

Exploring the Gifts of the Spirit - Part 2

Faith, Healing, Miracles

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Greetings:

- We've all been horrified by a niece, or grandson, or child of our own during Christmas fever say, "what else did you get me?" Giver is more important than the gift.
- We should never seek the power without the person. It should be your absolute craving in life to know the Holy Spirit, and to grow deep in His love.
- Making room for the gifts means making room for the spirit. It would be irresponsible of us to believe that we are going to move in the gifts without making space in our personal prayer times, small groups, services...for the Holy Spirit
- At the same time, His gifts and power are manifestations of his love.
- Like the two blind men who cried out to Jesus, and Matthew says, [Jesus had compassion on them](#), and he touched their eyes and they received their sight.
- So it was the law of love that moved the barrier of a natural law out of the way.
- This week we're looking at three gifts that have been categorized as Gifts of Power: Faith, Healings, and Miracles.

Isaiah 11

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

² The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him-
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of power,
the Spirit of knowledge and of the (reverent) fear of the LORD -
³ and he will delight in the (reverent) fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;
⁴ but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness will be his belt
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

- [2 Corinthians 5:7](#) We live by faith, not by sight.
- *Ill: payment into my bank account.*

1. **Faith is your spiritual eyesight!**

- [Hebrews 11:1](#) Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.
– You live based on realities you can't see with your physical eyes.

Ill: Winter slush froze on my windshield. – some people live their entire lives with frozen windshields.

A life of faith can improve the condition of your spiritual visibility!

- God wants every one of his children to grow stronger spiritual eyesight.
- To perceive that there is a God. To perceive that he's a good God. To perceive that the loving God wants me to act justly toward all of his other children that he loves, as though I will be held accountable.
- A normal life of faith has access to spiritual information the skeptic does not perceive.
- Your life will always look foolish to the skeptic.
- Jesus said, *"the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. God is spirit and his worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth."* John 4:23
- So a spiritual God wants us to engage life and engage him in spiritual dimensions.
- *"Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does."* John 5:19

Life of Faith is different from a Gift of Faith.

A Life of Faith says—I am beloved like Jesus was beloved by the Father. Life of faith is about cultivating a deep and abiding trust in my Father's goodness, in his provision, in his creativity...

Gift of Faith says—I am equipped like Jesus was equipped in order to show the Father's love to others. Through the power of the Holy Spirit I have the same toolbox Jesus had to love people even supernaturally.

2. The Spirit can operate any of the gifts in any of his believers, but generally he works particular gifts through particular believers.

- **1 Corinthians 12:29** Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? **30** Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? **31** But eagerly desire the greater gifts.
- Operating in gifts of power does not make you more godly than the next person
- God used Balaam's donkey to prophesy.
- "If you were a donkey before you prophesied, do you know what you will be afterward?"
- King Saul prophesied and a couple pages later he's tormented by demons because he didn't nurture a life of faith flowing out of the Father's love.
- God's Spirit can flow through any contaminated vessel for a period of time, but he told "my spirit will not contend with man forever." So our Spiritual gifts only rise to the level of our Life of Faith in Jesus.

3. The Gift of Faith is a unique confidence that God wants to act in a specific way in this situation...

- *III: Story of Jake* – Maria was a single mom. She was still getting her financial feet underneath her. There was a person who had been helping her family out, but it was a grey area, were they donating their time, or should they be compensated? Maria didn't have much money but she felt the Lord impress on her that she should pay this person. It took faith to give
 - Sometimes it can be in prayer: God's going to do something.
 - Quitting your job and stepping out into a new adventure (kingdom minded)
- Faith gives us the confidence to take a risk that would otherwise be foolish...
 - Praying for healing is always an act of faith. The facts say: this person is in a wheelchair. This person has arthritis. This person has a lung infection. This person has a nervous system condition.
- Faith says, "there's a law that is higher than the facts. The law of God's love can move the furniture in the room."
- Gift of faith compels you to act confidently that not only can God act generally, but he wants to act in this specific way for this situation.
 - YWAM - Purchasing 37 acres of land

Gifts of Healings are supernatural restorations of the body or soul.

- God is a healer. I think many of us are tentative— "what right do I have to ask for healing?"
- It is not presumptuous to ask God for the healing that he paid for on the cross
- That's part of the believer's inheritance.
- **Exodus 23:25** Worship the LORD your God, and his blessing will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you...
- **Psalms 103:2** Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases
- **Matthew 8:17** Jesus took up our sins and carried our diseases.
- Healing can be partial, gradual, imperceptible, or dramatic and instant.
- Sometimes there's a spiritual cause to the problem. Sometimes it's an injury. Sometimes it's just living in a fallen world.
- Healing was Jesus' way of restoring God the Father's desired order back into our fallen world.
- Jesus is life. You get around the Spirit of life and things start coming alive again...
- We believe in medicine, and miracles.
- **1 Corinthians 12:9** "to another gifts of healings by that one Spirit" – each healing is unique, creative, personalized
- Jesus' creativity – there's no formula. Speaking. Lays hands on. Sends them away. Sometimes they just touched him. Spitting.
- Scoliosis of the spine, joint diseases, heart problems, infertility.
- Story:

Gifts of Miracles are powerful alterations of the natural order by supernatural intervention

- **1 Corinthians 12:9** "to another miraculous powers (workings of miracles – both plural)

- His miracles will always showcase God and never the person.
- They will always serve his purpose of bringing love and justice to the earth.
- We believe in soup kitchens and salvation.

Examples from Jesus:

- Multiplication of food.
- Jesus sends Peter to pull out a coin from the fish's mouth.
- Miraculous catch.
- Cursed the fig tree and it withered.
- Demonic deliverance.

One of Missionaries that attends Petra

Tells the story of how they were on the mission field and there was a ground fault leading to one of the houses. Half the house was out of power. The electrical wire supplying that house ran underground the length of a football field. The trouble could have been anywhere in that distance. They started digging. The first hole they dug he hollered over to his friend, "come here and look at this." They had found the exact spot on the first hole they dug. God takes care of his business.

There was a family tormented by sickness.

After a period of prayer and discernment with a counselor they discerned that it was demonic affliction due to family ties to the Masonic Lodge. They repented and broke off the curses the father had spoken over his family, and their sickness was healed. Authority over demons is the God given right of his children.

Slide:

"This is what the apostle Paul was saying. It is not enough to have sound doctrine, theology, education, arguments, and reasoning. True faith must not be based on the wisdom of men but on the power of God. In these last days, with the power of wickedness mounting on every hand and every type of assault against the faith of God and Jesus Christ and against His true church, no one is going to make it who doesn't have a personal experience of God's supernatural power in his or her own life. This is not a luxury—it is a necessity. The apostle Paul treated it this way: "My speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God" 1 Corinthians 2:4-5. ~Derek Prince