

Ghost Stories-4
Gifts of the Holy Ghost
1 Corinthians 12:1-11 (NIV)

Hey Newsong!

I want to take a moment and welcome our first-time guests and those who are watching online!

We've been in a series called "Ghost Stories" and we're learning all about the Holy Ghost...A.K.A. Holy Spirit

In week one we learned that the Holy Ghost is a Person...He's not an "it". He's the third Person of the Trinity...Father, Son & Spirit...

When we are saved, He comes and lives inside of us...He sanctifies us...He makes us Holy...He teaches us and corrects us...He produces fruit in our lives as we become more like Jesus...

In Week Two...Pastor Barbara taught us that the Holy Spirit will lead us into all truth...and we have to be careful because there are demonic spirits...the spirits of this world that want to pull us away from God...

As Christians, we're called to listen and obey the Word of God...to go to Him for everything we need...He's our heavenly Father...

Last week we learned that not only does the Holy Spirit live inside of us...but He also wants to give us His dynamite power...We talked about the Baptism in the Holy Ghost...

Now we only had time to look at three ways He empowers us...Power to witness, power for boldness...and power to pray...He gives us a new prayer language...

If you missed any of these important messages you can watch them on demand...

When it comes to studying the Holy Ghost which is called “Pneumatology” we could spend months...this means that we’re really only scratching the surface...

I want to encourage you to continue to read and study about our Friend, and Helper...our Advocate...The Holy Spirit! Because there’s so much more!

Today I want to finish our series talking about what’s known as spiritual gifts...These “gifts of the Spirit” are supernatural manifestations that are given to believers by the Holy Spirit for the building up and strengthening of the church...

What you may not realize is that you and I, we’re born with certain gifts and talents...but we’re born again with Spiritual gifts! Your natural gifts are not the same thing as your spiritual gifts...although they can compliment one another...

Here's the thing...we need you to learn and unwrap your spiritual gifts! Why? Because they build up and strengthen our church!

The sad reality is that so many believers don't even know that they have a spiritual gift...Either they've never been taught about them...or they were taught that those gifts were only for the early church and not for today...

Interestingly enough look at how Paul starts out chapter 12...

12 Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed.-1 Co 12:1 (NIV)

I'm teaching you this today...because God's Word tells us that we should know about these things...

When we read the book of Acts we see that the apostles didn't just preach and teach...which are amazing gifts...there was also a demonstration of God's Power! The Word of God and Spirit of God working together for the glory of God!

God still wants to move like this today...we need His Word...We need His gifts...We need His Power...So that we can reach a lost world around us!

Before we get into our main text today...I want to show you a passage from the O.T. to illustrate Spiritual Gifts...

45 “Before I finished praying in my heart, Rebekah came out, with her jar on her shoulder. She went down to the spring and drew water, and I said to her, ‘Please give me a drink.’

46 “She quickly lowered her jar from her shoulder and said, ‘Drink, and I’ll water your camels too.’ So I drank, and she watered the camels also. 47 “I asked her, ‘Whose daughter are you?’ “She said, ‘The daughter of Bethuel son of Nahor, whom Milkah bore to him.’ “Then I put the ring in her nose and the bracelets on her arms, 48 and I bowed down and worshiped the Lord. I praised the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me on the right road to get the granddaughter of my master’s brother for his son.-Ge 24:45–48 (NIV)

Now we know that in the O.T. we see types and shadows of what is to come...so follow along with me...

Abraham is a type of the Father God...
He sends his servant...a type of the Holy Spirit..
To bring a bride back for his son Isaac who is a type of Jesus...

So the servant who represents the Holy Ghost...goes out and finds a bride (who represents the church) and then gives her lots of gifts...to bring her back to Isaac the bride groom (who represents Jesus)

This is what happens to us...

The Holy Spirit of God draws us to Jesus...We are the Bride of Christ...And what I want you to see is that when He came and got us...when He saved us...He gave us spiritual gifts...

These are not gifts that you have...

These are not to be confused with the fruit of the Holy Spirit...

The Fruit of the Spirit is about my character...Who I am becoming in Christ...It takes time to develop fruit...

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit is about my capabilities...What I can do for Christ...Spiritual gifts are given instantly...when needed

They strengthen the church in so many ways!

Okay now lets flip over to 1 Cor...12

We're going to move pretty quickly through our text today, because I want to spend time at the end praying for you...

1 Corinthians 12:1-11 (NIV)

Pray

Now Paul lists 9 gifts. I want to break them down into three different categories...

REVELATION Gifts

These gifts provide supernatural insight...they bring things that have been hidden into the light...

The Message of Wisdom

This isn't you're good at math but I'm not...
This isn't wisdom you gained from school...
This isn't wisdom that you gained from
experience...

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.-Jas 1:5 (NIV)

James tells us that we can ask God to show us what is true and what is right...We can ask the Holy Spirit to help us live according to God's Word...to show us which way we should go...

This isn't the kind of wisdom that Paul is talking about...How do you know? Because James says that you can ask for spiritual wisdom and God will give it generously to anyone who asks...Spiritual wisdom isn't the message of wisdom...

Now notice how Paul describes the message of wisdom...it's not given to anyone...but to one (verse 8) as the Spirit determines (verse 11) not as the believer asks...

So what is this gift called the message of wisdom?

It's a wise utterance or word spoken through the operation of the Holy Spirit which enables us to answer a particular question or solve a particular problem...

Now why would we need this gift? Well, we live in a fallen world...We're children of God but we still have problems that occur don't we? We have delicate situations that require more than worldly wisdom...

Where do we see God giving people this gift?

All through the Bible...Moses, Joseph, Solomon, Daniel...but let's look at a guy you may not know...Bezalel

Then the Lord said to Moses, 2 “Look, I have specifically chosen Bezalel son of Uri, grandson of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. 3 I have filled him with the Spirit of God, giving him great wisdom, ability, and expertise in all kinds of crafts.

-Ex 31:1–3 (NLT)

God gave Bezalel the message of wisdom so that he could build the Ark of the Covenant exactly how God wanted it built!

In Acts 6...God gives the apostles the message of wisdom to be able to handle a problem that arose in the rapidly growing church...

Certain people weren't being fed...So they needed a dream team to help serve...

2 So the Twelve called a meeting of all the believers. They said, “We apostles should spend our time teaching the word of God, not running a food program. 3 And so, brothers, select seven men who are well respected and are full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will give them this responsibility. 4 Then we apostles can spend our time in prayer and teaching the word.”-Ac 6:2–4 (NLT)

One of these dream teamers was a guy named Stephen...He gets into a debate with men from a local synagogue...

10 None of them could stand against the wisdom and the Spirit with which Stephen spoke.-Ac 6:10 (NLT)

We need the message of wisdom to help us navigate through life...

The Message of Knowledge

This is an utterance or word inspired by the Holy Spirit that reveals knowledge about people, circumstances or Biblical truth...

We've seen this gift operated many times in our church...God will give knowledge about a person or a circumstance...it will be something that the person with the gift didn't know beforehand...

It's not psychic abilities...

It's not telepathy...

It's not clairvoyance...or precognition...

These are things that are of the spirit of antichrist...They are against God's Word...And dangerous...we need to stay away from these things!

Where do we see God giving people this gift?
All through the Bible...

Moses, Joseph, Samuel, Daniel, Elijah, Elisha

God gave it to Nathan the Prophet in **2 Samuel 12** who was given a message of knowledge about David's affair with Bathsheba and murder of her husband...

It's given to Peter in Acts 5...He gets a word of knowledge about deception and corruption going on in the church...

Jesus uses the message of knowledge in the opening chapter of John...

45 Philip went to look for Nathanael and told him, "We have found the very person Moses and the prophets wrote about! His name is Jesus, the son of Joseph from Nazareth." 46 "Nazareth!" exclaimed Nathanael. "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" "Come and see for yourself," Philip replied.

47 As they approached, Jesus said, “Now here is a genuine son of Israel—a man of complete integrity.” 48 “How do you know about me?” Nathanael asked. Jesus replied, “I could see you under the fig tree before Philip found you.” 49 Then Nathanael exclaimed, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God—the King of Israel!”-Jn 1:45–49 (NLT)

So all through the Bible we see that the message of knowledge is used to help people...

It's used to enlighten and encourage people...
To reveal things from the past...(Moses and creation) or to reveal things to come (John and endtimes)

To expose sin, and restore the repentant sinner...

It's even used to discover lost people or property (Saul/donkeys)

We need this gift...and many of you have been given this gift! You've been praying for someone and you're given a vision or a picture or a word...that you had no previous knowledge about...That's the message of knowledge! It's time to unwrap it and start using it for God's glory!

Distinguishing between spirits

Now some people call this "the gift of discernment"...there's no such thing as the gift of discernment...

It's the gift of discerning or distinguishing between spirits...The Greek word for distinguish means to separate, to make a distinction between...

This isn't psychiatry...

It's not character reading, or fault finding...

Some people claim to have this gift...but what they really have is a critical spirit!

The gift of distinguishing between spirits is a gift given by the Holy Spirit to properly identify evil spirits and to distinguish if something...like a word of wisdom or knowledge is from God...

29 Let two or three people prophesy, and let the others evaluate what is said-1 Co 14:29 (NLT)

This gift is also important because it helps to keep the church safe from demonic influence...The Holy Spirit will give this gift to expose people or practices that could be harmful to the body of Christ...

In 2 Kings 5 the Prophet Elisha distinguished that his servant Gehazi had a dishonest spirit...then through a word of knowledge received all the details

In Acts 9 Peter was given this gift to discern the deceit of Simon the sorcerer...

Paul uses it in Acts 16

16 One day as we were going down to the place of prayer, we met a slave girl who had a spirit that enabled her to tell the future. She earned a lot of money for her masters by telling fortunes. 17 She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, and they have come to tell you how to be saved." 18 This went on day after day until Paul got so exasperated that he turned and said to the demon within her, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And instantly it left her.-Ac 16:16–18 (NLT)

Jesus used this gift all the time...

38 And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.-Ac 10:38 (NLT)

Jesus was able through the gift of distinguishing between spirits to see what's inside of a person...

So you can see how important this gift is...We live in the endtimes...The Bible tells us that there will be many false prophets and teachers who will deceive many...This is why John tells us...

Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world.-1 Jn 4:1 (NLT)

These are the Revelation Gifts...They reveal things to us...

The POWER Gifts

The Gift of Faith

This isn't saving faith...It's mountain moving faith...It's a supernatural faith that enables the Christian to believe God for the impossible!

Remember when Daniel was thrown into the lion's den? Why didn't the lions hurt him? The Bible tells us that Daniel believed (or trusted in...put faith in) his God...

The Prophet Elijah on Mount Carmel in 1 Kings 18...Elijah had faith that God would show up and show off and defeat the prophets of Baal...He commanded that water be poured out on the altar before He asked God to consume it with fire! That's the gift of faith!

In Acts 3 when Peter and John were going up to the Temple to pray...Peter exercised the gift of faith and healed the crippled beggar!

Jesus said

“I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it would move. Nothing would be impossible.”-Mt 17:20 (NLT)

We need the gift of faith operating in our church! You want someone with the gift of faith to pray for you...to believe with you! It's a power gift...Not everyone has it!

Gifts of Healing

These are supernatural manifestations of the healing power of God, given by the Holy Ghost to an individual...

Jesus is our Healer! He still heals physically, emotionally, and spiritually...

The Bible declares...

“I am the Lord who heals you” (EX 15:26)

“By His stripes we are healed” (Isa 53:5)

“Lay your hands on the sick and they shall recover (Mk 16:18)

“The prayer of faith shall heal the sick” (Ja 5:15)

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever (Heb 13:8)

If you need healing for anything...in a moment we're going to anoint your head with oil and pray in faith that God will heal you!

Miraculous Powers

God still works miracles today...He uses His people to do it...

Now we use the word miracle all the time...The Giants won a game...it's a miracle!

A miracle is a supernatural intervention in the ordinary course of nature...It's the mighty power of God working through a person...

Moses parts the Red Sea...

Joshua asks the sun to stand still...

Jesus calms the storm...

Peter & Paul both raise the dead...

Why are miracles important?

They help us...

They build our faith...

They're a sign to the lost...

They teach us that God is in control...

Do you see how these gifts work together and compliment each other?

Revelation gifts, Power gifts...

SPEAKING Gifts

Speaking in different kinds of tongues & Interpretation of tongues

This is different from what we learned last week...

Last week we learned that the initial physical evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is speaking in tongues...

God gives us a heavenly language that is for our personal edification...everyone and anyone can receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit and speak in tongues...you just have to ask...

The gift of tongues is different...The gift of tongues is for the edification of the church...it's to build up the church...

The Gift of Tongues is to be used in the church gathering and must have an interpretation...

What's the purpose?

Paul tells us in 1 Cor 14 that it's a sign to the unbeliever...It could be an existing spoken language like in Acts 2...

On the Day of Pentecost the 120 believers were Baptized in the Holy Ghost and spoke in tongues...these were other languages that they didn't know...but that the people hearing them understood...It was tongues as a sign...

Wow! God is real...

Wow! God is in this place...

Wow! God is talking to me...

Wow! I need to repent and come to Jesus!

Then there are tongues that need interpretation...again these tongues are to build up the whole church...It will be a prayer, a praise, or an encouragement in an unknown heavenly language...

Now why does God choose to speak to His church like this? Because He's God and He does what He wants to do!

The bottom line is that God wants to speak to His people...and one of the ways that He speaks to us is through the gift of tongues with interpretation...

So Interpretation of tongues is the ability to supernaturally understand and communicate the meaning of the message that was given in a tongue...

(Give example)

These gifts are given to a person by the Holy Spirit and as He determines it!

The last speaking gift mentioned is

Prophecy

Now we hear the word prophecy and we think someone who's predicting the future...

“Biblical prophecy is proclaiming God’s will and exhorting and encouraging God’s people to righteousness, faithfulness and endurance”-Stanley Horton

Prophecy is a divinely and anointed word spoken in your own language...No need for interpretation...

Let love be your highest goal! But you should also desire the special abilities the Spirit gives—especially the ability to prophesy. 2 For if you have the ability to speak in tongues, you will be talking only to God, since people won’t be able to understand you. You will be speaking by the power of the Spirit, but it will all be mysterious. 3 But one who prophesies strengthens others, encourages them, and comforts them.

4 A person who speaks in tongues is strengthened personally, but one who speaks a word of prophecy strengthens the entire church. 5 I wish you could all speak in tongues, but even more I wish you could all prophesy. For prophecy is greater than speaking in tongues, unless someone interprets what you are saying so that the whole church will be strengthened.-1 Co 14:1–5 (NLT)

All of these gifts are given to the believer by the Spirit of God as the Holy Spirit sees fit...

And it's always for the building up and the edification of the church...There's so much more we can say about the gifts of the Holy Spirit...But know this...God is still giving them to His church today! He wants to use you!

As we close today I want you to know that I've been praying all week that God would pour out His gifts upon us...

So here's what I want to do...

If you came in here today with some kind of affliction...

Maybe you have chronic pain...you may have something as little as a headache or as serious as cancer...

No matter what you're dealing with...physically or emotionally if you have some sort of affliction please stand up...

Maybe you're hesitant to stand because you've done this before and nothing happened...

James 4:1 tells us that we have not because we ask not...don't let fear or disappointment keep you sitting down...

Now let's get about 6 people or so around each person who is standing up...

Now those of you who are afflicted in some way tell your brothers and sisters what's going on...

I'm going to lead us in a corporate prayer and then I'm going to release you to pray for them!

Father, in Jesus mighty name, for His sake and His glory, we ask that You would give us the gift of faith for this specific situation. You are good and You are great...and You are able to do the impossible! Lord, I'm asking that you give the gifts of healings to Your people! We need Your power today!

Let's believe God to move like only He can move today! Please begin praying!

Altar Time

