

FUNDAMENTALS OF THE FAITH

LESSON 10

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Supplemental Class Notes

Lesson Objectives

1. To give us an understanding of both the nature and purpose of spiritual giftedness.
2. To see the difference between the permanent gifts and the sign gifts.
3. To exhort us to step out and minister their giftedness to the body of Christ.

INTRODUCTION

1. THE NATURE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

A. THE GIVING OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

- All Christians have been given a special gift. - **1 Peter 4:10-11** - ¹⁰ *As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹ whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*
"each one"

If each Christian has received a special gift, then when was it received?

What is the significance of the article "a"?

- The uniqueness of each Christian's giftedness

A believer's gifts can be an overlapping combination, taken in different proportions from the categories of gifts.... It is best to see a person's fit as a unique blend of the categories of giftedness, granted to that individual in connection with his or her traits and experiences and the needs of the church. Each believer becomes as unique spiritually as his fingerprints are physically.

John MacArthur

B. THE PURPOSE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTEDNESS

- For the common good of the church - **1 Corinthians 12:7** - ⁷ *To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*
- For the edification of the church - **1 Corinthians 14:12** - ¹² *So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.*
- Used to serve one another - **1 Peter 4:10** - ¹⁰ *As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:*

"God gives His gifts to us for others." - John MacArthur

2. THE PROVISION OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

A. THE NUMBER OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Some people disagree on the number of spiritual gifts, because God did not give a rigid or precise list. God appointed gifted people for the church mentioned in Ephesians 4:11, namely, apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers.

Ephesians 4:11 - ¹¹ *And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,* ¹² *to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,*

Some include these gifted men in the list of gifts, since they are listed alongside the gifts in **1 Corinthians 12:28** - ²⁸ *And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues.*

However:

- Appointed means to set in place; it indicates an official appointment to an office

John 15:16 - ¹⁶ *You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.*

2 Timothy 1:11 - ¹¹ *for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher*

- You clearly do not receive the gift of apostle, it is an appointment.

B. CATEGORIES OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

- THE PERMANENT GIFTS
- THE TEMPORARY GIFTS

- ❖ The original purpose for the temporary gifts no longer exists today.
- ❖ The way the temporary gifts are manifested today does not match the way these gifts were manifested at the time of the early church.

TEMPORARY GIFTS

Healing and Miracles

a. The purpose of healing and miracles:

- To confirm the gospel message - **Hebrews 2:3-4** - ³ *how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard,* ⁴ *while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.*
- To confirm the apostles - **Acts 5:12** – ¹² *Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico.*

2 Corinthians 12:12 - ¹² *The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with utmost patience, with signs and wonders and mighty works.*

- To confirm Paul - **Romans 15:18-19** - ¹⁸ *For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed,* ¹⁹ *by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ;*
- To confirm the message and the messenger - **Acts 4:29-30** - ²⁹ *And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness,* ³⁰ *while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus."*

b. The purpose of healing and miracles is no longer required today:

- Since we have the completed Scriptures, the message no longer needs to be validated as from God.
- The office of apostle has passed away; therefore, these gifts are no longer required to attest to their authority.

c. The usage of the gift of healing at the time of the early church:

- Healing was instantaneous - **Mark 1:42** - ⁴² *And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean.*
- Healing was complete and permanent - **Matthew 14:36** - ³⁶ *he took the seven loaves and the fish, and having given thanks he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.*
- Healed blindness, paralysis, etc. - **Acts 3:7** – ⁷ *And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong.*

Acts 8:5-7 - ⁵ *Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. ⁶ And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. ⁷ For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed.*

Matthew 10:1 - *And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction.*

- Healing was unconditional (it did not depend upon the faith of the one being healed)
- John 9:25** - ²⁵ *He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see"*

d. The manifestation of the gift of healing today does not match that of the early church.

None of the faith healers today heal instantaneously, completely, permanently, and unconditionally. Moreover, the healers of today do not heal blindness, paralysis, or similar conditions. Therefore, we do not believe the gifts of healing and miracles are active today.

Tongues and the Interpretation of Tongues

a. The purpose of tongues and the interpretation of tongues:

- A sign to unbelieving Jews - **1 Corinthians 14:21-22** - ²¹ *In the Law it is written, "By people of strange tongues and by the lips of foreigners will I speak to this people, and even then they will not listen to me, says the Lord." ²² Thus tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for believers.*
- Attested to the salvation of the Gentiles - **Acts 10:47** – ⁴⁷ *"Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"*

Acts 11:15-18 - ¹⁵ *As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning.* ¹⁶ *And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'* ¹⁷ *If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?"* ¹⁸ *When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."*

- To give a word from God to edify the church - **1 Corinthians 14:26-28** - ²⁶ *What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.* ²⁷ *If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret.* ²⁸ *But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God.*

b. The purpose of tongues and the interpretation of tongues is no longer required today:

- The usage of tongues as a sign to the Jews, to confirm the acceptance of the Gentiles into the church, is no longer required today.
- Since we have the completed and sufficient Scriptures, a word from God, by way of tongues and the interpretation of tongues, is no longer needed.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - ¹⁶ *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,* ¹⁷ *that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

c. The usage of tongues and the interpretation of tongues at the time of the early church:

- Tongues were known languages - **Acts 2:4-11** - ⁴ *And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.* ⁵ *Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven.* ⁶ *And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language.* ⁷ *And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?"* ⁸ *And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?"* ⁹ *Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,* ¹⁰ *Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome,* ¹¹ *both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."*

- Tongues were to be regulated: one, two, or at the most three, and each in turn, and with interpretation - **1 Corinthians 14:26-28, 40** - ²⁶ *What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.* ²⁷ *If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret.* ²⁸ *But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God.* ⁴⁰ *But all things should be done decently and in order.*

d. The manifestation of tongues and the interpretation of tongues today do not match that of the early church.

What is seen today as tongues, at the forefront of the charismatic movement, is uncontrolled. Today, what is seen as tongues is unintelligible and done by many, all at the same time (in contrast to 1 Corinthians 14:26-28).

3. THE EXERCISE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

A. EXHORTATION TO BE INVOLVED IN MINISTRY

B. FINDING YOUR GIFTEDNESS

C. MINISTERING YOUR GIFT IN LOVE

1 Corinthians 12 and 14 on the crucial nature of love, chapter 13.

In what ways does the presence or absence of love affect the exercise of spiritual gifts in the body of Christ?

- We will not seek our own benefit; we will seek the benefit of others in the church.
- We will not cause any divisions in the body; we will work toward unity in the church.
- We will seek to care for others.

4. APPLICATION

A. RECAP THE IMPORTANT POINTS LEARNED

- Every Christian has been uniquely gifted by God for ministry.
- We received our giftedness at the time of salvation.
- Our giftedness is a blend of the various spiritual gifts.
- We are exhorted to employ our gift in serving others, for the purpose of building up the body of Christ.
- Our gifts are useless if not exercised in love.
- If we do not exercise our giftedness, the growth of the church will be hindered.

B. BE INVOLVED IN MINISTRY - 1 PETER 4:10 – *“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”*