greatest miracle of all!
- Sinners are rescued from the powers of Hell and Condemnation!

John 5:36

³⁶ But the witness I have is greater than *the witness of* John; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish—the very works that I do—bear witness about Me, that the Father has sent Me.

John 6:14

¹⁴ Therefore when the people saw the sign which He had done, they were saying, “This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.”

John 10:25

25 Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father’s name, these bear witness of Me.

Acts 2:22

²² “Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God did through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know—

Acts 14:3

³ Therefore they spent a long time *there* speaking boldly *with reliance* upon the Lord, who was testifying to the word of His grace, granting that signs and wonders be done through their hands.

Hebrews 2:3,4

³ how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?

That *salvation*, first spoken by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard,

Hebrews 2:3,4

⁴ God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

B. The Apostles and New Testament Prophets
is the foundation upon which the church is built

- 1. The apostles
- 2. The New Testament prophets,
just like Old Testament prophets
spoke and wrote the inerrant,
infallible revelation from God.

Ephesians 2:19,20

¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*,

The Pressing Question:

- Should the "sign gifts" still be practiced in the church of Jesus Christ today?

III. The Sign Gifts were Meant to be Practiced Only During the Time of the Apostles

A. Continuationism

Miraculous sign gifts have continued all through the history of Christianity, or at least they subsided but now have been restored to New Testament status and frequency.

B. Cessationism (Tom Pennington)

The Holy Spirit no longer sovereignly gives individual believers the miraculous spiritual gifts that are listed in the Scripture and that were present in the first century church. It is neither the Spirit's plan, nor His normal pattern to distribute miraculous spiritual gifts to Christians and churches today as He did in the times of the Apostles. Those gifts ceased as normative with the apostles.

IV. What was the Purpose of Sign Gifts?

- A. The sign gifts were given to authenticate the Apostles Message of the Gospel

III. What was the Purpose of the Sign Gifts?

- B. The sign gifts ceased to exist after the Apostolic era

Conclusion

1. Do not seek the sign gifts, they were not intended to be the normal experience of the born-again believer. Instead, seek the gifts that build up and edify the church.

Conclusion

- 2. The only sign that God has for us is the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead on the third day after his crucifixion.

Matthew 12:39

³⁹ But He answered and said to them, “An evil and adulterous generation eagerly seeks for a sign; and *yet* no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet;

Matthew 12:39

⁴⁰ for just as JONAH WAS THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE BELLY OF THE SEA MONSTER, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Conclusion

3. Our faith should rest on the authority of the Bible, the Word of God, rather than the seeking after sensationalistic miracles.

Conclusion

- 4. Be careful to not accept those who claim to have the sign gifts. Seek to lovingly teach and correct their errors from the Scriptures.

