

1/8/06

The Gifts And The Believer In Fellowship #9

As we continue in our series on the basic foundations of the Christian faith, we enter the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

We've talked about the position of the believer and the function of the believer. Now we want to talk about the gifts and the believer in fellowship.

There is probably no other area that has been more abused and misunderstood and continues to be so than the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We need to look at the gifts in relation to the scriptures not experience unless it can be verified by the scriptures.

1. Some teach the gifts are no longer in operation and that they were only for the apostolic age.
2. Others teach and exercise them in unbiblical manners based on emotions and mysticism, in a circus type atmosphere.

We won't be able to cover all the gifts that are found in Corinthians 12, 13, 14 and Ephesians 4. We want to center on nine of the gifts that I think are the most problematic, the most abused and the most misunderstood.

Introductory comments

1. Gifts are not natural abilities or talents but Supernatural which God distributes severely as He wills. Rom. 12:3, 6a, 1Cor. 12:11
 - a. We can not boast in a gift, it is given.
 - b. We can not exalt ourselves above others.
 - c. We can not use the gifts as credentials for spirituality.
2. Some times people equate their natural talents as gift of the Holy Spirit.
 - a. The gifts are super-natural.
 - b. You can be a musician but not have the gift to lead worship!
3. The gifts of God may be in an area that you have no natural ability or inclination at first.
 - a. Teaching perhaps.
 - b. Yet prior to Christ you could not stand before people and talk, you were petrified.
4. The gifts are to profit all the body not an individual. 1Cor. 12:7
 - a. They are for the edification of the body.
 - b. Not primary for self.
5. How long are the gifts to operate? 1Cor. 1:7
 - a. Till the return of Christ!
 - b. Jesus is the same yesterday as today and evermore. Heb. 13:8
5. Why should we covet the best of the gifts? 1Cor. 12:31
6. Which are the best of the gifts? 1Cor. 14:12
 - a. All gifts edify the body, except for tongues, unless it is interpreted.

- b. Always study First Corinthians 12-14 together, never alone or separate.
- c. Chapter 12 describes the gifts, chapter 13 declares that the gifts are to be operated by love to be acknowledged by God for reward and chapter 14 focuses on the problematic gifts that were flashy, tongues, interpretation and prophecy.

We want to look at these nine gifts under three categories.

- I. The gifts of revelation.
- II. The gifts of power.
- III. The gifts of inspiration.

I. The gifts of revelation.

* Many of gifts are manifested in combination and multi-combination.

A. A word of knowledge. 1Cor. 12:8

1. A word of knowledge is a supernatural revelation by the Holy Spirit, given to an individual of facts, information or details with the impossibility of him obtaining it by natural means regarding the past or present.
2. Peter confessed that Jesus was the “Son of the Living God”, at Caesarea Philippi. Matt. 16:16-17

3. The command by Jesus to Peter to go get the coin from the fish’s mouth to pay taxes. Matt. 17:27

* A word of knowledge is not the ability to read minds, subjective feelings or hunches!

B. A word of wisdom. 1Cor. 12:8

1. A word of wisdom is a supernatural revelation by the Holy Spirit of divine purposes concerning people, things or events of present or future.
2. Knowledge and wisdom as Joseph is warned to flee to Egypt. Matt. 2:13
* The word of wisdom tells you what to do, how to handle the situation!
3. The question, “Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar?” Matt. 22:15-22
* The word of wisdom was, “whose image is on the coin? Give to Caesar the things of Caesar and to God the things of God”. vs. 21

C. Discerning of spirits. 1Cor. 12:10

1. Discerning of spirits is a supernatural revelation by the Holy Spirit of Satanic spirits.
2. This is not natural discernment but discernment of evil spirit!

3. The gift is abused and misused by calling it “the spirit of discernment”, there is no such gift mentioned in the Scriptures.
4. The gift is not based on feelings but discerning of a satanic spirit present revealed by the Holy Spirit, as with Elymas the sorcerer and proclaiming blindness. Acts 13:6-10
* The gift of miracles and faith was also present at the same time!
5. The gift is not your suspicions but absolute certainty as the girl who had the spirit of divination possessing her at Philippi. Acts 16:16-18
6. The gift is not your natural discernment.
 - a. We must exercise the gifts in a very honorable way.
 - b. We must exercise the gifts in the fear of God, unless God speaks to you be quiet, less you stumble or destroy a person with your information that is not from God.

Illustration

The gifts of revelation could be compared to our brain, that comprised of the mind, the eyes, ears and smelling.

These are the gifts of revelation!

II. The gifts of power.

- A. The gift of faith. 1Cor. 12:9
 1. The gift of faith is a supernatural power of belief to an individual to receive what the holy Spirit has revealed, active faith that positively expects a miracle, not necessarily immediate. (Harold Horton)
 2. The gift could be manifested immediately or in time.
 3. The gift is distinct from miracles and healing.
* Active faith and active works.
 4. The gift is distinct from saving faith and general faith. Eph. 2:8, Rom. 10:17
 5. The gift is distinct from faith manifested through “The fruit of the Spirit”, love. Gal. 5:22, 2Thess. 1:3
* Faith will be present!
 6. Moses was called to deliver the children of Israel, to cross the Red Sea, the priest were commanded to cross the Jordan, the gift of faith was present.
- B. The gift of Miracles. 1Cor. 12:10, 28
 1. The gift of miracles is a supernatural acts or events of power which would defy, or go against our natural laws of the universe, physical, biological, scientific, etc.

- a. If I throw my Bible in the air, it should fall to the ground, if it didn't, it would be a miracle.
 - b. It is the interruption of the natural law by God to reveal His presence, like the calming of the sea after the sailors through Jonah overboard.
 - c. Can they be counterfeited? Yes, by Satan, so you need to always verify the miracle by the Scriptures, the magicians opposing Moses duplicated many things.
 - d. For there to be a counter-feit, it presupposes an original.
2. The healing of the man at the gate called Beautiful was a miracle probably through a word of knowledge and a word of wisdom, manifested in a miracle.
 - a. They were not aware of what was about to take place prior to the miracle.
 - b. You have several gifts being manifested.
 - c. The word of knowledge, word of wisdom, a miracle and faith!
 - d. God healed my Dad of a whole in his liver at Rancho de Los Amigos, as a non-believer.
 3. The miracles that occurred through Paul's sweat bands were supper-natural

- not a formula or pattern to copy. Acts 19:11-12
- a. Too many tele-evangelist attempt to copy or mimic this practice, it is presumptuous!
 - b. We have to be careful to not merchandize the people of God through formulas and patterns for healing or miracles.
 - c. John Wimber used to teach a course Power-evangelism at Fuller Seminary and they would attempt to teach people to heal, this was known as the movement of "Signs and Wonders".
 - d. The God that is unlimited, limits Himself to His word, so you can verify if it is He who is working.
4. The work of miracles are usually in a power encounter as Elijah on Mount Carmel or Paul before The sorcerer Elymas.
 - a. The power of Satan being present and active.
 - b. The power of Satan hindering the work of God.
 5. The work of miracles manifest the power of God greater than the false gods.
- C. The gifts of healing. 1Cor. 12:9
1. The gifts of healings are supernatural acts or events of power that would make

and an individual whole, healthy or healed without natural means, whatever the disorder may be and notice it is plural, gifts.

- a. For cancer or some other illness perhaps.
 - b. We have no list.
 - c. There are no “Divine healers” but God uses people and it is God who operates the “gifts of healing” as He wills not man, being sovereign.
 - * This applies to all the gifts, except for tongues.
2. The healing of the man who was brought to Jesus and let down through the roof reveals his healing. Mk. 2:5
 - * The faith was of his friends but Jesus healed him.
 3. The healing of the woman with the issue of blood. Lk. 8:48
 - * Her faith made her whole.
 4. The healing of the man at the gate beautiful. Acts 3
 - * It was the faith of Christ sovereignly!
 5. Epaphratus and Timothy were not healed yet it was not due to their lack of faith. Phil. 2:27
 - * Some of the faith teachers say that Paul did not have enough faith being arrogant!

6. The healing of Publius on the Island of Malta by and through Paul. Acts 28:8-9
 - * Miracles do not save people, for many saw Jesus do miracle and did not believe, it is faith in Christ!

Illustration

The gifts of power are like the activities of our body that consist of the circulatory system, muscle and the nervous system to keep it healthy.

These are the gifts of power!

III. The gifts of inspiration.

- A. The gift of prophecy. Rom. 12:6, 1Cor. 14:3
 1. The gift of prophecy is a supernatural utterance proclaimed to man through man by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit for edification, exhortation or comfort of which preaching is very much prophecy.
 - a. Prophecy has to be judged by scripture and the direction it is delivered and it’s three-fold function of edification, exhortation and comfort.
 - b. Prophecy and interpretation in tongues are confused often.
 - 1) Prophecy is directed to the people through a person.
 - 2) Tongues is up to God by a person.

- 3) Often in Pentecostal churches the two are confused and abused.
2. The gift of prophecy has a two-fold manifestation.
 - a. To forthtell the word of God as the instrument to communicate His mind or reveal truth.
 - * This is the primary function of prophecy in the Old Testament.
 - b. The foretelling of God's predictive revelation of the future.
 - * This is the secondary function of prophecy in the Old Testament as well as the New testament.
 3. Mary prophesied in edification, exhortation and comfort. Lk. 1:46-55
 - * Regarding all that God had done through her and for His people.
 4. The Holy Spirit spoke through the teachers at Antioch to separate Saul and Barnabas, touching exhortation and future events. Acts 13:1-3
 - * There you have a word of knowledge, wisdom and prophecy all at one time.
 5. The daughters' of Philip prophesied and the prophet Agabus predicted Paul's binding at Jerusalem. Acts 21:9-11
- B.** The gift of tongues. 1Cor. 12:10, 28
1. The gift of tongues is a supernatural utterance proclaimed by man by the

- inspiration of the Holy Spirit in an unknown language. The Spirit making intercession according to the will of God, while at the same time your understanding is unfruitful. 1Cor. 14:2, 4, 13-17
2. He or she who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, they are not understood by anyone, in the spirit speak mysteries. vs. 2, 14
 3. The gift is for personal devotion unless there is interpretation.
 4. The gift is to be used in my own private prayer life or in an orderly manner in smaller gatherings, such as after-glows.
 - * But if a person began to speak louder than another, they are calling attention to themselves!
 5. The gift was never used to preach or teach as some attempt to teach regarding the occurrence at Pentecost, for they all heard them speak in their own dialects. Acts 2
 6. The concept that the Spirit forces people to speak in tongues uncontrollably is not scriptural, for the spirit of the prophets is subject to the prophets. 1Cor. 14:15, 32
 7. The gift of tongues does not allow a person to curse Jesus. 1Cor. 12:3
 8. The gift of tongues is not possessed by all. 1Cor. 12:11, 30

9. The use of tongues and instructions are laid out. 1Cor. 14:18-25
- a. The seeming contradiction of verse 22 is cleared up by the context of verse 21 as he quotes Isaiah regarding the Assyrian judgment. Is. 28:11, Deut. 28:49
 - b. Paul has up to this point been talking about the believer and tongue, now he switches to the unbeliever and tongues. vs. 22
* To the believer he has declared that it edifies the person speaking and is beneficial only if interpreted. vs. 5
 - c. If the church is gathered together in one place and all speak with tongues and there come in those who are **uninformed** or **unbelievers**, will they both not say that you are out of your mind, mad! vs. 23
* The sign is that of madness, concluded by the fact that they can not understand!
 - d. But if all prophecy, the act of speaking forth God's word and an **unbeliever** or an **uninformed Christian** comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all. vs. 24
* The sign is of repentance from their sin rather than madness, due to their

- ability to understand the words spoken!
- e. The secrets of his heart are revealed evident by three things. vs. 25
 - a)) Falling down on his face. vs. 25a-c
 - b)) Worshipping God. vs. 25d
 - c)) Reporting that God is truly among you. vs. 25e
- C. The gift of interpretation. 1Cor. 14:5
1. The gift of interpretation of tongues is a supernatural interpretation of utterance by man, inspired by the Holy Spirit through the individual.
 2. The gift is not a translation word for word. 1Cor. 14:5-11, 28
 3. The interpretation is not the mind of the individual but of God. 1Cor. 14:26-33, 37-40
 - a. The Scriptures are the standard.
 - b. The direction must be up to God.
* Harold Horton, The Gifts Of The Spirit.
 - c. There is no such thing as "a message in tongues" found in the Scriptures.
* If God gives an interpretation of a tongue, it is directed up to God, not man.
 4. Remember.
 - a. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are Supernatural.

- b. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are distributed by God as He wills.
- c. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are to edify one another and the body.
- d. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are operated by God as He wills not man.
- e. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are to be operated decent and in order.

Illustration

The gifts of inspiration are like our speech to communicate our emotions that are subject to our will to edify the body of the church.

These are the gifts of inspiration!

Conclusion

We have looked at:

- I.** The gifts of revelation!
- II.** The gifts of power!
- III.** The gifts of inspiration!