



HIGHER GROUND  
CALVARY CHAPEL

# SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

Class 06

The Gifts of Power

## I Thessalonians 1:5:

“For our Gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit, and in much assurance; as you know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.”

Paul noted that the Gospel was preached in power, and not word

In this sessions, I want to discuss those Spiritual Gifts that give the Gospel its power



We will start with the Gift of  
Miracles

We will move on to the Gift of  
Healing

I also want to discuss exorcism

There really is no definitive list  
in the Bible

I want to discuss the Gift of  
Discernment

And then there is a pair of Gifts  
that wrap up this topic

The Gift/Word of Knowledge

The Gift/Word of Wisdom

Romans 12:6-8:

"We have different gifts,  
according to the grace given to  
each of us. If your gift is  
prophesying, then prophesy in  
accordance with your faith..."

Romans 12:6-8:

“...if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.”



We are called upon to use our  
Gifts for God

We are not to hold back

We are not to hide them

The Gift(s) that you have are  
given by God to help you do  
His work

Because of the abuse of these Gifts, the Church has taken charge and controlled their use  
That is what Paul taught the Church to do...

Unfortunately, Satan has encouraged controlling the Gifts to the point that they are suppressed completely

This results in a dysfunctional believer

And a dysfunctional Church

Let me just stress that the  
Spiritual Gifts were given by  
God

Through the Holy Spirit

And that they were given for  
a purpose

That purpose is to equip the believers to do the work that God has called us to do

I do not think that it is an accident that when revival comes we see Gifts being used in the Church

Of course the use of Gifts  
always carried the potential for  
abuse

And this leads to the Church  
suppressing Gifts – especially  
the Gifts of Power

You can say that:

“I have the Gift of Teaching”

“I have the Gift of Help”

I have the Gift of Witnessing”

These are all safe

Therefore, they remain  
acceptable

We see a resistance to the Gift  
of Speaking in Tongues

But as we saw in prior  
sessions this is a prayer  
language

It is a language the Holy Spirit  
gives us to guide our prayers



The enemy does not want us  
to pray

And so he encourages abuse  
so that people do not use their  
prayer language

And prayers are now limited to  
our own personal ability to  
pray

We need the Gifts – ALL the Gifts

But we need to use each Gift according to its purpose and according to instructions in God's Word

So lets begin with the Gifts of  
Miracles

There is no definition in the  
Bible for a Gift of Miracles

But we do see discussion of  
something referred to as  
“signs” and “wonders”

I Corinthians 12:10:

“To another *the working of miracles*; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:”

I believe that “signs” and  
“wonders” is another reference  
to miracles

Miracles is basically anything  
that defies the Laws of Physics

Jesus defied the Laws of  
Physics

Jesus walked on water

What was the result of this miracle?

His Disciples believed He was the Son of God

They believed that He was God among them

Jesus cried out and the storms  
were stilled

The Disciples believed in  
Jesus and their faith increased

Jesus fed the 5,000 with two  
fish and five loaves of bread

The people believed

Notice the cause and effect  
here

Jesus did a miracle

He defied the Laws of Physics

And the people believed He  
was of God



Miracles – signs and wonders  
– are God’s stamp of approval  
on someone work and ministry

This is not just a New  
Testament Thing

We see miracles in the Old  
Testament

Moses had a staff that would  
become a snake

He could turn his hand into one  
infected with leprosy

He turned water to blood

He called forth pests

He brought down fire and hail  
from heaven

He turned the world dark

Joshua called for the sun to  
stand still

Samson killed a thousand  
soldiers with a bone

The miracles seem to wane for  
a while

But Elijah called fire from  
heaven

Elijah make the rain to stop

Elisha cause his servant to see  
the spirit realm

Elisha struck the entire enemy  
army blind

Elisha then restored their sight

And Elijah and Elisha raised  
people from the dead

We can expand or limit our definition of a miracle

There are many more, but I think that proves that those who serve God were given the ability to violate the Laws of Physics when the need was there

I suspect that God is very careful with these Gifts of Power and He targets those who will seek to use them only according to His guidance

Now attached to this is the Gift  
of Healing

I believe that this falls under  
the Gift of Miracles

We will see over-lapping of  
various Gifts



I Corinthians 12:30:

“Have all *the gifts of healing*?

Do all speak with tongues? do  
all interpret? ”

This is another of the Gifts that suffers a lot of abuse

Unfortunately, the enemy will counterfeit this Gift to make it impotent

He has created Faith Healers who are more scam and con artists than believers

People who are suffering or in pain will do anything to stop the pain and to be healed

This makes them perfect victims for scam artists

Let me state: There IS a Gift of Healing

Now according to James, the proper way to use this Gift of Healing is through the Church

James 5:14:

“Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the Church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord...”

I believe that this is designed  
so that God gets the glory for  
any healing and not any  
individual

Years ago I had my arm up  
inside a printer at work and it  
was caught

When I finally got it free, my shoulder had serious pain and problems

I could not even lift my arm up

There was an MRI showing a torn rotator cuff

They were scheduling for surgery

I went forward and asked for  
prayer

The Elders prayed for me

That afternoon I put it to the  
test and I was able to raise my  
arm without any pain

I cancelled the surgery



I was in an auto accident many years ago and my right arm was crushed

They put rods in it to help it heal

There was an infection making me sick

Bev's niece prayed for my arm

We went to the doctor the next  
day

The infection was gone

There was evidence it had  
been there last week

But now there was nothing

God can and does heal

But there is a requirement to  
all of this

It must be “in Jesus’ name”

That means that we are asking  
this as if we were Jesus

When Jesus taught us how to pray, He made this statement  
“Your Will be done here on earth, the same way that it is done in Heaven”

He would never ask for anything that was contrary to God’s Will

There are some situations  
where it is God's Will for  
someone to be sick, or ill, or  
injured, or disabled

God sends trials into a  
person's life for a reason

We go through trials and deal with illness, disabilities or losses so that we can minister to others going through what we go through

It is NOT God's Will to heal these conditions

This is where the Faith Healers  
come in

They put the burden on the  
injured person to be healed

They tell them that they do not  
have enough faith

**THAT IS A LIE!**

If you have enough faith to  
come forward and ask God to  
heal you, then you have  
enough faith to be healed

It is never about your faith

It is not about the faith of the  
one praying for the healing



If you are not healed, then it is a question of faith that “Will you trust God to use this illness or disability?”

Will you submit to God’s Will, or will you fight Him

If God is doing this, then God  
will give you the peace that  
passes all understanding

But you cannot have the peace  
OF God until you are at peace  
WITH God

There are those who have the  
Gift of Healing

But some of these have turned  
things around

This is their Ministry

They get on stage

They make a show of it

They put it on television

And **THEY** get the glory for it  
and not God

People are coming to **THEM**  
and not God for the healing

And they take money for it

God's Gifts are **FREE!**

They may have a legitimate  
Gifts, but they are abusing it  
So why does God allow this?

Romans 11:29:

“For the gifts and the calling of  
God are without repentance”

That means it is irrevocable

God NEVER changes His  
mind

God NEVER takes it back!

The person abusing the Gift  
will have to answer to God  
about how they abused their  
Gifts

I suspect in the Bema Seat  
Judgment

Where believer's works are  
judged

Whatever was achieved  
through their abuse of their  
Gifts will be burned up when  
tested by the fires

There will be no rewards given  
to them



As Jesus said:

“They have their reward.”

Now before moving on, let me make an additional comment about James instruction...

“...anoointing him with oil...”

Olive oil is used for the anoointing

Olive oil was a medicine back in Bible days

You should NEVER stop your medicine or your treatment as a sign of your faith

What did Jesus tell the lepers He healed?

“Present yourself to the priests”

The priests were trained in how to identify leprosy

The lepers would go to them and submit to the tests

We need to follow His instructions and go to the experts to run tests and confirm the healing

God would NEVER tell you to stop medications or treatment without confirmation that you are truly healed.

What did Jesus tell Satan?

“You shall not tempt the Lord your God”

What does that mean in  
modern English?

“Do not put God to a foolish  
test.”

“Don’t do something stupid  
and put yourself in danger to  
test God”

Before moving to the next topic, let me slip in another topic that we need to know in relation to the Gifts of Power:  
Beware of Satan's counterfeits

I Corinthians 11:13:

“For such are false apostles,  
deceitful workers, transforming  
themselves into the apostles of  
Christ.”



I Corinthians 11:14:

“And no [surprise]; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.”

I Corinthians 11:15:

“Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.”

When speaking of the Antichrist, Paul describes their works in II Thessalonians 2:9 as:

“Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders...”

Lying wonders (and lying signs) are referring to miracles that are performed for the sole purpose of deception

These are servants of Satan posing as followers of Jesus

While signs and wonders  
(miracles) are given by God to  
prove that someone is His  
servant

Do not take miracles as proof  
without testing what they are  
teaching

Do their teachings line up with the Bible – the entire Bible?

Or do they twist the Bible?

Do they teach false doctrines?

Are they leading you away from Jesus?

While I am discussing the deception of Satan and the Gifts of Power, let me give a brief discussion on Exorcism  
Jesus gave His Disciples the ability to cast out demons

Mark 3 14:

“Then He appointed twelve,  
that they might be with Him  
and that He might send them  
out to preach...”



Mark 3 15:

“...and to have power to heal  
sicknesses and to cast out  
demons:”

There does not seem to be any case of demonic possession in the Old Testament

It may have been there, but the Bible is silent

It does not get recorded until the New Testament

Now Jesus mentions the Jews  
casting out demons

Luke 11:19:

“And if I by Beelzebub cast out  
devils, by whom do your sons  
cast them out?”

So there is evidence of Jews casting out demons at the time of Jesus

The Bible just does not record any information on it

There is a question that is raised:

“Can any believer cast out a demon?”

In other words, do you need permission from God to cast out a demon?

And this creates the question of, “Is exorcism a Spiritual Gift?”

I am going to respond in a conditional way...

I believe any believer can cast out a demon if...

And this “if” is IF God has called that believer to do it

John tells us that

“Greater is He who is in us, than he who is in the world.”

God is in each believer, and God is greater than Satan

So every believer – through the power of God in him/her is greater than Satan or any demon

What does this mean in practical application?



As a believer, every believer  
has the authority and the  
power to bind the enemy in  
Jesus' name

We DO NOT do this in our own  
power

Jude 1:9:

“Yet Michael, the arch angel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, ‘The Lord rebuke you.’”

We only confront the enemy  
and his forces by turning them  
over to God to deal with

We do not confront them or  
challenge them on our own

Now there are those believers  
who are spiritual warriors

They have been in combat  
with spiritual forces

They know the Bible

They are guided by the Holy  
Spirit

These believers have authority  
over the demons

And they know how to use it

We must be careful when  
dealing with demons because  
they are powerful and  
deceptive

We might cast them out of  
someone

And they end up going into  
someone else

Jesus also warned against  
casting out demons without  
leading that person to  
salvation

He discussed the plight of  
someone who had a demon  
cast out of him

The demon returned and found  
the house clean and empty

(The Holy Spirit was not there)

The demon returned with  
several other demons and  
repossessed the man

His end condition was worse  
than his original condition

Do try this if you are not  
directed by God to do it



We as believers can, however,  
bind demons and Fallen  
Angels (they are not the same  
thing) in Jesus name

We can stop their activity

We can silence them

We can block them

In my career I have conducted  
three demonic exorcisms

The first was easy and without  
problems

A girl began to freak out and  
go out of control in my house

I called in Jesus' name to bind  
the demon(s) and to cast them  
out and away from us

She calmed down instantly

As I said, a simple exorcism

In college we had a man who  
kept coming by and asking  
questions in the men's dorm  
For all our efforts he was not  
responsive to the Gospel  
We were beginning to doubt  
what we were taught

When I realized this, I began to pray and to ask Jesus to bind the demons and cast them away from him

A few days later he came back and began asking questions and making comments

My roommate confronted him  
and he told us that he had  
gotten saved

Everything we had been  
saying to him suddenly made  
sense and he accepted Jesus

We ask him when this happened and it was at the same time I was praying for him

It was a long distance exorcism

Unfortunately, the third  
exorcism was not successful

My roommate and I held  
someone down and prayed  
over him

The demons within were  
physically lifting us up



We kept calling on Jesus to  
bind and to cast out

After an hour or more the door  
opened and a security guard  
looked in

The possessed man panicked  
He prayed

And it looked like we had been  
successful

We were not

A couple of weeks later, the  
man told us that he had  
prayed to be repossessed

He had originally prayed to be possessed

He did not want to give up his demons

And so our exorcism had failed

Even though the exorcism failed, we still had power over the demons inside of him to bind them and block them and stop them

But we could not get rid of them

There is an account of Jewish exorcists in the Book of Acts who tried to use the name of Jesus to cast out demons

They used the phrase, “In the name of Jesus whom Paul preaches...”

The demons cried out,

“We know Jesus”

“We know Paul”

“But who are you?”

The demons beat the Jews  
and drove them from the  
house naked

This is very real spiritual warfare that bleeds over into our physical world

If God is leading you to confront, then do your research

Learn what the Bible teaches about this topic

Do not go looking for demons

Again, do not put God to a  
foolish test

If God is leading and God is  
guiding

Then you will have power over  
the demons



In your own spiritual walk

You have the power and  
authority to bind demons that  
come against you and your  
family

When you confront in the  
power of God and the name of  
Jesus, you will have victory

As a transition between  
Exorcism and the Word of  
Knowledge I would like to  
discuss “discernment of spirits”

I Corinthians 12:10:

“To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another *discerning of spirits*; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: ”

The Gift of Discerning of Spirits  
is like a spiritual lie detector  
machine

The Holy Spirit will reveal to a  
believer several things  
regarding the supernatural

It might be nothing more than  
the ability to feel if demonic  
forces are around

I have walked into rooms or  
gone places and felt the  
presence of demons

Now in one instance, given  
where I was, it was a “no  
brainer”

We were at the Renaissance  
Faire

The Faire was not evil in and  
of itself

But what they allowed in could  
be

We were walking through the  
faire

I took a turn and suddenly felt  
a wall of demonic force in front  
of me

I looked up and I had turned  
down the aisle with the  
Fortune Tellers

I felt the Holy Spirit guiding me  
and I led my group right down  
the middle of the aisle



The fortune tellers also had a  
spiritual sense

Each one came out of their  
tents and glared at us all the  
way down

At the end of the aisle the  
presence was gone

It is an uncomfortable feeling  
I've known one person that  
when he entered the room that  
discomfort came with him  
Now this does not mean the  
person is demonically  
possessed

It just means that they have  
demons around them

My father was a Baptist  
Minister, and Bev and I went to  
house sit for them

The house had this  
uncomfortable feeling

Within an hour we were  
fighting with each other

We realized the source of  
the irritation and we prayed  
over my parents' home

The irritation left

We had peace

When my parents returned and  
came through the door griping  
and complaining

We could feel the demonic  
forces coming right in with  
them

It was my parent's house

There could be a believer who is doing what they should not be doing

They might constantly be negative and critical

This allows demons to surround them and influence them

They are not possessed by  
demons

But they are oppressed by  
demons

The gift of discernment will  
reveal this to another believer

This Gift can also reveal the Presence of the Holy Spirit or the Presence of an angelic host in the room or surrounding someone



It can even detect demonic forces not connected to a person

Someone gave us two boxes of “religious” books from a thrift store

We took them home and an hour later I fought rage

We went to the books

That's where the anger was  
coming from

They were “religious” but not  
Christian

They were Cult books

And false teaching

We prayed over the books  
And then threw them out  
(I did not have the means to  
burn them or destroy them)  
As soon as we did, we felt the  
peace come back into our  
home

So the Gift of Discernment will  
give you the ability to feel  
supernatural forces that might  
be around you

When we feel the peace leave  
our home

We stop and pray for God's  
protection

I want to do a short teaching  
on two other Gifts:

The Word of Knowledge

The Word of Wisdom

I am going to lump them under  
the Gifts of Power because  
they defy the Laws of Physics

I Corinthians 12:8:

“For to one is given by the Spirit the Word of Wisdom; to another the Word of Knowledge by the same Spirit;”

I kind of lump the Gift of/Word of Knowledge as a variation of prophecy.

The Gift of Prophecy is where you can hear God speak and He gives you a message to deliver for Him

The Gift of Knowledge is where  
God reveals information to you  
that you could not know  
through normal means

God might tell you to pray for  
Bill

God tells you he has cancer



He might reveal that someone  
is struggling with a secret sin

He might tell you that someone  
needs help with something

Basically God is revealing  
information or a need about  
someone

The Gift of/Word of Wisdom is  
what we do with this  
information

God reveals information and  
then tells you how to use that  
information

God might show you how you  
can put someone in contact  
with someone who can help  
them

He might show you that you  
might have a resource that can  
meet the need

I place these as Personal Gifts  
because this is normally for  
personal use and it is not  
meant for public knowledge  
It can come about in several  
ways

You might be talking and you suddenly have this urge to give them money

You might have their name suddenly come to you and you need to pray for them

God might want you to contact them

This can even apply to total strangers

You might be driving down the street and God tells you to pray for someone on the road

God might want you to pick them up

You may not know why this  
person is before you

I had a man in front of me two  
rows up one night in Church

During the invitation God kept  
bringing me back to him during  
the invitation

I finally asked God,  
“What about him?”

And he went forward and got  
saved

It is not always obvious, but  
listen and let God guide you  
through His Spirit



These are what I refer to as the  
Gifts of Power

They are proof that God is in  
your life

They are proof that God is  
using you

They might be impressive and powerful such as a miracle or a healing

They might be quiet and private like God telling you to minister to someone

But these are things that can  
only come about because of  
God

They are proof that God is  
there

They are proof that God is  
using you

We will discuss the Gifts of  
Service in our next session

# QUESTIONS

