



HIGHER GROUND
CALVARY CHAPEL

SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

Class 05

Gifts of the Spirit Pt. 03

1

Tonight we will be completing the Gifts of the Spirit that are given to us in the Bible
Before we begin though, I want to point out that the gifts of the Spirit are supernatural abilities the Holy Spirit gives to individual believers.

2

Last week I talked about 4 Theological Systems and what those systems teach and believe about the Bible and more specifically the gifts of the Spirit.

3

When I showed that people in some of these belief systems don't believe some or all of the gifts are available today, it does not mean that they don't believe God is not doing some of these.

4

They still believe that God is able to heal and perform miracles and teach through His Word.

What they don't believe is that these gifts are manifested in men and women by the Holy Spirit.

5

Romans 12:6-8 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; ⁷ or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; ⁸ he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

6

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. ⁶ And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.

7

⁷ But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of *all*: ⁸ for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,

8

¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

9

1 Corinthians 12:28 And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.

10

Ephesians 4:11-12 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

11

Billy Graham states that “The Spirit grants some people special wisdom, knowledge, faith, and the like, but the granting of these special gifts does not mean other Christians are barren. Rather, such spiritual gifts are often heightened forms of a rudimentary ability God gives all Christians.”¹

12

Faith

1 Corinthians 12:9

We have all been given a gift of faith.

13

The moment we believed in Jesus Christ and made the decision to follow Him, the Holy Spirit was given to us to dwell within us and we were given a gift of faith, also spoken of as a “measure of faith.”

14

Paul tells us in Romans 12:3 that “God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.”

Every believer has the perfect amount of faith needed to believe God and His promises.

I believe that as we mature in our walk, the greater amount of faith we will receive.

15

A new believer won't have the same measure of faith a seasoned believer may have because he/she has yet to endure the trials necessary to build one's faith.

16

57 years ago I gave my life to Jesus. As I grew up I didn't really understand the whole concept of faith or what Jesus meant when He said if you have the amount of faith the size of a mustard seed you can move a mountain.

17

Of course, that was a metaphor Jesus used in Matthew 17:20 to show that much can be accomplished through Him with just a small amount of faith.

18

The only faith I understood was a basic faith, which was also called trust, to believe that Jesus died for my sins and I am able to be forgiven of those sins.

19

To me now, faith is having absolute and complete confidence that God is able to do all that He promises His children.

20

To know that nothing surprises Him and that He knows everything that will happen in our lives before it happens and that He already has a solution and answer so there is no need for me to worry.

21

Billy Graham says, "We must distinguish between the grace of faith and the gift of faith.

The grace of faith means that we can believe God will do whatever He has promised to do in His Word.

22

Sometimes the Holy Spirit gives us the gift of faith to believe for things about which the Bible is silent."

He adds that "if we do not have this special gift of faith, it is not a sin."¹

23

What is faith?

Dr. Chuck Missler states, "Faith is connecting to the Spirit of God to have confidence in the character of God and His purposes. It's simply trusting that something is true just because God said it."²

24

Hebrews 11:1 gives us a Biblical definition of faith: “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” (NKJV)

There is a difference though between faith and trust.

25

Strong’s Concordance definition of faith is trusting and the definition for trust is to hope.

Hope is to have an expected end

26

I define faith as believing it will be done, God will do it; whereas trust is believing it can be done, God is able to do it.

Faith is a noun and trust is a verb

27

Human relationships are generally based on trust rather than faith.

Employers want employees who are trustworthy, honest in their day to day activities on the job.

28

In the same way, an employee wants to work for a company and have a boss that is equally trustworthy.

To trust in this sense is believing that the people we are friends with and work for can be honest and do what they say.

29

It usually takes time to prove one is trustworthy.

To have faith in someone may also take some time to develop that confidence needed.

30

The gift of faith is much greater than faith that develops in our mind. The gift of faith, like all other gifts, brings glory to God and edifies the church.

31

The person with the gift of faith is so confident in God that He is able to do anything and everything to take care of any crisis, problem or circumstance without any doubt or questioning (“what if?”).

32

The gift of faith may be defined as the special gift whereby the Spirit provides Christians with extraordinary confidence in God’s promises, power, and presence so they can take heroic stands for the future of God’s work in the church. (GotQuestions.org) ³

33

The gift of faith is more than a developed faith, but it can be a result of developing faith through trials and circumstances.

34

It's the kind of faith that people are given to have confidence and know that God will perform miracles.

It's the kind of faith Elijah had when fire came down on the sacrifice he made on Mount Carmel in 1 Kings 18:21-39.

35

He had so much faith he had gallons of water poured over the sacrifice, the alter and the mote he dug around the alter.

Then he prayed and God sent fire down from heaven and the fire consumed the sacrifice, alter and all the water.

36

By the power of the Holy Spirit working in and through Godly people, Faith (the gift of faith) can accomplish many great things.

The gift of faith gives glory to God and edifies the church as other believers see faith working in the life of that person

37

Helps

1 Corinthians 12:28

The gift of helps is probably one of the most practical gifts as it provides many different ways others can be assisted.

38

The gift of Helps may be the same gift as the gift of Ministry in Romans 12:7 as they have very similar results within the church body.

Though the Greek words are different, they are closely related in their definitions

39

The Greek word Paul uses for helps is antilēmpsis (an-til'-ape-sis)

It means a laying hold of, apprehension; In the NT: to aid, help

40

Vine's states laying hold of is to support, as in providing help or aid

I believe there are many people in the church body that don't mind helping when there is a need.

41

When Angelo needs help setting up or taking down tables after an event or a service, there are plenty of people that help do this.

There are also people that will help clean up after an event

42

These are people that don't mind helping when asked, but won't usually go out of their way to help when there is a call for help within the church. I am in no way discounting their willingness to help or the help they do provide

43

Though they don't mind helping out, they mostly help out of convenience, and there is nothing wrong with that because they are present at the time of a need and will provide the help needed without complaining.

44

The gift of Helps on the other hand, is someone who just loves to help a brother or sister no matter the inconvenience to them and no matter what needs to be done, within their capacities to meet the need.

45

“Helps embodies the idea of social service, such as assisting the oppressed who suffer from social injustice and caring for orphans and widows” (Billy Graham)⁴

There are very few limitations in the Gift of Helps.

46

It could be making meals and delivering them to someone who is sick or who has just lost a husband or wife;

Writing a letter of encouragement;

Cleaning up someone’s yard;

Taking someone to a doctor appointment or;

Grocery shopping.

47

There is an array of ways to help a brother or sister in the church body, and also outside of the church.

It could be collecting blankets and jackets for the homeless, helping feed the less fortunate in a homeless shelter or “soup kitchen.”

48

But the people that have this Gift of Helps are ready to answer the call for help at any time because the Holy Spirit has poured into them the joy of helping others.

49

Wisdom

The Gift of Wisdom is mentioned in Exodus 31, Daniel 1 and 1 Corinthians 12 We saw last week in Exodus 31 how God filled Bezalel with the Spirit of understanding and of all workmanship.

50

He also filled him with the Spirit of wisdom and knowledge.

God also gave Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, the gift of wisdom (Daniel 1:17)

51

God gave Solomon wisdom too, for his entire life.
 Unfortunately, as we know, he misused that wisdom as he became older.
 He wrote most of the proverbs

52

Proverbs 9:10 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom”
 Fear of the Lord is to have reverence, respect and piety (devotion, devoutness)
 He also says in Proverbs 16:16 that wisdom has more value than silver or gold

53

Towards the end of his reign, when he was old, he apparently threw wisdom out the window, failing to remember the wise words he spoke and wrote and let his wives “turn his heart away after other gods; his heart was not devoted to the LORD his God” (1 Kings 11:4)

54

If the man who had the greatest wisdom of all time could be led away from God, we can see how easy it would be for a normal believer.

Of the 31 chapters in Proverbs, wisdom is mentioned 54 times (NKJV)

55

Wisdom, in general, is something we gain through knowledge and experience.

We are not born with wisdom
It comes to us over time

Thomas Nelson Bible
Dictionary defines wisdom as:

56

“Ability to judge correctly and to follow the best course of action, based on knowledge and understanding.”

“The first principle of biblical wisdom is that people should humble themselves before God in reverence and worship, obedient to His commands.”

57

The Greek word for wisdom used is sophia (sof-ee'-ah) and means: broad and full of intelligence; used of the knowledge of very diverse matters; Also, the wisdom which belongs to men

58

1. specifically the varied knowledge of things human and divine, acquired by acuteness and experience, and summed up in maxims and proverbs
2. of the science and learning
3. devout and proper prudence in interaction with men not disciples of Christ, skill and discretion in imparting Christian truth

59

A second meaning is this:
 supreme intelligence, such as belongs to God

1. to Christ
2. the wisdom of God as demonstrated in forming and executing counsels in the formation and government of the world and the scriptures

60

We see by these definitions that we obtain wisdom from day to day living, interacting with others, through learning and also from God.

James 1:5 tells us that God gives us wisdom liberally just for the asking

61

Chuck Missler states that wisdom "is the ability to see what is actually going on, to comprehend the true heart of a matter and to behave in a way that works constructively in the long run."³

62

Though we all have wisdom, both worldly and Godly, as with all other gifts of the Spirit, the gift of wisdom is directly from the Holy Spirit to make a decision based not only on Bible knowledge, but on the knowledge given to the Holy Spirit from God the Father.

63

We read this a couple of weeks ago:

1 Corinthians 2:9-10

But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

64

¹⁰ But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. I believe this gift of wisdom is a supernatural ability to make a correct and sometimes instant decision,

65

whether it be for the church or outside the church which will bring glory to God and edification to the church.

An example would be of a ministry leader making a decision the he or she would not normally have an answer for.

66

Just because a person has the knowledge (knowhow) to perform the duties of leading a ministry does not mean that they have all wisdom regarding the complete workings of that ministry.

67

If this person is approached by a pastor or a volunteer in that ministry with a question about a specific way to do something they won't have the answer, but will seek the Lord and His wisdom for the answer.

68

At that moment or within a short time God will give the answer by the leading of the Holy Spirit who has all wisdom.

The answer is then shared with the pastor or that person and confirmation of the decision is made by the agreement to that answer.

69

It is often a process
 The gift of wisdom is not necessarily permanent as it was with Solomon.
 It may be given on an “as needed” basis, or it could be instilled in a believer for an extended period of time and is seen in a person by other believers and leaders.

70

But in the text of 1 Corinthians 12:8 it is the gift of *“the word of wisdom”*
 This is much more than having the wisdom to make a decision whether to proceed or not in anything specific.

71

This is obtaining wisdom directly from the Holy Spirit and speaking that wisdom.
 I like this definition from gotquestions.org: “This gift describes someone who can understand and speak forth biblical truth in such a way as to skillfully apply it to life situations with all discernment.”

72

Those who possess this gift are generally pastors, Bible teachers, children’s ministry teachers and lay counselors. But this gift is not limited to these people.

73

The Holy Spirit will give this gift to whomever He desires for the purpose of glorifying God and the edification of the church, for the “greater good.”

74

There are those in the Charismatic/Pentecostal church who view the spiritual gift of the word of wisdom (and the word of knowledge) as the Holy Spirit speaking directly from one believer to another.

75

In these words is a revelation concerning a decision or circumstance and one who claims to have this gift will say something like, "I have a word from the Lord for you."

76

By saying this, they are claiming to be speaking on behalf of God and the Holy Spirit thereby implying that their words should be strictly obeyed.

77

If this is the way God works and speaks to believers we then would basically be saying that God's Word is not sufficient to provide all that is needed to equip the believer for a life of faith and service.

78

Though it is true that God will and does use believers to speak to one another regarding the Christian life, He does not use us as a sole method for speaking His word.

79

To be given the gift of wisdom is also to be given the word of wisdom. They work synonymously.
One cannot speak wisdom if he or she does not have the wisdom to speak.
Otherwise they are spouting meaningless words.

80

The church also needs to be aware of false wisdom.
Satan will infiltrate the church with false teachers and people with false gifts, who have the appearance of being filled with the Spirit, but they are only filled with the spirit of Satan.

81

There are those who would offer false wisdom and knowledge to a believer seeking advice.

It is never a good idea for a believer to ask for and accept advice from a non-believer.

Married couples seeking marriage counseling should not go to a secular marriage counselor.

82

The wisdom of the world is not the wisdom of God and it will steer a person and a marriage in the wrong direction.

If a believer is seeking advice, wisdom and knowledge, they should go to a pastor, elder or a ministry leader.

83

God has already equipped them with knowledge, understanding and wisdom of His Word and the ability to provide sound Biblical advice and counsel.

84

Knowledge

1 Corinthians 12:8

Knowledge is also acquired through learning as well as “trial-and-error.”

The game show ‘Jeopardy’ is a great example of having knowledge.

85

The contestants on this show have great amounts of knowledge and knowledge of facts.

But is all that knowledge valuable in day-to-day life?

It can certainly be valuable for the game show.

86

The Greek word for knowledge is gnosis (gno'-sis) and means: knowledge signifies in general intelligence, understanding – the general knowledge of Christian religion; of things lawful and unlawful for Christians; moral wisdom, such as is seen in right living

87

Vine's Expository Dictionary - primarily "a seeking to know, an enquiry, investigation; denotes, in the NT, "knowledge," especially of spiritual truth; it is used; subjectively, of God's "knowledge,"

88

These definitions can also refer to false knowledge, with exception to God's knowledge, of course. John spoke of the false teachers in 2nd and 3rd John These were *Gnostics* who claimed to have received "new knowledge" from God.

89

They were much like the Latter Day Saints today. These men were traveling door to door salesmen offering to anyone who would open the door this "new knowledge."

2 John 9-10

90

Many people have head knowledge in many areas and disciplines of learning and education, but very little of that knowledge is used in day-to-day life.

There are people that read the dictionary just to learn new words, but how does that benefit them?

91

There are people that read and have read the entire Encyclopedia Britannica and have memorized thousands of facts, but, again, how has that benefited them, other than they know things?

92

There are also people who have read the Bible many times and have memorized hundreds of verses, but that's all they have done with their knowledge.

Head knowledge is useless unless it is put to work or unless you can be a contestant on Jeopardy and other trivia game shows.

93

When it comes to knowing the Bible, it is more important to know God.

Is that not the reason most people read and study it?

To learn more about God and how this relationship is supposed to work?

94

Bible head knowledge is good, but it needs to go with heart knowledge.

Knowing what the Bible says is beneficial to an individual, but it is also beneficial to others, both believers and non-believers.

95

If we are not presenting our knowledge of God's Word from the heart, in love, then it becomes meaningless to another person.

All of this knowledge is learned and is different than the gift of knowledge and the gift of the word of knowledge.

96

Billy Graham states, "That knowledge, which is the gift of the Spirit, is based on long hours of disciplined study in which God teaches us. But the capacity to apply what we learn to actual situations goes beyond study and comes directly from the Holy Spirit. Wisdom is the gift from the Spirit that shows us how to use knowledge."¹

97

There is a gift of knowledge that I believe God has given to many men and women who have written books about specific subjects that provide readers encouragement, understanding and knowledge regarding the many facets of the Christian life.

98

God has also given the gift of knowledge to the many men who have written commentaries on the Bible.

Even when they disagree on specific verses, they provide insight to those verses.

99

But, we must allow the Holy Spirit to teach us the Word of God and be discerning when we refer to commentaries.

Again, though, this verse speaks of the gift of “the word of knowledge.”

Just like the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge is not a revelatory gift.

100

If it was, it too would not be done for the “greater good.”

Words from the Lord do not come via the “word of knowledge.”

Words from the Lord will generally come through prophecy, which we will see later.

101

Chuck Missler states that “Knowledge gives us confidence to speak well. When we know something only because it has been given by the Holy Spirit, that gives us boldness to speak out. The Holy Spirit can give knowledge to people about things we have no earthly way of finding out.”²

102

Like the gift of wisdom and the gift of the word of wisdom, the gift of knowledge and the word of knowledge is not always a permanent gift.

The Holy Spirit will give the gifts on an as needed basis most of the time.

103

If a person had the gift of the word of knowledge all the time, he/she would be going place to place talking all the time, shedding light on others as the Holy Spirit gives the knowledge. We need someone like that in the white house!

104

The gifts of the word of knowledge and the word of wisdom often work together

I want to give a word of warning here.

There are many sources of knowledge available within the church.

105

We must test knowledge by God's Word, just as we are to test what we hear from the pulpit and from other Bible teachers.

There's another kind of knowledge that is like a poison gas which travels rampantly through the church.

106

It's called gossip.

This is definitely not from God or the Holy Spirit.

It is directly from the devil and many people get caught up in it.

Gossip can be generated in 2 ways: person to person and in group or corporate prayer.

107

Gossip is a sin and it is one way the devil enters the church.

Knowledge of a person's circumstances are not for every ear, whether in conversation or in prayer.

108

Gossip is an abuse of knowledge and if someone begins talking about someone else in a conversation, that is not common knowledge, it is up to you to stop them.

109

Apostles

1 Corinthians 12:28 & Ephesians 4:11

There is much controversy among theologians as to the definition of an apostle.

110

Paul states in Romans 1:1 that he is "called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God" (KJV)

The Greek word is apostolos (ap-os'-tol-os) and means: a delegate, messenger, one sent forth with orders;

111

In a broader sense applied to other eminent Christian teachers (Timothy, Barnabas, Sylvanus and others).

When Paul sent delegates from the Christian churches to carry the contributions of a charitable fund, he described them as “messengers [apostles] of the church” (2 Corinthians 8:23).

112

Jesus used the same Greek word in John 13:16 “Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent [an apostle] greater than he who sent him.”

113

Jesus is even called “the Apostle...of our confession” in Hebrews 3:1, “which is a reference to His function as God’s special Messenger to the world” (New Illustrated Bible Dictionary)⁵

114

In a wider view of the word “apostle,” the meaning included people, who like Paul that were not included in the “12”, that had seen the risen Christ and were specifically commissioned by Him.

115

There seem to be three classifications of apostles in the New Testament.
[One,] in a broad and general sense, all believers are sent into the world by Jesus Christ and therefore share in the apostolic mission of the church (John 17:18, 20:21).

116

[Two,] 2 Corinthians 8:23 and Philippians 2:25 Paul applies the word to describe special messengers of the church. This could also apply to missionaries and other Christians sent on particular missions....
[Three,] the gift of apostleship must refer to those special group of 12 men who were “apostles of Christ {Luke 6:12-13} (John R. W. Stott).⁶

117

It would seem that the 12 apostles, along with Paul and a few others, were given authority by Jesus.

This authority cannot be transferred to others.

However, any authority that Jesus gives believers cannot be transferred to other believers.

118

All authority has been given to Jesus and all that we do for Him through the spiritual gifts we have received is done with His authority alone.

There are those who believe the gift of apostles ended at the end of the apostolic age because apostleship cannot be transferred.

119

Since all gifts of the Spirit are given by the Holy Spirit and used in the authority of Jesus Christ, none of them can be transferred so why would the gift of apostleship be special?

Actually, nothing related to the Christian faith can be "transferred" to someone else as everything is given to each individual.

120

If other gifts could be transferred, then the world would be flooded with believers exercising their gifts.

Either way, the gift of apostleship is as unique a gift as all the others and has a purpose far greater than that of a messenger.

121

Cessationist, Thomas R. Schreiner states that “The word [apostle] in a less technical sense may represent pioneer missionaries, where those who are sent don’t have the same authority as the apostles previously mentioned.”

122

Does this mean that the authority of Jesus changes from age to age and people to people?

It cannot because Heb 13:8 states that He does not change; He is the same yesterday, today and forever.

The gift of apostleship, like all the other gifts, are given to believers for the purpose of bringing glory to God and the edification of the church.

123

The church is the whole body of believers throughout the world as the one body of Christ.

Therefore, those who have the gift of apostleship will do the same works as the apostles in the New Testament did with the same authority from Jesus Christ.

“With God all things are possible”
(Matthew 9:26)

124

Prophets and Prophecy

Romans 12:6

1 Corinthians 12:10, 28

Ephesians 4:11

This is yet another controversial topic regarding the gifts of the Spirit.

125

We know that God used prophets in the Old Testament to bring His word to the kings and people of Israel. It wasn't always good news either.

Jonah was a prophet whom God told to go to Nineveh and tell the people to repent.

126

We know what happened to him when he refused to go and traveled in the opposite direction. The end result was that he went and the entire city repented and turned to God.

127

The Hebrew word for prophet is nābî' (naw-vee') and means: spokesman, speaker, prophet; including a false prophet
The Greek word is prophētēs (prof-ay'-tace) and means: of men filled with the Spirit of God, who by God's authority and command in words of weight pleads the cause of God and urges salvation of men;

128

of prophets that appeared in the apostolic age among Christians
1. they are associated with the apostles
in the religious assemblies of the Christians, they were moved by the Holy Spirit to speak, having power to instruct, comfort, encourage, rebuke, convict, and stimulate, their hearers

129

The Old Testament prophets had 2 ministries: One was to speak the word given by God concerning the future and the other was to speak the word of God to rebuke and instruct kings and leaders.

130

The gift of prophecy that foretold and predicted future events in both the Old and New Testaments no longer exists.

There are those who claim to have this gift, but what they speak is not true prophecy and is mostly just babble.

131

We know of the mediums who claim to know the future – palm readers, fortune tellers and the like – but whatever these people are able to do comes directly from the devil

These types of false prophets and fortune tellers have been around for thousands of years

132

In apostolic times the gift of prophecy had two parts: One concerned the communication of the words from God to men through the prophet.

This was a supernatural gift.

God provided the gift of discerning spirits to other believers in order to identify false prophets

133

The second part of the prophetic office was the edification, instruction, consolation, and exhortation of the believers in local congregations (1 Cor 14:3).

In these cases, the traveling prophet had higher authority over the local pastor

134

There were foretelling prophets in the New Testament and apostolic age.

John the Baptist was a prophet.

He foretold the coming of Messiah

Agabus in Acts 11:28 told of a famine that would take place in the days of Claudius Caesar.

135

He also foretold of Paul's imprisonment in Acts 21:10-11
 When Messiah came, He foretold of His own future and His future kingdom
 Prophecy that spoke God's words to people regarding future events seems to have ceased at the end the apostolic age.

136

The apostles Paul and John both wrote of the things to come at the end of this age.
 Every prophecy regarding future events must be a new revelation.
 As Billy Graham said, "God no longer reveals 'new truth'; there is now a back cover to the Bible."⁴

137

However, the second type of prophecy, which is also a "gift of prophecy", is available post-apostolic and will continue until Jesus returns.
 How do I know this, or why do I believe this?
 1) New revelation is not required nor necessary for this type of prophecy

138

2) It meets the requirements of church edification

Some Bible scholars and theologians say that this gift of prophecy works with and can be considered teaching and is included with the gift of pastor and teacher.

Though this is very possible, I believe it is also a gift that is used separate from the other gifts.

139

I also believe it to be a gift that is not given to someone for full time service, but given as others, on an “as needed basis.”

Chuck Missler states that “the primary job of the prophet is to act as a conduit for God to speak to people.”²

140

We find in the Old Testament many times the words, “And the word of the Lord came to...”

2 Peter 1:20-21

Prophecy is speaking and communicating God’s plan and purposes to an intended and often specific audience

141

Now we are going to look at the three "Sign Gifts"

Miracles, Healing & Healers, and Tongues & the Interpretation of Tongues

142

Miracles

1 Corinthians 12:10

"the working of miracles"

Paul uses the Greek word here for "power" - dynamis (doo'-nam-is). It means: inherent power, power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature,

143

or which a person or thing exerts and puts forth; power for performing miracles

Nelson's Bible Dictionary defines miracles as: "historical events or natural phenomena that appear to violate natural laws but that reveal God to the eye of faith at the same time."⁵

144

The Old and New Testaments use the words “signs” and “wonders” for miracles.

The word “sign” signifies a miracle that leads to a deeper revelation.

For Ahaz in Isaiah 7:11 & 14 it was the sign of the coming Immanuel

145

In John 2:11 it was the beginning of the signs Jesus did and the manifestation of His glory
“Wonder” places emphasis on the effect of the miracle resulting in awe and even terror.

Joel 2:30

Mark 13:22

146

A “work” points to the God’s presence in history, acting for mankind.

Matthew 11:2

The word “power” is used to place emphasis on God’s acting strength.

Mark 6:7

147

We find these words throughout the Bible to describe miracles and they often overlap in meaning as in Mark 6:7 and Acts 2:43:

“Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.”

They are more specific than the more general term “miracle.”

148

Vine’s Expository Dictionary states, “A sign is intended to appeal to the understanding, a “wonder” appeals to the imagination, a power (dunamis) indicates its source as supernatural.”⁷

We know that Jesus performed many miracles

149

The turning water into wine is attributed to Him as His first miracle recorded in John 2, after beginning His ministry (2:11)

He fed the 5,000 (Matthew 14:15-21)

And another 4,000 (Matthew 15:33-38)

He instantly calmed the storm on the sea (Mark 4:36-41)

150

Jesus told the disciples that they would do greater signs than all of these because He would go to the Father and would send them the Holy Spirit (John 12:14-17)

As we studied the Holy Spirit, it is only by His power that we are able to do the works of God in Christ Jesus.

151

Acts 2:43

Acts 5:12

2 Corinthians 12:12

It is very apparent that the gift of miracles was primarily for the apostles and specifically used during the apostolic age.

152

But the performing of signs, wonders and miracles wasn't restricted to just the 12 and Paul.

We are told in Acts 8:13 that Phillip was performing all manners of signs and wonders

Acts 6:8 And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people.

153

Peter and John prayed among
“their own companions”

Acts 4:29-30

Their companions were not necessarily just the other disciples. The disciples and many of their followers, including women, often met at Peter’s house to pray and to fellowship.

154

The word for servant here is doulos (doo'-los) and means: a slave, bondman, man of servile condition
Strong’s definition also shows: “metaphorically, one who gives himself up to another’s will those whose service is used by Christ in extending and advancing his cause among men”

155

I believe that, just as John said that all the many things that Jesus did were not written because “even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written,” that the same is true for not just the apostles, but for all of those who were in the service of Christ to spread the gospel throughout the world

156

“The Holy Spirit gave the gift of performing miracles to the early apostles as an evidence that they were Christ’s messengers for a special task; that of ushering in a new era in mankind’s history” (Billy Graham)¹

157

Billy Graham offers his opinion as to why we don’t see the “spectacular miracles” today. He thinks it could be because gift of signs and wonders “were particularly appropriate to the special circumstances of the early church.”¹

158

However, this does not mean that these signs and wonders are not happening today throughout the world. “Miracles still sometimes accompany the advance of the gospel.”¹

159

Healing & Healers

1 Corinthians 12:9, 28

The gift of healing is literally “the gift of cures.”

There are several Greek words that apply in general to the words “heal” and “healing”

160

One is therapeuō (ther-ap-yoo'-o) and primarily signifies “to serve as a therapōn, an attendant”, then, “to care for the sick, to treat, cure, heal.”

It's the word that the English word “therapeutics” is derived from.
(Matt 8:7, Matt 4:24, Acts 5:16, Rev 13:3)

161

Another word is iama (ee'-am-ah) a means of healing, remedy, medicine; to be “made whole” (Matt 15:28, Acts 9:34)

Taken from the root word iaomai (ee-ah'-om-ahee): of physical treatment, figuratively, of spiritual "healing"
(Matt 13:15, John 12:40, Acts 28:27, Heb 12:13)

162

The person who is given the gift of healing has, from the Holy Spirit, the supernatural ability to do the exact healing works that Jesus did.

When Jesus healed the lame and the sick they were immediately and permanently healed.

163

That means a broken arm or leg is restored instantly; a cancer disappears forever – it will not return; a malfunctioning heart is restored permanently.

“Healing is an event that occurs under the sovereignty of the Holy Spirit, according to the wisdom of God” *Dr. Chuck Missler*²

164

Many people “claim” the verse, Isaiah 53:5, and repeated in 1 Peter 2:24 for physical healing.

“But He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,
And by His stripes we are healed.”

165

The word "healed" means a literal healing of a person; of water, pottery (in the making of pottery); of national hurts and of personal distress.

166

I believe, as do other Bible scholars and commentators (I like it when these men agree with me), that this seems to be related more to the spiritual healing of Jesus Christ, our Savior, than that of a physical healing.

167

Though Jesus healed many of sickness, disease and physical deficiencies, along with raising some from the dead, that was not His purpose in coming.

The signs, wonders and healings that Jesus performed (and the disciples too) were to prove His deity as the Son of God.

168

The pain and suffering (“stripes”) He bore was for man’s sins and the healing of the spiritual condition, not for the physical condition.

Peter and the other apostles were given an amazing and powerful healing ministry after Pentecost.

169

People brought their sick and ailing friends and family members from cities all around and they were healed.

In Acts 19:11-12 God even worked through Paul’s handkerchiefs and aprons

God has never promised to heal those who get, or are sick.

170

There are those who believe that Christians should not have any kind of illness and if they do their faith is not strong enough.

But even these people get sick and they die, just like 100% of the population.

171

Then there are those who claim to have the gift of healing or at least some special anointing and power from God.

Most of these people are called "faith healers."

Tens of thousands of people flock to healers and I believe many are disappointed when they leave.

172

Some of these healers/preachers are on TV and/or the radio (nowadays podcasts and YouTube) and urge their listeners to write to them and send a "donation" to receive a healing
Sometimes Jesus would ask if a person believed, but He always knew the person's heart

173

We know that Satan is able to mimic many things that God does and I believe He is the real force behind these faith healers.

They claim to know and believe Jesus and often say the right words, but the Bible says that even the demons believe God and they tremble (James 2:19)

174

One famous faith healer, Kathryn Kuhlman, had a healing ministry and traveled throughout Idaho as an itinerant preacher in her early years.

She eventually had a TV program and was a pastor of a church.

175

Throughout the years, her claims of healing people of various diseases have been contested.

“Dr. William A. Nolen conducted a lengthy case study of 23 people who considered themselves to be healed by Kuhlman and found that none among them was successfully cured.”⁸

176

Of course, Kuhlman’s supporters refuted these findings.

She died early in 1976 after undergoing open heart surgery in late 1975.

People claimed to have been healed under her ministry, but she was not healed.

177

I share this because we need to distinguish the operation of what the Bible calls the gift of healing from a secondary source of healing. Faith healers place the emphasis of healing upon one's faith, saying if they have enough faith they will be healed, or if they have the faith to believe, they will be healed.

178

This kind of healing has more to do with faith than it does with the gift of healing. The Bible clearly does not teach this. The gift of healing also is not a permanent gift. It is another of those given on an "as needed" basis

179

As we learned last week there are those who believe that the gift of healing is no longer available. But if it is, and the gift is permanent, then there would be people doing this work of the Holy Spirit throughout the world and the world would be hearing about it.

180

Tongues and the Interpretation of Tongues

1 Corinthians 12:10, 28

181

The Greek word for tongues is glossa (gloce-sah') and means: the tongue, a member of the body, an organ of speech; the language or dialect used by a particular people distinct from that of other nations

182

Vine's definition: "the supernatural gift of speaking in another language without its having been learnt;"

There are three distinctions of the use and speaking of tongues

The **first** takes place on the Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:3-4

183

There are three points to view in these verses:

A. There is a purpose.

God and the Holy Spirit have a purpose for everything they do through the believer.

At this time the purpose was a type of miracle that would prove these were followers and ambassadors of Jesus Christ

184

B. This was a one-time working of the Holy Spirit with the disciples and possibly other followers of Christ at this specific time to “speak the wonderful words of God in all the various languages” (vv. 5-6)

185

vv. 9-11 list all the cities and regions people came from, signifying the varied languages represented.

Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,

186

Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs

They said, "we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."

187

c. They spoke as the Holy Spirit gave utterance

Utterance means to speak out, speak forth, pronounce

This was a complete work of the Holy Spirit

Those speaking the tongues had no control over what they were speaking

188

Second is tongues were/are used to speak the words of God

We often see this working of tongues used with prophesying and was usually preceded by the filling of the Holy Spirit.

There are also times of filling of the Holy Spirit where tongues were not given or used

189

Acts 19:6 Paul laid hands on 12 disciples of John the Baptist and “the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.”

There is no mention of an interpreter of tongues being with them and there is no information as to what they said.

190

We just covered prophecy and prophesying so we know that this is not telling of the future, but speaking a word or words of God given by the Holy Spirit.

The tongues they were speaking may have been another language

191

This took place in Ephesus, which primarily spoke the Greek language, but there were also those that spoke the Asiatic language

We don't know any more than what was written by Luke and anything we consider beyond this is only speculation

192

Other than Acts and Revelation, 1 Corinthians is the only other book where speaking in tongues is mentioned and discussed.

In 1 Corinthians it appears that the listeners did not hear a language they understood and therefore interpreters were required.

193

Paul declares that there is a gift of interpretation that works with the gift of tongues.

This must mean that the gift of tongues mentioned in 1 Corinthians must not have been a known language that would have been understood by someone whose native language was that being spoken.

194

The gift of tongues in 1 Corinthians is undoubtedly different than that which was spoken in Acts on the Day of Pentecost.

The references in 1 Corinthians of the use of tongues does not include the activity of the Holy Spirit coming in flames.

195

In fact there is no physical evidence of the Holy Spirit until the speaking in tongues takes place

Those who spoke in tongues were filled with the Spirit and the evidence was the speaking in tongues and occasionally prophesying

196

Third is speaking to God.

I believe this to be the gift of tongues being manifested today

This is a special language the Holy Spirit gives to some believers for communicating with the Father.

197

1 Corinthians 14:3-4

It is obvious by this verse that tongues are private.

If no one is able to understand what we are saying we won't do them any good. It is not for the "greater good."

198

Many churches and Christians place a great deal of emphasis on speaking in tongues

Most of them are what are known as "Pentecostals" and "Pentecostal Churches."

There are a number types of Pentecostal Churches, but the most common are Four Square, Assembly of God and Bethel.

199

They believe the proof of receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit is the ability to speak in tongues

This belief and requirement on their part is neither scriptural nor doctrinal according to the New Testament

200

Just as each gift of the Spirit is given by the Holy Spirit to individuals, so to is the gift of tongues and the gift of interpretation of tongues

The gift of tongues will not be given to every believer.

I believe they have adapted this belief from Jesus' words in Mark 16:17

201

If that's the case, then they should also believe that each and all of these signs is proof of receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

This is clearly Jesus' prophecy of what was to come on the Day of Pentecost and after.

202

They have mistakenly made this gift of speaking in tongues a priority, placing it above all other gifts

Paul clearly places the gift of tongues as a less important, if not the least important gift of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12-14

203

This is likely due to the reason that it usually does not give any spiritual benefit to other believers.

The other gifts certainly edify (build up) and strengthen the church, the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 14:5

204

Paul is placing the gift of prophecy above the gift of tongues, and perhaps even above all other gifts. But Paul does not forbid the speaking in tongues either (1 Cor 14:39)

Paul states that tongues are a sign for unbelievers 1 Corinthians 14:22

205

Chuck Missler points out that after Paul discusses the gifts of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12, he moves to the teaching of love in 1 Corinthians 13 and then picks up the discussion of speaking in tongues in 1 Corinthians 14. If we look at this like a sandwich, what makes a sandwich good?

206

The ingredients that are between the bread.
Love is the key ingredient to using the gifts of the Spirit
It makes this sandwich complete
Paul says if we have love, the spiritual gifts are good and desirable.

207

Chuck Missler says, "In other words we aren't pursuing the gift of tongues. We are pursuing love."⁹

Speaking in tongues is a form of private worship before God.

The one who uses this gift speaks words that are only understood by the Holy Spirit and not our minds.

208

It is a mysterious gift that we are not to try to understand.

209

Sources

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³ "What is the spiritual gift of faith?" Got Questions.org

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⁸ *thefamouspeople.com - <https://www.thefamouspeople.com/profiles/kathryn-kuhlman-18990.php>*

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QUESTIONS


