



HIGHER GROUND
CALVARY CHAPEL

SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

Class 04

Gifts of the Spirit Pt. 02

1

This class explores the Gifts of the Spirit in Exodus 31, Daniel 1, Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4.

2

Before we begin this examination, we first need to understand what a “gift of the Spirit” is and what it is used for; what the purpose of having a gift of the Spirit is.

3

As I shared in the first class, Thomas R. Schreiner defined Spiritual Gifts as, “gifts of grace granted by the Holy Spirit which are designed for the edification of the church.”

4

As we have studied the Holy Spirit, we know that He is the One who distributes the gifts and He is the One who empowers believers to use the gifts.

5

As with most gifts, a gift of the Spirit is to be used.
If you receive a book as a gift, it is meant to be read
If you receive clothes as a gift, they are meant to be worn

6

If you receive a tool or small appliance as a gift, it is meant to be used

Some gifts you get you can use every day and some you only use when you need them.

The gifts of the Spirit are very similar.

7

However, they are not given for personal use and enjoyment, they are given for service to God and the body of Christ.

Several of the gifts are repeated in the books of the Bible we will be looking at

8

For instance, the gifts of Wisdom and Knowledge are given in Exodus 31, Daniel 1 and 1 Corinthians 12

But Understanding and Workmanship are only mentioned and given in Exodus 31

9

Before we get into each of the specific gifts, a question has been raised among Christians for years: Are the gifts of the Spirit for believers today? There are those who believe they are;

10

There are those who believe that only certain ones are, while others were specifically for the Bible times;

11

And, there are those who believe all spiritual gifts mentioned in the Bible, and specifically Romans, 1 Corinthians and Ephesians were only given during the time of the Apostles and the establishment of the church in the New Testament.

12

There are many theological belief systems and their beliefs regarding gifts of the Spirit vary.

I'm going to briefly cover 4 of these belief systems:

13

- Dispensationalism
- Covenant or Reformed Theology
- Cessationism
- Continuationism

14

There are varied degrees of absoluteness in the theological belief systems

I would say that the average follower of Christ is not familiar with these belief systems and therefore I believe that they need to be taught.

15

I will just provide the basic information that shows the foundation for their respective belief system and their stand on the gifts of the Spirit.

I hold no claim to being an expert in any one of these belief systems

16

In my study of these theological belief systems, I have found that though they differ in the structure of Christianity, have a broad view of Bible doctrine and the way the Bible is interpreted in specific areas,

17

they all hold to the same doctrine and belief of salvation through faith by grace; the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

18

Let's begin with
Dispensationalism

Dispensationalism is a theological system that recognizes specific times as divinely appointed ages, ordained by God to place the matters of the world in order.

19

Dispensationalism is linked with the teachings of the Anglo-Irish theologian and Plymouth Brethren minister, John Nelson Darby (1800-82).¹

20

However, there are three general eras or forms of Dispensationalism recognized:
Classical or Traditional Dispensationalism (1830-1940s)

21

Revised Dispensationalism
(1950s-1986)
Progressive Dispensationalism
(1986-present).
In its core, dispensationalism
maintains two primary
distinctives:

22

1. It believes in a literal interpretation of the Bible, particularly regarding prophecy
2. It believes that the church is a unique institute or entity separate from Israel

23

Expanding on these beliefs,
Classical Dispensationalism
identifies seven dispensations
in God's plan for humanity:

- A. Dispensationalists hold to a literal interpretation of the Bible as the best hermeneutic

24

(Biblical hermeneutics is the study of the principles and methods of interpreting the text of the Bible).

B. Dispensational theology teaches that there are two distinct peoples of God: Israel and the Church.

25

c. Dispensationalists believe that salvation has always been by grace through faith alone—in God in the Old Testament and specifically in God the Son in the New Testament.

26

D. Dispensationalists hold that the Church has not replaced Israel in God's program and that the Old Testament promises to Israel have not been transferred to the Church.

27

E. Dispensationalism teaches that the promises God made to Israel in the Old Testament (for land, many descendants, and blessings) will be ultimately fulfilled in the 1000-year period spoken of in Revelation 20.

28

F. Dispensationalists believe that, just as God is in this age focusing His attention on the Church, He will again in the future focus His attention on Israel (see Romans 9–11 and Daniel 9:24).

29

Dispensationalists understand the Bible to be organized into seven Dispensations:^{1,2}

- Innocence (Genesis 1:1-3:7)
- Conscience (Genesis 3:8-8:22)
- Human Government (Genesis 9:1-11:32)

30

- Promise (Genesis 12:1-Exodus 19:25)
- Law (Exodus 20:1-Acts 2:4)
- Grace (Acts 2:4-Revelation 20:3)
- The Millennial Kingdom (Revelation 20:4-6)

31

These dispensations are not paths to salvation, but manners in which God relates to man.

Each dispensation includes a recognizable pattern of how God worked with people living in the dispensation.

32

That pattern is:

- 1) a responsibility,
- 2) a failure,
- 3) a judgment, and
- 4) grace to move on.

33

Unless you read a book by a dispensationalism author, like Charles Ryrie, you won't find much information regarding this belief system's view of gifts of the Spirit.

34

Influencers of dispensationalism include well known Biblical scholars and authors such as Tim LaHaye & Jerry Jenkins (Left Behind Series), and Hal Lindsey (The Late Great Planet Earth).

35

Also, dispensationalism rose in popularity through Bible conferences, Bible colleges and institutes, and particularly Dallas Theological Seminary.

36

One must search deep to find the dispensational belief regarding gifts of the Spirit
It seems there are different beliefs regarding gifts of the Spirit even with those who believe in dispensationalism.

37

Dispensationalists reject the belief that all the spiritual gifts are functioning in the church today.

They believe that certain gifts, known as the “*signs gift*” (prophecy, tongues, healing & miracles), were basically directed at Israel.

38

They believe that these signs were withdrawn after the death of the apostles and the destruction of the city of Jerusalem and the temple in A.D. 70.

39

However, they believe these gifts will return after the end of the church age when God once again deals with the nation Israel.³

They base this belief on 1 Corinthians 13:8-10

40

“Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

⁹ For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

41

¹⁰ But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. (KJV)

Skip Heitzig says that “they interpret this to mean that the spiritual gifts were for the time period before the canonization of the Scriptures” ⁴

42

One of the key Bible verses to support their belief system is 2 Timothy 2:15, to “rightly divide the word of truth” (KJV)

43

One article I found, written by Shawn Brasseaux, Ambassadors For The Risen Christ Ministries, said that he used to be one of those “uninformed Christians that believed we have spiritual gifts.”

44

“Since coming to understand the Bible rightly divided, I understand that spiritual gifts ceased 2000 years ago. Now that we have the completed Word of God, spiritual gifts are totally unnecessary for us.”

45

He went on to say, “Today, God is not interested in the spiritual gifts such as healing, tongues, wisdom, or prophecy.”

46

Dispensationalism teaches that the gifts of the Spirit, and particularly the 4 “gifts of signs” were specifically for the Jews, to prove the gospel of Jesus Christ.

47

David Guzik wrote, “Some dispensationalists are so zealous to divide between Israel and the Church that they think the teaching of Jesus in the Gospels was only or mostly for Israel,

48

and not for the Church. Some try to explain that the Sermon on the Mount was for Israel, not the Church, so we don't have to be all that concerned with it. We must avoid this error."⁵

49

So that's Dispensationalism in a nutshell and their beliefs in the gifts of the Spirit

Let's move on to:

Covenant or Reformed Theology

50

"Reformed theology is the term used to refer to the belief system(s) of those Protestant churches which trace their origins to the work of Reformers such as Huldrych Zwingli and John Calvin."⁶

51

In general, Reformed Theology adheres to the authority of Scripture, the sovereignty of God, salvation by grace through Christ, and the necessity of evangelism.

52

It is also called Covenant Theology as it maintains an emphasis on God's covenant with Adam and the new covenant which came through Jesus Christ.

53

Reformation leaders include Martin Luther, John Calvin and Huldrych Zwingli.

Beginning in the late 1400s Reformation changed the way Christianity was being taught.

54

Prior to this, for the previous 1,000 years, the Roman Catholic Church and the papacy authority determined what people were to believe.

55

Armed with the New Testament, the Reformers and Christians broke away from the Roman Catholic Church as they discovered many discrepancies between the church in the New Testament and the Roman church.

56

Martin Luther and others brought a return to the authority of the Bible, which alone was the final authority on what was to be believed and practiced.⁷

57

There are variations of doctrinal beliefs within the Reformation, but all forms of Reformation theology reject the concept of universal salvation.

58

Reformed theology teaches that the Bible is the inspired and authoritative Word of God, sufficient in all matters of faith and practice.

Reformed theology teaches that God rules with absolute control over all creation.

59

Reformed theology teaches that God in His grace and mercy has chosen to redeem a people to Himself, delivering them from sin and death.

60

“As with Luther, the Reformed followed Augustine and the medieval anti-Pelagian tradition in stressing the sovereignty of God in salvation in eternity via predestination and election” (Carl Trueman)⁶

61

Within Reformed theology is Calvinism
One of the major beliefs that Calvin taught (and which continues to be taught) is that of predestination.

62

The Apostle Paul talks a little bit about this in Romans 8:29
But Calvin took what Paul states to a completely different level
He taught the doctrine of double predestination.

63

He declared, "Predestination we call the eternal decree of God, by which he has determined in himself the destiny of every man. For they are not all created in the same condition, but eternal life is foreordained for some, and eternal damnation for others."

64

Basically, God has rearranged the outcome of every single human being, "predestined to life or to death."⁸

There is a diversity of beliefs and teachings among the past and current Reformation theologians.

65

This belief system has evolved over the centuries and most Reformation churches have remained faithful to Calvinism
Calvin developed what is called "Five Points of the acrostic TULIP"

66

Total Depravity; Unconditional Election; Limited Atonement; Irresistible Grace; Perseverance of the Saints (calvarychapel.com)⁹

67

It is argued that if we didn't choose to be saved then we cannot choose to be unsaved either.

Regarding gifts of the Spirit: Reformed theology, or Covenant theology, believes the "*sign gifts*" were withdrawn after the apostolic era.

68

They do not believe these sign gifts will ever return.

This is because they do not see any future program for the nation of Israel in the plan of God.

69

They generally associate the New Testament sign gifts as one of three clusters of miracles found in Scripture. The purpose of each cluster was to confirm new revelation.

70

Once the revelation was confirmed the miracles were withdrawn. They believe the apostles did not have successors and therefore the apostolic office ceased.

71

Since the apostles did not have successors, the gift has been withdrawn. They believe that if this one gift, apostle, has been withdrawn, then it is possible that other spiritual gifts have also been withdrawn.³

72

Cessationism

Cessationism teaches that God has withdrawn only some of the gifts of the Spirit that He originally gave to the church.

The core of their belief is partially based on 1 Corinthians 13:8-10

73

They believe that certain gifts are not available or necessary for the church today.

Tom Pennington, Pastor of Countryside Bible Church in Dallas, Texas, an advocate of Cessationism wrote an article in 2013 called, "A Case for Cessationism."

74

"We mean that the Spirit no longer sovereignly gives individual believers the miraculous spiritual gifts that are listed in the Scripture and that were present in the first century church."

75

*It is neither the Spirit's plan, nor His normal pattern to distribute miraculous spiritual gifts to Christians and churches today as He did in the times of the Apostles. Those gifts ceased as normative with the apostles."*¹⁰

76

There is debate and disagreement with Cessationists as to when "the perfect is come" is or was. Some believe, as the Dispensationalists and Reformists do, that it is when the canon of Scripture was completed.

77

While others believe it is the second coming of Jesus Christ. The gifts of the Spirit that Cessationists believe have ended are:

78

Apostleship
Prophecy
Tongues and the Interpretation
of Tongues
Healing
Miracles

79

The basis for cessationism is the claim that the church was “built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets” (Eph 2:20) ¹¹

Also, in order for these gifts to be active today there must be “new revelations.”

80

Most Cessationists hold the view that, even though God can and still does perform miracles today, the Holy Spirit no longer needs or uses individuals to work miraculous signs.

81

The apostleship consisted of the 12 apostles chosen by Jesus, with Mathias replacing Judas (Acts 1:15-26).

The foundational gift of apostleship also included Paul

82

Others identified as apostles include James, the half-brother of Jesus (Gal 1:19), and Barnabas (Acts 14:4, 14)

Since the foundation of the church has been laid, authoritative apostles, such as the Twelve, Paul, James and others, is no longer present

83

“Apostolic authority is enshrined in the Scriptures, in the canon” (Thomas M. Schreiner).¹¹

Since the gift of apostleship is no longer present, then they believe the gift of prophecy is no longer present.

84

“Prophets, along with apostles, played a key role in the founding and establishing the church” (Thomas M. Schreiner).¹²

Prophecy is defined as “speaking the infallible word of God.”

85

Prophecy is not limited to making prophetic statements concerning the future or future events.

But, since the church is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, there are no longer prophets today for the same reason there are no apostles today.

86

The foundation of the church has been laid

If there are prophets today and they give revelations that have the same authority as Scripture, then the final authority of Scripture is threatened.

87

If one claims to have the gift of prophecy today they would be a threat and danger to the church

A claim to have the gift of prophecy would “compromise the unique authority of Scripture.”¹²

88

It would create “the potential for spiritual abuse and a cultic type of authoritarianism would be great” (Thomas R. Schreiner).¹²

Tongues, Healing and Miracles

89

The gift of tongues was a sign to unbelieving Israel that God’s salvation was now available to other nations.

The gift of tongues the cessationists discuss and claim to have ceased are specifically the tongues and interpretation of tongues that were given in Acts 2:1-13

90

They associate the gift of tongues and the interpretation of tongues to prophecy and use 1 Corinthians 14:5 as substantial proof of this.

We will get to that verse when we review the gift of tongues

91

They also use Acts 2:17-18 to prove that interpreted tongues are defined as prophesying.

92

Cessationists believe that if the gift of tongues was still available and working today there would be no need for missionaries to attend linguistic schools and learn the language of a particular country.

93

Missionaries would just be able to go anywhere and speak the native language fluently, just as the apostles did in Acts 2.

Cessationists do not believe that the gifts of miracles and healing exist today.

94

If a person had a true gift of healing there should be some sort of pattern of healing.

The level of healing should be the same as the New Testament:

95

healing of the blind, those who can't walk, those who are deaf and those who are near death.

The gifts of healing and miracles should be constrained to only those kinds of healings that took place in the New Testament, with the exception of bringing someone back to life.

96

“Cessationists point out that a key purpose of miracles and healings was to prove the Messianic identity of Jesus and demonstrate the divine origin of apostolic ministry” (Kellen Criswell).¹⁰

97

Cessationists believe that since the church is now the Scriptural “authoritative guidance for faith and practice,”¹³ the gifts and miracles that were necessary to build up the New Testament church are no longer necessary, nor are they common.

98

However, they do believe that the other gifts of the Spirit are still being used today.

Continuationism

99

“Continuationism is the belief that all the spiritual gifts, including healings, tongues, and miracles, are still in operation today, just as they were in the days of the early church” (GotQuestions.org).¹⁴

100

“A continuationist believes that the spiritual gifts have ‘continued’ unabated since the Day of Pentecost and that today’s church has access to all the spiritual gifts mentioned in the Bible.”¹⁴

101

Continuationists believe “that which is perfect is come” in 1 Corinthians 13:10 to be the second coming of Jesus Christ. Continuationists maintain that there is no scriptural evidence that any of these spiritual gifts are no longer in operation.

102

They believe that there is no Scriptural foundation for cessationism

Continuationists site several New Testament passages as proof

103

There are accounts in the New Testament early church of non-apostles working miracles and healings:

Stephen in Acts 6:8

Philip in Acts 8:6-7

104

And tongues and prophecy which were widespread among all those who were filled with the Holy Spirit:

Acts 10:46

Acts 19:6

1 Corinthians 14:5

Galatians 3:5

105

“Continuationism argues that if tongues, healing, and miracles were limited to the apostles, these gifts would not have been included in Paul’s instructions to the church body many years after Pentecost.”¹⁴

106

To continuationists it seems apparent that Paul did not consider those gifts to be limited only to the apostles. The apostles demonstrated amazing manifestations of power (Acts 15:12),

107

which may have been because Jesus gave the twelve specific power to accomplish certain miracles (Luke 9:1). Their abilities to perform these miracles were not necessarily linked to the “endowments of spiritual gifts”¹⁴ that were given to all Spirit-filled believers.

108

Continuationism also believes that tongues serve a different purpose. They do not communicate to man.

They cite 1 Corinthians 14:2 where Paul specifically states that tongues are addressed to God

109

And 1 Corinthians 14:14 where Paul says that praying in an unknown tongue his understanding is unfruitful because his spirit is praying “If God has become mute since the Scripture is complete, then all we have is a recording” (Carl Westerlund).¹⁵

110

They contend that the temporary and only partial function of the spiritual gifts (1 Cor 13:10) is a comparison to “what it will be to have that full experience of being in the presence of God” (Carl Westerlund).¹⁵

111

Keep in mind that the believers who agree with any of these theological systems believe the gospel of Jesus Christ – the virgin birth, Jesus’ ministry, death and resurrection.

112

Okay, so let’s get to the Gifts of the Spirit

I’m not going to teach these in any particular order according to where they are in the Bible, though I’m going to begin with the ones we find in the Old Testament

113

Some would say that these are not gifts of the Spirit and most Bible teachers and scholars don’t even include them when teaching or writing about the Gifts of the Spirit.

But I believe God included these for a reason

114

Just because the gifts mentioned in the Old Testament are not repeated in the New Testament does not mean they are no longer given.

115

In all of these passages – Old Testament and New Testament – I count 28 gifts of the Spirit. When we speak of the gifts of the Spirit, I believe they are unique, supernatural abilities given to believers by the Holy Spirit.

116

As we learned last week, one of the Offices of the Holy Spirit is that of Giving Gifts (1 Cor 12:7) and He is the One who distributes them (1 Cor 12:11).

Spiritual gifts go beyond one's God given talents and abilities because they have a special purpose – to glorify God and to edify the church.

117

Yes, we can glorify God with the abilities and talents we have, but those are not focused on that specific purpose.

For the most part, we use talents and abilities to earn a living and for our general pleasure.

118

For instance, there are many musicians and singers that have made millions of dollars with their talents and abilities, but few of them use these for God's glory or for church edification.

On the other hand, many do

119

The gifts of the Spirit far surpass our abilities and talents as we will see in our study.

I'm going to begin with the gifts we find in the Old Testament which are not "listed" in the New Testament

120

These are the gifts of Understanding, Workmanship, Learning and Interpretation of Dreams and Visions.

Understanding

I think every husband should be given this gift the day before marriage.

121

1 Peter 3:7a “Husbands, likewise, dwell with *them* (*wives*) with understanding”

We first see this word in Exodus 31:3-4

122

The Hebrew word is *tāḇûn* (taw-boon') and means: the act of understanding, particularly of a skill; the faculty of understanding - intelligence, insight; the object of knowledge

123

We will come back to these verses again and will get to wisdom and knowledge later
As we see in this verse and noted in previous classes, God gave Bezalel the supernatural gift of understanding, as well as the other gifts described in verse 31.

124

But Bezalel isn't the only one whom God gave this gift of understanding
1 Kings 4:29 God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding (tābûn) as measureless as the sand on the seashore.

125

Job speaks of understanding and where it comes from many times
Job 12:12-13 Is not wisdom found among the aged? Does not long life bring understanding? ¹³“To God belong wisdom and power; counsel and understanding are his.

126

Twice he asks, “where does understanding dwell?” (28:12, 20)
32:8 But it is the spirit (rûah) in a person, the breath of the Almighty, that gives them understanding.
Now, this is a different Hebrew word for understanding.

127

The word used in Exodus 31 is a noun (something that *is*)
Here, the word is a verb (an action, something that *does*)
The word is bîn and means to discern, understand, consider; to perceive, discern; to observe, mark, give heed to, distinguish, consider

128

In Psalm 119:34 the psalmist asks God for understanding (bîn) “Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; Indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart.”
Proverbs 2:6 For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding;

129

We often see wisdom, knowledge and understanding together throughout the Bible, but mostly in the Old Testament

Though it is true that we can gain understanding of a thing through knowledge, this is a natural process built into our minds from creation.

130

We know that God gives every person the ability to choose, to choose right and wrong, to choose a path for life, to make choices for many things.

In order to make these choices, we must have a certain understanding of how these choices will benefit us.

131

We learn through gaining common knowledge and knowledge gives us understanding.

This is not the gift of knowledge or understanding.

132

The gift of understanding is supernatural and is given for specific purposes, such as that of Bezalel in order to give instructions to the artisans as to the specific design God gave for making many things.

133

God also gave this gift of understanding to Solomon.
Paul writes to the church in Colossae (Col 1:9)

Paul says that he is praying that they may be filled with spiritual understanding.

134

He is speaking of the supernatural gift of understanding
After Jesus' resurrection He appeared to the disciples in Luke 24:44-45

135

They would need the supernatural gift of understanding of the Scriptures in order to spread His gospel and do all the work they had been trained for.

Workmanship

136

Again, in Exodus 31 we see this gift of workmanship. Some would say that this was not a gift, but more of an ability or occupation that God instilled in Bezalel and the artisans.

137

I disagree as God specifically states that “He has filled him with the Spirit of God, and in all manner of workmanship.” This is clearly a supernatural ability as there is not a person on the planet who could possibly contain “all manner of workmanship.”

138

We also see a similarity in the book of Nehemiah, rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem.

People were doing work that was not their occupation.

For instance, priests were rebuilding gates

139

Craftsmen – jewelers and makers of fine linens and crafts – were rebuilding the walls

The walls and gates were completed in 52 days! (Neh 6:15)

Though Scripture doesn't tell us specifically, I believe God filled all of those who were involved in rebuilding with the gift of workmanship.

140

Many people, believers and non-believers, have a talent and an ability to make things, whether from wood, linens or other materials

Some are learned and some just seem to come “naturally.”

141

Learning

Daniel 1:17 As for these four young men (*Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah*), God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. NKJV

142

God gave them “skill in all learning”

The Hebrew word for learning is, *sēp̄er* (say'-fer) and means: missive, document, writing, book
Missive: letter (of instruction), written order, commission, request, written decree

143

Document: legal document, certificate of divorce, deed of purchase, indictment, sign

Writing: book or scroll; any various types of writing

Book: book-learning, writing; be able to read (after verb 'to know')

144

These young men were Hebrews and now Egyptian slaves, but God made it so they were chosen to be in the king's palace
God gave them supernatural gifts in order to glorify Him and complete His purpose

145

The gift of learning gave them a high-speed ability to not only learn the Egyptian language, but to speak, read and write it
This gift encompasses all aspects of learning the Egyptian language and culture
Something that would normally take years to learn, these four learned and knew immediately

146

Interpretation:
Of Dreams and Visions

Daniel was also given another supernatural gift, that of interpreting the king's dreams and visions

147

But more than interpretation, we are told he was given “understanding” of dreams and vision

It is one thing to give an interpretation of something and a whole other thing to have an understanding of it

148

In Daniel 2, King Nebuchadnezzar has dreams, “and his spirit was so troubled that his sleep left him.”

He gets all of his magicians, astrologers, sorcerers, and the Chaldeans together and tells them he had this dream, but he won’t tell them what it was

149

He obviously had no confidence in any of these men because he says, “if you do not make known the dream to me, and its interpretation, you shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made an ash heap.” (2:5)

But if they tell them his dream he will reward them with gifts.

150

However, they are not able to tell the king his dream

The king sends out a decree to have all the wise men killed, which included Daniel and his three friends

Daniel to the rescue

151

Daniel went to the king and asked for a little time to give him the answer and the king obliged

Daniel returned to his house and shared what had taken place with Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah

152

“that they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

¹⁹ Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.” (2:18-19)

153

In verse 24 Daniel goes to Arioch, (he's the one the king ordered to have the wise men killed) and tells him not to kill the wise men, that he has the interpretation of the king's dream

154

Daniel is taken to the king and he says, "there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;"

155

And proceeds to tell the king all about his dream.

This happens several more times in the book of Daniel

This was a special anointing and supernatural gift given to Daniel

God used Daniel in this way to fulfill His purpose for Nebuchadnezzar, Babylon and Israel.

156

We also know of another young man that God gave this gift to; Joseph
Remember when he was in prison and the baker and butler had dreams he interpreted them and they came true

157

This is a rare gift and seems to only have occurred with Joseph and Daniel

Let's move now to some of the gifts listed in Romans 12:6-8

158

⁶Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;

⁷ Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;

159

⁸ Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness. KJV
I'm going to pull out of these verses only Giving, Mercy, Exhortation, Ministry and Ruling (Governing)

160

Giving

Every believer is called to give: to God, to the government and to others, those in need
We give to God tithes and offerings

161

Tithe is first used in Genesis 14:20 Melchizedek, the king of Salem and High Priest "of God Most High" went to Abraham and brought out bread and wine
Then he blesses Abraham

162

And we read at the end of verse 20 that he (Abraham) gave him a tithe of all

There's a lot more that goes to this account regarding the dialogue between Abraham and Melchizedek which you can read The emphasis here is on the tithe

163

The word means *tenth part*, or *payment of a tenth part*

Giving of a tithe is not a command until Leviticus 27:30 "And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's. It is holy to the Lord."

164

Malachi 3:8 says that we rob God by holding back tithes and offerings

However, that is only a portion of what Malachi is conveying

Church leaders use this portion of scripture to convince people that it is wrong to not tithe.

165

Malachi is warning the nation of Israel that they will be under a curse if they withhold God's required tithe.

This has nothing to do with individual giving to the Lord

166

Some say that the law regarding tithes was for the Old Testament times, that when Jesus came and died that grace replaced the Law.

However, when asked about paying taxes, Jesus said, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

167

Jesus also said, regarding giving, "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." (Luke 6:38)

168

Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 9:7 that God loves a cheerful giver. That means someone who gives without grumbling or complaining or out of duty. The gift of giving goes beyond this.

169

The gift of giving is speaking of one who has wealth and gives above and beyond a tithe and offering. This person, again, uses this gift to glorify God and edify the church

170

There have been many generous donations to evangelical crusades by very wealthy people over the years. God gave them the means and the gift to give generously to these events for spreading the gospel.

171

God is glorified and the church is edified

When God gives a person extra, that person often is given the gift of giving, to give a portion or sometimes all of that extra back to God

172

Paul says when giving, give with simplicity.

Simplicity means with sincerity, mental honesty; not with pretence and hypocrisy and not self-seeking.

It is generosity manifested by sincere willingness of the heart

173

Mercy

The Greek word used here for mercy is eleeō (el-eh-eh'-o) and means: to help one afflicted or seeking aid; to help the afflicted, to bring help to the wretched

This gift is often seen in use with the gift of Helps

174

The gift of mercy goes beyond being nice and showing kindness
This is a gift that searches for opportunities to show mercy to those who need it
One who is mindful and aware of the needs of others and God has equipped him or her to pour His mercy upon another

175

It is through this gift and act of mercy that God is glorified and the church is edified

Exhortation

The Greek word for exhortation is *paraklēsis* (par-ak'-lay-sis) and has several meanings.

176

In Romans 12:8 Paul is speaking of admonition, encouragement; persuasive discourse, stirring address

“To exhort is to develop relationships with other believers for the purpose of encouraging them in their spiritual growth.”

(gotquestions.org)

177

The gift of exhortation is a person's unique ability to encourage and edify others. This gift works in conjunction with discipleship, teaching and training others in ministries within the church.

178

The person who has this gift desires to (and enjoys) find Bible verses that apply to a specific situation and then shares and teaches others how it applies to them.

179

Those who exhort are usually the first to find believers (both new and seasoned) who are struggling in their faith. They come alongside those who need encouragement and spiritual support and to display in image of victorious living.

180

Ministry

The gift of Ministry is included in most of the other gifts of the Spirit.

A pastor ministers to the flock, or the body of believers in the church he pastors.

181

One who has the gift of Helps ministers to those who are in need by helping meet those needs

The Greek word for ministry is diakonia (dee-ak-on-ee'-ah) and means: "service, ministering, esp. of those who execute the commands of others;

182

the ministration of those who render to others the offices of Christian affection esp. those who help meet need by either collecting or distributing of charities; the service of those who prepare and present food."

183

This would include many forms of ministry from custodial work, to ushering, to collecting food for and distributing food to the needy

Those who have the gift of ministry are willing to serve in whatever capacity needed in the church that brings glory to God and edification for the body.

184

Ruling & Government

The Greek word for ruleth is proistēmi (pro-is'-tay-mee) and means: to set or place before; to set over; to be over, to superintend, preside over

185

Vine's Expository Dictionary - "to stand before," hence "to lead, to direct, attend to," is translated "rule," with reference to the family, in 1 Timothy 3:4, 5, 12; with reference to the church, in Romans 12:8

186

We can translate this as the gift of leader and leadership.

This word is very close to the word "government" Paul uses in 1 Corinthians 12:28

The Greek word there is kybernēsis (koo-ber'-nay-sis) and means: to govern.

187

Vine's Expository Dictionary states this word is from kubernaō, "to guide" (whence Eng., "govern"), denotes "steering, pilotage; metaphorically, "governments or governings," said of those who act as guides in a local church."

188

This would apply to ministry leaders and those in church administration

It also applies to those leadership positions outside of the church within secular government.

189

There are those God has gifted with the ability to lead within the local, state and federal governments, or other types of governments in other countries. Unfortunately, many of them abuse the gift and don't follow the leading of the Holy Spirit

190

We see this many times in the Old Testament with the kings. But since we are giving this class within the church I am just focusing on the gifts as they are used in the church

191

There are people who have been placed in positions of leadership and authority in churches who have no business being in those positions
They do not have the gift of government or leadership

192

Some desire these positions for their own purposes and perhaps their own ego

They couldn't lead a dog to it's own food

I have also seen men who were asked to be in a position of leadership, give their history of all

193

the things they did in a previous church, like a verbal résumé.

And then, when they are given a position of leadership in a new church they do absolutely nothing

This gift of government /Leadership should be a requirement for anyone who is placed in the position of overseer/leader of any ministry

194

Discernment / Discerning of Spirits

1 Corinthians 12:10

The Greek word for discerning is diakrisis (dee-ak'-ree-sis). It "embodies several ideas: to see, consider, examine, understand, hear, judge closely" (Billy Graham).¹⁶

195

Leaders of any kind should have discernment
But the gift of discernment and discerning spirits is a supernatural ability to discern many things instantly

196

The person who has been given this gift of discernment and discerning spirits will have a supernatural ability to recognize the falsity of the enemy very quickly
I believe the world is experiencing the greatest spiritual warfare activity that there has ever been

197

Though revivals are taking place sporadically throughout the world, the intensity of spiritual warfare has increased
Churches are closing in rapid numbers
People have turned against God and the church

198

Satan is working harder than ever to draw people away from Jesus and from the church

Tens of thousand of Christians have turned to TV or the Internet for their church services since the Coronavirus "Pandemic."

199

Churches have allowed Satan and his demons to infiltrate their sanctuaries through false teachers and prophets

Jesus warned in Matthew 7:15-16
15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.
16 You will know them by their fruits.

200

We will be looking at prophets next week

The person who is given the gift of discernment and discerning spirits will likely have Bible knowledge in order to recognize any false teaching or lies immediately

201

It's not just being able to discern evil spirits or false teachers.
It's supernatural ability to discern all kinds of spirits.
Satan is the "father of lies" and will twist God's truth or place a lie in a person

202

It is also a supernatural ability to discern decision making and often works with wisdom
I pray for wisdom and discernment for others in ministry, for our pastors and even for me

203

Billy Graham said, "It is important to realize that a person with the gift of discernment can often tell the difference between what is of God and what is not. Such a person can often point out false teachers – he has an almost uncanny ability to perceive hypocrisy, shallowness, deceit, or phoniness."¹⁷

204

Paul warned in 1 Timothy 4:11 that “in latter times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons.”

We need to pray that God will give each of us a spirit of discernment in order to guard against false influences

205

Next week we will look into Wisdom, Knowledge, Miracles, Faith, Healing, Apostles, Healers, Helps, Teachers, Evangelists, Pastors, Prophets and Prophecy, Tongues and the Interpretation of Tongues

Not necessarily in that order

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QUESTIONS


