



Appendix 3: Gifts of the Spirit Teaching

Introduction

1. **As a Pentecostal Church** we believe in the present operation of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit according to the New Testament.
2. **In our Church statement of beliefs, we say this in relation to ‘The Gifts’:**
THE GIFTS
We believe that the Church should claim and manifest the nine Gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discernment of spirits, tongues, interpretation of tongues.
3. **And lastly, part of our Church Vision and Mission Statement says this:**
We welcome the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Our leaders are Spirit-filled and seek to minister under Christ’s anointing. We encourage the wider church to exercise the spiritual gifts that Christ gave them through His Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

12 Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. ²You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. ³Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus be cursed,” and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

⁷Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

- 1 Corinthians 12 is teaching us that the Holy Spirit is committed to proclaiming that Jesus is Lord (**V1-3**), and in **V4-7** we read that the diversity of our gifts are to be rooted firmly in the unity of God.
- With emphasizing that the unity in ‘the church’ is enriched by the diversity of our gifts and the important role each of us plays in the building up of ‘the Church’.
- **Therefore, when we function in the Gifts of the Spirit**, we aren’t showing how spiritual we are – it’s a means of showing God’s grace and love to one another, as they are giving to us for ‘the common good’ (V7).

Looking specifically at the 9 Gifts of the Spirit mentioned in this text

⁸To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,^[a] and to still



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another the interpretation of tongues.^[b] ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom,

1. A message of Wisdom:

- Reflects the ability to bring spiritual insight to bear in a timely, helpful fashion in a specific context as believers.
- The supernatural impartation of a fragment of God's wisdom that helps a believer solve a complex and deep problem.
- Acts 15: 5-31
- This means that the Spiritual gift of a 'message of wisdom' will mean that sometimes a person will manifest a specific gift on a specific occasion, as the wisdom of God is uttered with succinctness and clarity, that reflects the wisdom of God.

to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit,

2. A Message (or more literally 'word) of Knowledge.

- The *word of knowledge* is knowledge supernaturally revealed that was unknown or could not have been made known to the recipient.
- God drops into a person's mind a fragment of His knowledge.
- Given supernaturally for a temporary specific purpose.
- The main distinction regarding a 'word of knowledge' (from a message of wisdom) as a 'word of knowledge' will be so specific that it was very unlikely the person giving it would have known anything regarding it by natural means.

⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit,

3. The Gift of Faith:

- This is different from the 'saving faith' we have when we put our faith and trust in Jesus.
- It's rather the God imparted ability to believe God in difficult situations.
- A supernatural ability to believe God in a given situation, a faith that is above and beyond the general exercise of faith of the Christian.
- Where all-natural human doubt dissolves and the Spirit imparts absolute confidence in us for a specific situation or circumstance.

to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit,

4. Gift of Healing:

- Interestingly the more literal interpretation is the 'plural' Gift of Healings.
- This Gift of the Spirit involves the Divinely imparted ability to restore the health of others – wither physical, emotional or spiritual.



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- As we mentioned during this series – ***As a Pentecostal Church we believe that Jesus Christ is the Healer***, that we can claim Divine Healing of the body, soul and spirit – that healing is part of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- And we read here of the Holy Spirit's desire for the church and individuals to operate in the Gift of healings.
- **And as a body of believers** we are called to minister, pray for and offer pastoral care for each other, as we live out the reality that Jesus is our healer and who desires wholeness for his people.

¹⁰ to another miraculous powers,

5. Miraculous Powers (or the 'working of miracles')

- The God given ability to perform a miraculous feat to help others.
- Although Miraculous powers are often associated with healing or faith, it also includes additional kinds of miracles, such as the apostles and other early Christians were enabled to perform, including, most notably, deliverance.

to another prophecy,

6. Gift of Prophecy:

- Prophecy is the supernatural ability to communicate spontaneously a message from God which strengthens, encourages and inspires others. **(1 Corinthians 14.3).**
- It is more to do with "forth-telling" God's word than foretelling the future.
- We often can have prophecies either over us individually or over a specific church/ministry/nation e.g.
- Specifically for a believer and as a body of believers- ***prophecy edifies the church, True prophecy is evidence of the Spirit at work and God's presence among us, Prophecy can bring powerful confirmation of God's will, and it can bring re-assurance of direction.***
- **Importance for wisdom and accountability:** Expect prophecy to be tested, even experienced people can make mistakes.

Also to mention regarding Prophecy, also in our Church Vision and Mission statement, we say this:

We direct our efforts to accomplish the vision that Christ gave us for our community while being open to the prophetic voice of the Holy Spirit for what God is doing today.

We need prophetic vision in this season we are in as a church – Remember what season we are in as a church.

e.g. Radiate etc New Thing etc.

Tery Virgo says regarding Prophecy: "If we want to be a prophetic people we need to respond to the prophetic word. Once the prophetic stream is moving, God will keep speaking into it. We must take care that we do not throw in defensiveness, hostility or cynicism and thus break the flow".



So, what is God saying over the life of our church? How do we respond to what God is currently speaking into the life of our church? How can we step a new into this season and be a prophetic people?

to another distinguishing between spirits

7. The gift of 'distinguishing between spirits' is the ability to discern the 'source' of a specific speech, event or manifestation'.

- In other words, there are only 3 possible sources: the human spirit, the demonic spirit or the Devine Spirit (from God) and we are called to seek the gift of discerning and of recognising the source of any spiritual manifestations.

to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, , and to still another the interpretation of tongues.¹

8/9. The gift of Tongues is a spontaneous manifestation in the form of a not always understood language or words with both divine and human elements.

- The Spirit inspires the spontaneous manifestation of words, but it is us as people that articulate the sounds.
- ***In Acts 19:6 we read that:*** 6 When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, *and they spoke in tongues*^[a] and prophesied.
- There are many places where the book of Acts records people receiving the Holy Spirit and evidence of the Spirit's presence, including tongues and also prophecy, with speaking in tongues being a Gift of the Spirit associated with as a result of 'baptism in the Spirit'.
- The Gift of Tongues I would describe as 'normal' but not 'normative' – so, I would encourage us to be in expectation rather than a requirement per say as a follower of Jesus, although knowing that the gift of tongues is available for us as believers.

There are two aspects of this gift:

1. The use of Tongues in personal devotion:

- The use of tongues is a private prayer language which enables communion with God and brings strength to us as believers.
- In 1 Corinthians 14v2 it states that when we speak in tongues we speak to God and not to men, therefore we see an encounter with God where we use a language not of our own (divine) to speak to God.
- I would encourage you to cultivate the use of tongues in your private prayer and praise times as a means of lifting up a declaration of who God is when not always having the words to articulate what is in your heart and spirit.

2. The public use of the gift of Tongues, which needs interpretation so that others can understand:

1 Corinthians 14:5 goes on to say that:



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5 I would like every one of you to speak in tongues,^[a] but I would rather have you prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues,^[b] unless someone interprets, so that the church may be edified.

- We can conclude the main principle with the use of the gift of tongues in a public or Church gathering context would be for the encouragement and building up of the Church (as we also see later in 1 Corinthians 14v26).
- With other than the use of tongues corporately in a gathering where personal use of tongues in prayer and praise is encouraged (when doing together with others and often encouraged in Church prayer meetings), the use of tongues without an interpretation is not encouraged out with this context.
- ***This is why the list of Gifts of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12 concludes with the ability of 'interpretation of tongues'*** - the gift of being able to interpret a message that has been spoken in other languages.
- Therefore, as a Pentecostal church we can be open for and in expectation for a message of Tongues to be brought before the church, and to be accompanied with an interpretation – all for the purposes of encouragement and the building up of the church.

Conclusion/Application/Ministry

Then our overall passage concludes that these gifts of the Spirit are indeed available to every local church and to every believer, with again emphasizing (which was our main focus last week) – that the diversity of our gifts are to be rooted firmly in the unity of God

¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

Therefore, ***the Holy Spirit gives a variety of gifts to all believers*** and Jesus followers, ***so that we all can participate in the ministry and mission of the church.***

As we read that ***'he (The Holy Spirit) distributes them to each one, just as he determines.***

Yes, we are each to – desire and to seek the 'Gifts of the Spirit' as we are encouraged to do so Scripture. But our seeking of the Gifts, must be rooted in the truth that it's the Holy Spirit that distributes the Gifts to us.

In other words - There is a Divine plan and purpose in everything and in the uniqueness of the way in which we are each to fit in the building up of the Body of Christ – (as the rest of 1 Corinthians 12 goes to expands on with 'one body, many parts etc).

As we also should remember that - The Gifts are giving to us freely by the Spirit's grace (v. 4), are intended to be used in a Christ-like attitude of servanthood (v. 5) and are the result of God's powerful working in our life – and therefore are for the common good and for His Glory (v. 6).

Amen