

# SPIRITUAL GIFTS (20F3)

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

Continuing our study on the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Today, more of the miraculous gifts.

Word of Wisdom / Word of Knowledge / Faith / Gifts of Healings / Working of Miracles / Prophecy / Discerning of Spirits / Tongues / Interpretation of Tongues

## I. YOU ARE GIFTED (1 CORINTHIANS 12:7)

1. Every Christian has been given gifts by the Holy Spirit

i. 1 Corinthians 7:7 (NKJV) *For I wish that all men were even as I myself. But each one has his own gift from God, one in this manner and another in that.*

ii. 1 Peter 4:10 (NKJV) *As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*

2. Our gifts are to be used for the benefit of the Church

i. 1 Corinthians 14:12 (NKJV) *Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel.*

## II. WORDS OF WISDOM & KNOWLEDGE (1 CORINTHIANS 12:8)

1. What is the difference between wisdom and knowledge?  
Knowledge is the accumulation of fact; wisdom is the proper application of the fact.

- i. “Knowledge will tell you that the cute little black animal with the white stripe down its back is not a cat; wisdom will tell you to keep your distance. Knowledge will tell you that the coiled creature in front of you is poisonous; wisdom will tell you to avoid petting it.” – C. Smith, Living Water
2. Word of Wisdom: True wisdom comes from fearing the Lord. It cannot be obtained in the world
  - i. *Psalm 111:10 (ESV) The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom...*
  - ii. The word of wisdom is a gift that will give a person special, and supernatural ability to offer wisdom to a particular situation. This is not the same as wisdom in general. It is a gift for special occasions, often to solve problems, or diffuse tension.
3. Examples of the word of wisdom
  - i. King Solomon is a good illustration of the word of wisdom in the Old Testament. (Cut the baby in half...) (1 Kings 3:16-28)
  - ii. Jesus also used the word of wisdom in dealing with the Pharisees. (Give to Ceasar...) (Luke 20:22-26)
4. Word of Knowledge
  - i. The word of knowledge is a gift that reveals to a person a specific piece of information about someone, or something. This knowledge is

supernatural and could not have been obtained through natural observation or study.

5. Examples of the word of knowledge

- i. Jesus used the word of knowledge in speaking to the Samaritan woman. (John 4:6-18)
- ii. In Acts 5:3, Peter knew by a word of knowledge that Ananias and Sapphira had lied to the Holy Spirit when they claimed to have given the full sale price of a piece of property to the church.

### III. FAITH (1 CORINTHIANS 12:9)

1. Not saving faith, but miraculous faith.

- i. Though every Christian has faith in Jesus, the Spiritual gift of faith is different from saving faith. The gift of faith is the ability to trust God even though it seems impossible. This gift is connected with the gifts of healings and miracles.
- ii. *Mark 11:22-23 "So Jesus answered and said to them, 'Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, "Be removed and be cast into the sea," and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will come to pass, he will have whatever he says.'"*

### IV. GIFTS OF HEALINGS (1 CORINTHIANS 12:9)

1. God has given the church gifts of healings (plural).
  - i. These are gifts that God sovereignly gives to different people to bring physical healing.

- ii. Exodus 15:26 "...For I am the LORD who heals you."*
- 2. Healing is a major part of God's work in the Old and New Testament. Healing was performed in the ministry of Jesus, and in the early church.
  - i. Matthew 8:16-17 "When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: 'He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses.'"*
- 3. Faith is a big part of healing. God wants us to believe he can heal people today.
  - i. Matthew 13:58 "Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief."*
  - ii. James 5:14-15 "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up..."*
- 4. Not everyone will be healed.
  - i. We have faith that God is able to do a great healing, but faith also trusts God's sovereign purpose for us.
  - ii. Paul, Timothy, and Trophimus are examples of God saying "no". (See: Galatians 4:13-15, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, 1 Timothy 5:23, and 2 Timothy 4:20)

## **V. WORKING OF MIRACLES (1 CORINTHIANS 12:10)**

1. A miracle is a special work of God that is outside of the natural realm—miracles are supernatural.
  - i. Genesis 1:1 *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”*
  - ii. Jeremiah 32:27 (NKJV)<sup>27</sup> *“Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?”*
2. Who has the gift of miracles?
  - i. God still does miracles today, but I think there are few who have this special gift. The reason is that there is a great danger of selfishness, and pride.
  - ii. Acts 14:11 (ESV) *And when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lycaonian, “The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!”*

## **VI. PROPHECY (1 CORINTHIANS 12:10)**

1. Foretelling & Forthtelling (see previous study)
2. Prophecy is one of the best gifts.
  - i. 1 Corinthians 14:1 *“Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.”*

## **VII. DISCERNING OF SPIRITS. (1 CORINTHIANS 12:10)**

1. Discerning of spirits is a gift that allows us correctly discern whether a person or work is inspired by the Holy Spirit, or by an evil spirit.
2. Be aware of the spiritual realm.
  - i. Ephesians 6:12 *“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers,*

*against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”*

3. This gift is especially used to discern between a true prophet and a false prophet. That is why it follows the gift of prophecy in 1 Corinthians 12.

- i. 1 John 4:1 *“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”*

## **VIII. TONGUES & INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES (1 CORINTHIANS 12:10)**

1. The gift of tongues is a Spirit inspired utterance to God in a language that you do not understand.

- i. 1 Corinthians 14:14 *“For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.”*

2. Interpretation of Tongues is for the use of the gift of tongues in the congregation.

- i. 1 Corinthians 14:18–19 (NKJV) <sup>18</sup> *I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all; <sup>19</sup> yet in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue.*

## **IX. CONCLUSION: ALL CHRISTIANS ARE GIFTED, AND GOD IS SOVEREIGN IN HOW THE GIFTS ARE GIVEN AND USED. (1 CORINTHIANS 12:11)**

- i. Ephesians 4:7 (NKJV) <sup>7</sup> *But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift.*

## Growth Group Discussion Questions

- God has given every believer Spiritual gifts, but many Christians still are in the process of discovery. How important do you think it is to discover and use your gifts, and what difference do you think it makes?
- There are several places in the Bible that list gifts of the Spirit. Do you think that this is an exhaustive list? In other words, do you think that there are other Spiritual gifts besides the ones listed?
- Many of us have been blessed to be a recipient of someone else's gift. Have you ever had a time when someone prophesied over you, or gave a word of wisdom, or any other spiritual gift that you were blessed by? Share with the group how this affected you.
- Speaking in tongues can be a strange thing to many Christians. Paul said he spoke in tongues more than anyone. He also wanted order in the Church. How do you think the gift of tongues should be used in the Church and personally?
- Many of the gifts are to be used in the congregation setting. What is the best practical way to allow the gifts of the Spirit to be used without disrupting a "normal" Church service? In other words, how do you think we can incorporate the gifts more into our Church?