

Acts 17:6 – ... These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also

What is a Normal Christian?

- An “Average Christian” is a Christian who falls somewhere between the extremes, not too hot and not too cold, lukewarm
- A “Normal Christian” is a Christian who conforms to the Norm or Standard of a Christian... which would be Jesus
- John 14:12 – ... whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

Gifts of the Spirit

- 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 – 4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. 7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8 To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.
- Three Categories
 - 1) Revelatory Gifts: Gifts where God reveals something to you
 - Word of Knowledge, Word of Wisdom, Discerning of Spirits
 - 2) Vocal Gifts: Gifts that require you to speak
 - Prophecy, Tongues, Interpretation
 - 3) Power Gifts: Gifts that demonstrate God’s supernatural power
 - Faith, Healing, Miracles

Revelatory Gifts

- Word of Wisdom
 - When the Holy Spirit supernaturally puts wisdom in your heart to deal with a difficult situation
- Word of Knowledge
 - When the Holy Spirit supernaturally reveals a bit of information to you that you didn't know beforehand
- Discerning of Spirits
 - When the Holy Spirit supernaturally reveals to you what spirits are at work, whether it's the Holy Spirit, or an angel, or a demon, or a human spirit... what kind of demon it is, etc.

Vocal Gifts

- Prophecy = from the Greek for “to speak” + “before”
 - When the Holy Spirit gives you a message from God... and you speak it out
 - 1 Corinthians 14:3 – But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort.
 - NT prophecy is, in general, less about calling down judgment on nations or foretelling future world events (like in OT)... and more about speaking forth God’s heart for someone, to strengthen, encourage, and comfort them.
 - Bible Example: Agabus the prophet
 - Bible Example: Timothy (1 Timothy 4:14)

- Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues
 - These 2 often work together
 - Tongues = in Greek, lit. “languages”
 - When the Holy Spirit empowers you to speak in a language you don't understand
 - Could be either a known human language (past or present)... or a heavenly, angelic language no one on Earth understands (“tongues of angels” – 1 Cor 13:1)
 - It’s not made-up gibberish, because that’s a man-made fake language
 - It’s not the ability to speak in multiple languages, because that is a learned skill
 - Interpretation of Tongues
 - When the Holy Spirit supernaturally reveals to you, in your Spirit, the meaning of someone's message in tongues.
 - It’s not just translating from one language to another, because that is a learned skill
 - Three Main Uses of Tongues and Interpretation
 - 1) Evangelistic: You speak a message in tongues, under the power of the Holy Spirit, and it turns out that you’re communicating the truths of the Gospel in a known, human language that you don’t understand, but speakers of that language are present who do understand what you say
 - Bible Example: Pentecost (Acts 2)
 - 2) Corporate Encouragement: You speak a message in tongues to the church, which should be accompanied by an interpretation so it is actually understood, at which point, it’s effectively a prophecy
 - Paul gives instructions about this in 1 Corinthians 14
 - 3) Private Worship: You are overcome with a desire to worship God but don’t have the right words, or you want to pray but don’t know what words to speak, so you allow the Holy Spirit to pray through you in tongues
 - 1 Corinthians 14:14 – For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful.
 - You don’t need an interpretation because you’re not bringing confusion, you’re not a distraction. It’s just between you and God, and He understands what you say
 - Biblical Example: Cornelius (Acts 10) – “...they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God”
 - For Our Personal Benefit
 - 1 Corinthians 14:4 – Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies edifies the church.
 - “edify” = in Greek it means to construct a new building or remodel an old one
 - Jude 1:20 – ...building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit...