

Spiritual Gifts Workshop: 2/19/25 Evident Life Church

The foundation to the gifts is almost more important than the gifts.

The enemy does want you to become more knowledgeable of the gifts. When you pursue or earnestly desire the spiritual gifts as Paul said to do, 1 Cor 14.1, we are moving the battle to a new level. For our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers. Eph 6:12. Don't be surprised if you have a few more temptations and distractions this week.

Paul said to pursue love and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts. So it must be important.

Why? To build up the body.

We are all building the house of the Lord, are you going to use hand tools or power tools?

You can preach the gospel as much as you want and those in the world can easily deny it and refute it. Even though the Word says God's word doesn't return void. But it is difficult for the world to deny healing leprosy, making a leg lengthen, a demon being cast out, a person raised from the dead, or you tell someone something that has been a hidden secret in their life and no one knows except God. What happens? The word meets faith—conversion. Faith moves mountains. After all, the fields are ripe for harvest. Jesus's method of ministry was almost always the word, a sign to confirm or a sign to confirm, then the word. Seldom do you see words only. Except when He said an evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it. Matt 12:39. He also did not perform miracles in his hometown due to unbelief.

Why don't we see more signs or miracles?

1. Unbelief or doubt
2. In our western culture, we want to control our environment, we don't want to be outside our comfort zone—our area of control. You have to release control, wait on God and expect the unexpected. You can't control the wind, it moves wherever He wants and is totally unpredictable. You can't create the environment or control the environment. Now, historically I have seen the Spirit move in large groups after worship and when there is quite a period of time of waiting.
3. We don't give God time. Our schedule seems to be more important.

THE NATURE OF A GIFT AND THE GIVER

They are gifts, not earned or deserved. But you must receive them.

Matt. 7:11 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good** to those who ask Him!

The general layout of the introduction of the gifts in scripture.

1. Acts 2 The coming of the Holy Spirit. Gathered together.
2. I Cor 12
 - a. Intro to 9 gifts empowered by the Holy Spirit. 11 verses.
 - b. One body – many members 12-31 19 verses
3. I Cor 13 Love 13 verses right in the middle of the spiritual gifts. The center and more important.
4. I Cor 14 Tongues in a public but more important prophecy. Why? The church may be built up. 1-25 25 verses.
 - a. When church comes together. More guidelines on tongue, prophesy in a gathering of the church. Let all things be done for building up. 12 verses
 - b. Ending two verses- so my brothers earnestly desire to prophesy and do not forbid speaking in tongues. But all things should be done decently and in order.

So how can we help to facilitate the use of the gifts.

1. Provide a safe environment to take a risk. Ink flows from the pen only after it comes into contact with the paper, otherwise no ink flows. The gifts only operate when you come into contact with the Holy Spirit and use the gift by faith in the setting the Father wants you to use it. Then it brings glory to Him.
2. Wait on God. We seldom do this. Release the control of your schedule.
3. Be sure it is God. The time is to reflect what God wants, not you.
 - a. If you have a tendency to be talkative, hold it in check.
 - b. If you have a tendency to be emotional, hold it in check.
 - c. If you have a tendency to be shy, take a risk.
4. Don't bring your agenda to the gathering. It is what God is doing right then and there, not what God has been teaching you over the last few weeks. Empty yourself. It's about Him, not you.
5. Is it genuine? Ask God. Emotional outbursts are seldom God.
6. Be open and flexible. The Spirit tends to be spontaneous. It may feel like jumping into an ice bath.

7. Pastors and elders of any church have the responsibility to maintain an orderly gathering where people are not scared or hurt, but they are not allowed to quench the Spirit.
8. Remember Jesus said greater things you will do than I have done, because now I go to the Father. Think about that.

I. Hindrances to receiving the gifts

1. Received by faith, not of your own ability, strength or spirituality
2. Dispensation- the foundational scripture dispensationalists use 1 Cor 13:8-10
3. Fear of what others may think
 - a. example – when the Spirit spoke to me about what I have given let no man take
4. A bad experience or teaching- always look to the Word and the Spirit for truth (He will teach you all)
5. Ignorance – (1 Cor. 12:1) if you lack wisdom, ask God James 1:5
6. The enemy really does not want you to progress in your understanding of the gifts
7. Your flesh opposes the Spirit (Gal 5:16-18)
8. Comparing your gifting to others gifting.

II. Receiving the Gifts

Like a child, with childlike faith. (God gives good gifts to his children)
 The gifts are there if you will receive. You do not have to beg or plead for them. They are to be earnestly desired. (Conversely, it is unscriptural for them not to be earnestly desired) 1 Cor 14.1

III. Warnings in use of the gifts

1. Pride- I am spiritually more mature than you because I operate in the gifts. It is a gift. Unearned and undeserved except because of the sacrifice of Christ. You don't earn gifts by being a better Christian, your righteousness or your works.
2. Not centered in love (Cor. 13 in the center of Cor 12, 14)
3. Cause division. Gifts are never used to cause division. If the use of gifts is causing division, one must look closely at the use of the gifts.
4. Comparison or feeling like your gift is less important.
5. Love is more important than any gift. 1 Cor. 13.1-3

IV. There are nine Spiritual gifts, not to be confused with ministries

(1 Cor 12:5) diversity of activities (1 Cor 12:6) . These 'gifts' are not included in this section for a reason. The gifts spoken in 1 Cor 12: 8-11 are specifically given by the Holy Spirit as it directs or apportions.

- i. Functions or Motivational gifts in the body- Romans 12:4-8 (Prophecy, Ministry, Teacher, Exhorter, Giver, Leader, Mercy)
- ii. Offices or service gifts-Ephesians 4:11 Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, Teachers- they equip the saints for the work of the ministry and to edify the body of Christ.

- V. Can you have more than one? They are all available as he apportions or distributes.

I think all are available depending on the situation and the need for the glory of the kingdom. We will do greater things than Christ has done because He now goes to the Father.

VI. THE NINE GIFTS—1 Cor. 12:8-11

A. INSPIRATIONAL, WORSHIP AND UTTERANCE GIFTS

1. Tongues
2. Interpretation of Tongues
3. Prophecy, not to be confused with the office or function

B. REVELATION OR INSTRUCTIONAL GIFTS

1. Word of Knowledge
2. Word of Wisdom
3. Gift of Discernment

C. POWER OR IMPARTATION GIFTS

1. Faith
2. Healing
3. Performance of Miracles

UTTERANCE GIFTS:

1. Tongues
2. Interpretation of Tongues
3. Prophecy

1. TONGUES- most misunderstood

Preface: Nothing has brought more division and shame on the church than the abuse of this gift, mostly due to ignorance in its use. This is why we should not be ignorant of the spiritual gifts (1 Cor 12.1). Paul references a tongue, but he references in two different contexts. There is a tongue which is used in the church for edification of the body and there is a tongue which is used in your prayer life. As you read through the scriptures, you can see where one applies and the other applies. Paul indicates the tongue is a gift, yet refers to it for prayer and then a tongue used in public which must be interpreted.

What it is not:

1. not a linguistic ability
2. not a comprehension of languages
3. not the ability to scream, yell, make up a language, babble or make hideous noises which are distracting.
4. It is not the baptism of the Holy Spirit. It can be an indicator such has taken place along with the other gifts.

What it is:

1. God-given ability to speak in other tongues at will. At your will evidenced by Scripture.
2. It is speaking in a language or tongue you do not comprehend. Any language you do not understand is 'another tongue' or 'unknown tongue'. 1 Cor 14:2,4,13,14,19,27.

3. It is your spirit praying and you do not understand what you said. 1 Cor 14:14
4. You are speaking to God 1 Cor 14.2

Paul spoke in tongues a great deal. 1 Cor 14:18 and yet he did not understand what he spoke 1 Cor 14:14B.

WE MUST ALWAYS REALIZE GOD HAS A PURPOSE FOR EVERY GIFT.

In the case of tongues:

1. Utilized when talking with God. 1 Cor 14.2
2. Paul refers to it as your spirit praying 1 Cor 14.14
3. Purpose is to edify yourself, and thus build yourself up spiritually. 1 Cor 14:4A (building yourself up produces faith) Jude 20A
4. we are speaking in the spirit, when we pray in a tongue 1 Cor 14.2, 14.14
5. You may sing or speak in the spirit. 1 Cor 14.15
6. Bringing messages from God to His people. Must be interpreted or it is unfruitful.
7. it is a sign of the believer Mark 16:17
8. A sign to the unbeliever Acts 14:22

2. INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

What it is not:

1. not the ability to understand that which has been spoken
2. not the gift of the translation of a language
3. not the gift of interpretation of dreams

In other words, the interpretation is not in existence until it is inspired and uttered

What it is:

1. The ability given by God to interpret a tongue, in your own language, usually in a public setting, e.g. church. It is an inspirational gift or better said, it is an immediately or spontaneously inspired utterance or interpretation. No prepared interpretation.

What it is used for:

1. Pray to interpret 1 Cor 14;13
2. Public tongue must be interpreted 1 Cor 14:27-28 So if two or at the most three tongues are given and no interpretation occurs, the tongues must stop.
3. A tongue with an interpretation equates to a prophecy, which purpose is to edify the church 1 Cor 14:5

3. PROPHECY

What it is not:

1. not the ability to preach

2. not the art of fortune telling or necessarily the foretelling of future events like the old testament prophets.
3. not the platform to convey your personal feelings, agenda or message to the church

What it is:

1. The God-given ability to bring forth in your language of understanding a message direct from the heart of God to the hearts of His people. This message is born as it is uttered, not premeditated.

What it is used for:

1. you have control over the gift. 1 Cor 14:32
2. It is a message of edification, exhortation or comfort to the church. 1 Cor 14:3, 1 Cor 14.4B
3. It runs parallel and not contrary to the Scriptures. It is always unto edification (to build up or strengthen, not tear down or weaken), exhortation (to urge strongly, stimulate to action or give advice), or comfort (to console or ease the grief)
4. The nature of prophecy- used in Old and New Testament for the church.
5. Not to be confused with the office or role. The gift of prophecy is a inspired message only for edification, exhortation or comfort to the body. It is not prediction. The office or ministry of the prophet involves aspects of foretelling and prediction because the revelation gifts are also in operation along with prophecy.

WARNING- Always evaluate the word of a prophet by the Word of God. Also you can run the prophecy by others gifted in prophecy. 1 Cor 14:29,30,32