

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Sermon Points

Week 6 - 5.28.23 | Tyler Wilson

Title: Tongues, Interpretation & Discernment

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:7-11

Main Point: God has designed specific gifts to cut through spiritual barriers so that people can connect with Him and He can be rightly worshiped.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 ESV - To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

1 - Serving / Mercy / Giving - SUPPORTIVE - to empower the care and mission of the church behind the scenes.

2 - Leadership / Shepherding / Administrative - LEADING - to direct and protect God's people while motivating and caring for their souls in the process

3 - Knowledge / Wisdom / Teaching / Exhortation - WORD - to clarify, direct, deepen, and stir our relationship with God by His truth.

4 - Prophecy - to bring specific messages to God's people that highlight His personal presence.

Tongues in 1 Cor. 12-14 is clearly heavenly language (not merely human language)

1 - Various Kinds of Tongues (12:10, 12:28)

2 - Speaking to God, not men (14:2)

3 - No one understands / mysteries in the Spirit (14:2)

4 - Spiritual Gift of Interpretation (12:10, 12:30, 14)

5 - Tongues of men and of angels (13:1)

- 6 - Analogy to human languages, not equivalent (14:10-12)
 - 7 - Out of our minds to unbelievers (14:33)
 - 8 - Acts 10 & 19 don't seem definitively to be human languages
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TONGUES

1. Definition - the ability to speak to God in an unlearned language (human or heavenly) for petition, praise or thanksgiving whether for personal edification in private or, with an interpretation, for corporate edification in public.

2. In a word - Worshiper

3. Biblical Examples of the Gift:

- Paul - 1 Cor. 14:18
- Peter & Apostles - Acts 2
- Cornelius & Family - Acts 10
- 12 Ephesian Believers - Acts 19
- Corinthian Church - 1 Cor. 12-14

4. Marks you may have this gift:

- Spoken in an unlearned language - whether privately or publicly
- Some potential preceding indicators
 - Tendencies towards deep personal expressions of praise and adoration - thankful, worshipful, joyful - gratitude to God is overflowing & uncontainable
 - Tendencies towards boldness in prayer
 - Moved in emotional intercession for others
 - Drawn to pioneering evangelistic contexts with cross-cultural ministry

5. Picture of the Church - Band

6. Character of God on Display - Transcendence

7. Goal of this gift:

- God is worshipped - praise, joy, and thanksgiving further fostered
- People are edified - whether in personal affirmations or corporate confirmations - towards deeper, more intimate communion with God.

- God's power is experienced and authenticated as He is called on to overcome gospel obstacles and celebrated when He does
- Platforms potentially created for evangelism

8. Ways to use this gift / Areas to apply it:

- Personal Worship
- Corporate Worship
- Prayer Teams & Intercessory Prayer
- Deliverance Ministry
- Pioneer Missions / Cross-cultural Ministry

9. Ways to misuse this gift / Warnings and weaknesses to watch out for:

- Public use without clear interpretation
- Over-use in church gathering (Paul limits to 3 at most)
- Over-emphasis as a superior or elevated gift, when 1 Cor. 14 says it's the opposite, unless it's accompanied with interpretation.
- Chaotically - As a cacophony of noise without clear order of 1 speaking at a time - leading to confusion, distraction, dishonor to the Lord, and disrepute among non-believers.
- Dramatically / Ecstatically - Used loudly or in highly demonstrative manner that makes it a show
- Over-reliance that defaults to tongues over praying in intelligible, mentally engaging ways.
- Assumption of missionaries that they'll be given this gift on the mission field without taking the time to learn the native language of the people they are reaching.
- Tendency to push the gift on others
- Pride in the use of it
- Attaching this gift to salvation or as a necessary sign of salvation

10. Encouragement - Use it biblically / properly! (1 Cor. 14:40)

11. Everyone Else - Don't forbid it! (1 Cor. 14:39)

INTERPRETATION

1. Definition - the ability to translate what is being said in tongues into the hearers' language

2. In a Word - Translator

DISCERNMENT

1. Definition - the ability to quickly perceive the true spiritual nature of a person, a teaching, a situation, or an environment, seeing through to the source in order to clearly distinguish truth from error, good from evil, and the Holy Spirit from demonic spirits.

2. In a Word - Judge

3. Biblical Examples of the Gift:

- John the Baptist - John 1:29-36
- Elizabeth - Luke 1:41-45
- Simeon - Luke 2:27-32
- Paul - Acts 13:8-10, 16:18, 1 Tim. 4:1-3
- Peter - Acts 5:1-3, 8:20-23, 11:12
- Ephesian Church - Rev. 2:2
- Jesus - Luke 13:11, Mark 9:20-30, Matt. 22:16-18, Luke 5:22, Matt. 16:23

4. Marks you may have this gift:

- Quick to recognize whether a specific message or teaching or ministry is true, false, or misleading
- Heightened sensitivity to the presence of the Holy Spirit or presence of demonic spirits within environments and people - and can identify when they come and go
- Can at times see through surface words or actions to people's heart motivations
- Have made swift spiritual assessments of situations or people that others didn't see that proved in time to be correct
- Keen listener - listens to God, Scripture, & to individuals they are caring for - spiritually hears.
- Often can quickly appraise a person's spiritual condition
- Able to supernaturally tell right from wrong, good from evil by seeing through to the source behind something.
- Keenly aware of spiritual realm, moral sin, and doctrinal heresy
- Can evaluate data and evidence from a spiritual lens, and do so almost intuitively.
- Able to distinguish between the influence of God, Satan, and human sin / pride. Attune to the glorious presence of God, the deceptive presence of Satan, and the prideful presence of man.

5. Picture of the Church - Courtroom

6. Character of God on display - Omnipresence

7. Goal of this gift:

- Church is protected from error and threats and reassured in the presence of God
- People are warned, exposed, and affirmed for our good
- People are protected, delivered, and set free from spiritual deception & oppression

8. Ways to use this gift / areas to apply it:

- Testing truth / examining teachings, prophecies, tongues etc. Weighing / judging.
- Leadership - direction & protection
- Deliverance Ministry - directly confronting demonic activity
- Prayer Ministry
- Counseling & Healing Ministry - providing spiritual insight to tease out sources of suffering and sin and lead towards help and helping
- 1 on 1 discipleship
- Apologetic Ministry - dealing with cults, other religions, secular ideologies, etc.
- Advocacy Ministry - Grace Home, domestic abuse, sanctity of life, foster & adoption, trafficking & human slavery, etc. Front-lines evil.

9. Ways to misuse this gift / warnings and weaknesses to watch out for:

- Can become overly cynical if seeing negative / evil frequently
- Assume you have this gift when in actuality you simply have a critical, fault-finding bent - "just tell it like it is" does not = discernment.
- Sometimes lacks mercy - forgetting to separate person from influence driving them
- Can at times confuse personal analysis and judgment with supernatural discernment if not prayerful and dependent on the Lord
- A wrong judgment about a person or even a wrongly delivered judgment can cause harm
- Drift towards quick fix mentality - see the problem or evil / oversimplified prescription
- Temptation to become overly enthralled with spiritual realm
- Easy to be prideful or see this gift as a spiritually superior one
- Not waiting on the Lord for direction with what was discerned

10. Encouragement

- Wait on God's direction for what to do with what you discern

- Act in Humility
- Play offense

11. Everyone Else

- Discern, don't dismiss

Tongues - speaking in spiritual language - worshiper: "Here's God's glory"

Interpretation - translating spiritual language - translator: "Here's what this means"

Discernment - appraising spiritual realities - judge: "Here's what's truly happening"