

GOING DEEPER

ADDITIONAL READING RESOURCE

THE NINE MANIFESTATIONAL GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

For the sake of learning the gifts, let's break the nine gifts into three categories:

- Discerning Gifts
- Declarative Gifts
- Dynamic Gifts

1. DISCERNING GIFTS: Word of Wisdom, Word of Knowledge and Discerning of Spirits.

a. Word of knowledge is to know something specific with having learned it by natural means.

- Jesus flowed in this gift when ministering to the Samaritan woman at a well (John 4).
- See Jesus knowing the thoughts of the scribes (Matthew 9:1-8).
- The word of knowledge comes from the Holy Spirit downloading information to you that you otherwise would not have.
- Word of knowledge being a message or information that you would have no other means of knowing. Often used to draw people to Christ.

b. Word of wisdom is a divine answer or solution for a particular event.

- See how the healed blind man responds to his accusers (John 9:29-33).
- It gives supernatural insight into some particular need or problem and brings practical application of God's Word. It does not come through our meditation or preparation, but comes directly from the Holy Spirit (Luke 21:13-15).
- Word of wisdom being a message of instruction/application that was not in your wheelhouse prior to the gift.

c. Discerning of spirits - To be made aware of the presence of a demonic spirit or judge an inaccurate prophetic word.

- Paul confronts a demonized girl who was following him around (Acts 16:16-18).
- See our exhortation to test a prophetic message (1 John 4:1).

2. THE DECLARATIVE GIFTS (revelatory) - prophecy, tongues (public & private) and interpretation of tongues.

a. Prophecy: a message of encouragement & instruction from God through a person.

- One who prophecies speaks words of edification, encouragement, and comfort (1 Corinthians 14:3).
- Paul never says correction. That's not to say the correction isn't a form of edification, but all too often we see prophecy as the gift of telling people what they are doing wrong. You will see the word encouragement accompanied with this gift. I want to warn you to not say "God says" if He didn't say.
- In Acts, those regularly used in this gift were called prophets. However, the Holy Spirit can use any believer. Every manifestation of this gift must be weighed by other members of the congregation to see whether it is in line with Scripture, and to determine what God wants us to do concerning the prophetic message (1 Corinthians 14:29).
- To be effective and useful, the prophet must walk in humility (John 1:27; 3:30).

b. Tongues: Spirit-directed languages from heaven.

- There is a public gift of tongues, and private gift of tongues, which we will call the grace of tongues. (1 Corinthians 14).
- Tongues is a beautiful way to declare the glory of God. When people speak in tongues, the Holy Spirit anoints them, and they are spiritually edified (strengthened and built up) through union with God. This edification happens without one ever knowing what is said. Such edification is experienced individually by the one who prays in tongues. (Acts 10:46, 19:17; 1 Corinthians 14:15).

c. Interpretation of Tongues: Understanding and expressing the thought or intent of the message in tongues.

- The Holy Spirit edifies the church body of believers much differently. For the entire group of believers to be edified, tongues must be followed with an interpretation (1 Corinthians 14:4).
- The public use of tongues must be limited (1 Corinthians 12:11, 30) and closely governed (1 Corinthians 14:27-28).

3. THE DYNAMIC GIFTS: Faith, healings and miracles.

a. Faith: A super natural impartation of belief and confidence for a specific situation.

- This is different than conversion faith, or continuing faith, where we see the fruits of the Spirit.
- Elijah exhibited this when confronting the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:33-40).
- It can also include the ability to build faith in others, as Paul did when the ship was about to be wrecked at the Island of Malta (Acts 27:25). He did this often (2 Corinthians 3:4-6).

b. Gifts of Healings: Supernatural endowments of divine health.

- Both “gifts” and “healings” are plural in the Greek (the original language in which the New Testament was written), thus there is not one “gift” of healing, but many to meet all kinds of sickness and disease.
- The gift of healing is not for the one who ministers the gift. It is for the sick person—the one who receives the gift. When Peter said to the man “what I have I give you” (Acts 3:6), he meant the Spirit was giving him a specific gift of healing to give the man.
- Peter recognized also that God is the Healer and He alone must receive the glory (Acts 3:12-16; Exodus 15:26). The Spirit will also encourage an atmosphere of faith, love and acceptance that will help the sick person to receive.

c. Working of Miracles: Given intervention that changes our natural circumstances.

- Miracles are distinguished from healings in that miracles include a demonstration of God's power in an unusual measure beyond the physical body.
- This can include spiritual deliverance from demonic forces and physical deliverance of God's people in ominous, life-threatening situations (Acts 12:6-19).
- We also see this could be a positive change of favor in the midst of difficult circumstances, and timely provisions for human need (Matthew 14:13-21).

God wants His people to not only acknowledge that they are not of this world, but also live with a power and presence unlike anything from this world.