

GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

(1 Corinthians Chapter 12)

1. WE NEED TO BELIEVE THE BIBLE IS TRUE IN ALL RESPECTS.

(a) Quotation:

"THIS IS THE WORD OF GOD.

It is supernatural in origin, eternal in duration, inexpressible in value, infinite in scope, regenerative in power, infallible in authority, universal in interest, personal in application, inspired in totality. Read it through, write it down, pray it in, work it out, and then pass it on." Ephesians 4:11 and 12. Ministry of Evangelist to equip saints. The necessity for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. (John 20:22; Luke 24:49; Acts: 1:4-8; Acts: 2:33; John 7:38)

(b) We need to be born again. (John 3:16)

2. MEANING OF TRUE REPENTANCE ie turning to God with all our hearts away from all sin. Turning from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to the power of God. (Acts 26:18-19)

3. BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

- (a) Jesus Christ is described as the Baptiser with the Holy Spirit in each of the four Gospels. (Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33)
- (b) He breathed on ten of His disciples on the night of His resurrection. They received the Holy Spirit. (John 20:22)
- (c) (c) Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they received the promise of the Father. (Luke 24:49)
- (d) Confirmation of this happening. (Acts 1:3-4; Acts 1:8)
- (e) Day of Pentecost. (Acts 2:1-4 - 15 languages)
Jesus went to the right hand of God and received the Promise of the Father. (Acts 2:33)

(f) Speaking in tongues

Speaking in a language you do not know.

Experience with my medical doctor who heard me speak in Zulu dialect.

Our natural mind is against God. (Romans 8:7)

Cord between our natural mind and our tongue must be cut.

Out of our innermost belly will flow a river of living water. (John 7:38) When we speak in tongues it sounds like a river of living water. Occultic tongues, eg at Haiti.

Must renounce occult, witchcraft, palmistry, horoscopes. Holy Spirit will not force us to speak in tongues.

Example of man in Freemasonry who could not speak in tongues. When prayed for, demonic language came out of him until he renounced Freemasonry.

We must renounce everything of the occult. (Deuteronomy 28) We must have no abomination in our house. (Deuteronomy 7:26) We should also pray that we interpret our tongue. (1 Corinthians 14:13-15)

As we speak in tongues, Holy Spirit rises up in us, comes on our tongue and gives us a language to praise God.

We must not listen initially to what we are saying because our mind will capture our words. (Example of woman baptised 18 years ago in the Spirit but never got any more.)

Hindrances: Wrong doctrine, fear.

We must be like a little child and begin to say some words which we do not understand and then the Holy Spirit will come upon us, almost like priming a pump.

Professor of Oral Roberts University had two students outside of his study trying to speak in tongues. Thought he would help them but then discovered they were two Japanese having a conversation. Dubbo, Australia, two Salvation Army officers prayed for. Told it wasn't for today. Full of fear. They didn't speak in tongues. Next day in Dubbo Supermarket one was buying some things and stretched out to buy a bag of potatoes and spoke in tongues. The other officer, driving across the Dubbo bridge, spoke in tongues. Example of Elim pastor who told me that 20 years ago I prayed for him and nothing spectacular happened at the time, but two weeks later as he was driving his car, the power of God filled him and he spoke in tongues.

As they waited in the upper room, they spoke out in 15 languages. The world said they were drunk. Baptism with the Holy Spirit will not of itself make you a better Christian.

Yielding the last member to God, the tongue, is the last thing we want to do.

Maria, my daughter, received this gift 25 years ago and then prayed for Pat and me to be converted.

Say prayer of repentance, renounce the occult. The person praying for you should ask Holy Spirit to come upon you and a river rise up in you.

We should start initially with a word like "Abba" and then let the Holy Spirit flow from within.

4. THE ANOINTING OF GOD (1 John 2:27)

It is imperative that we know the anointing of the Holy Spirit if we are going to move in the gifts. (Exodus 30:23-30; Leviticus 8:12; Psalm 133:2; Psalm 45:8; 2 Corinthians 1:21; 1 Peter 2:9; 1 John 2:20, 1 John 2:27, Revelation 1:6)

5. WE MUST DISTINGUISH between gifts and the fruit of the Holy Spirit, ie we shall be judged by the fruit of the Spirit in our lives, not the gifts. (Galatians 5:22,23), ie love, joy, peace, long suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. (Matthew 7:7-11; Matthew 7:15-23)

6. WE MUST FIND OUR PLACE in the Body of Christ and be part of the Body. (Romans 12:1-4)

7. WE CAN RECEIVE the gifts of the Holy Spirit in various ways, but particularly:

- (a) By the laying on of hands. (2 Timothy 1:6; 1 Timothy 1:18; 1 Timothy 4:14)
- (b) By the sovereign act of the Holy Spirit,
- (c) And believing to receive the gifts.

8. LOVE (1 Corinthians Chapter 13)

9. DESCRIPTION OF THE GIFTS:

(1 Corinthians 12:1-12; (Proverbs 23:12)

(a) WORD OF WISDOM

This is an impression on our mind or a vision or the direct audible voice of the Holy Spirit or a thought about HOW to deal with the situation.

- (i) King Solomon (1 Kings 3:16-28)
- (ii) Casting the first stone (John 8:7; James 1:5-7)

Hearing God's voice.

- (i) Our hearts must be clean. "If I regard iniquity in my heart the Lord will not hear." (Psalm 66:18)
- (ii) Forget our own desires and thoughts. Not my will but Your will Lord. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. (Isaiah 55:8)
- (iii) Bind the enemy who would seek to interfere with our thinking. "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." (James 4:7)
- (iv) My sheep hear My voice. (John 10:27; 1 Corinthians 1:24; 1 Corinthians 1:30; Proverbs 1:20-30; Prov. 8:12-31)

(b) WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

This is an impression, thought, or the audible voice of the Holy Spirit ABOUT a situation. Can be a vision.

(Proverbs 23:12; John 8:47; John 16:13)
The woman at the well. (John 4:16-19)
(Hebrews 4:12; Hebrews 5:14)

(c) GIFT OF FAITH

- (i) Romans 10:17 - faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.
- (ii) As we implicitly believe the Word of God and trust it absolutely, God is able to implant this gift in our hearts. (Mark 11:23; 2 Corinthians 4:18; Jeremiah 23:29; Matthew 28:18; Matthew 28:19&20)

(d) GIFTS OF HEALING

- (i) (Mark 16:18)
- (ii) We must act in love when we pray for healing.
- (iii) We must centre our thoughts totally on Jesus Christ at the right hand of the throne of God.
- (iv) We must allow no unbelief.
- (v) A person must be counselled in the area of repentance.
- (vi) Without such repentance the Holy Spirit is quenched and healing will be blocked.
- (vii) There must be repentance in the area of unforgiveness, occult and relationships.
- (viii) Self acceptance. (1 Peter 2:24; Isaiah 53:4&5; James 5:14)

(e) MIRACLES

- (i) Instantaneous healing. (John 4:47-54)
- (ii) When we know the anointing of the Holy Spirit we sense the power of God flowing through a person and we can sense instantaneous healing.
- (iii) (John 14:12; 1 John 5:14)
- (iv) Testimony - twisted womb. Boy in wheelchair.

(f) GIFT OF PROPHECY

- (i) This is a thought, impression, or vision or the audible voice of God to a believer to enable him to bring a word from God to the church.
- (ii) The words are for edification, exhortation and comfort. (1 Corinthians 14:3)
- (iii) All should prophesy. (1 Corinthians 14:31)
- (iv) It is important to make a start even with a few words from their own mind or from Scripture.
- (v) As we act in faith, God will begin to bring words to our mind and heart. (1 Corinthians 14:29; 1 Corinthians 14:32)
- (vi) Exercise of self control - don't interrupt.
- (vii) Prophecy is often for ourselves.

(g) GIFT OF DISCERNING OF SPIRITS

This is a thought, vision or impression or the audible voice from the Holy Spirit given by God which makes us realise that spiritual forces can be affecting a person or even ourselves.
The gift of discerning of spirits is for the Body of Christ.

(h) GIFT OF PUBLIC TONGUE

- (i) We should wait for the anointing.
- (ii) We should be bold to speak out in our tongue, believing God will bless it.
- (iii) As we make a start and believe the Holy Spirit is directing us, we will find that indeed God has called us to speak out.
- (iv) We must make a start. (1 Corinthians 14:5; 1 Corinthians 14:27,28; 1 Corinthians 14:39)
- (v) Encouraging person to sing in spirit.

(i) INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

- (i) This is a thought, impression, vision or the audible voice of God whereby an interpretation (not a translation) of a tongue message is given.
- (ii) There should be a maximum of three tongues messages in a meeting together with the interpretation.
- (iii) Again, we need to make a start in faith that God will give us the ability. (1 Corinthians 14:27; 1 Corinthians 14:28)

10. PRACTICAL MINISTRY

- (a) Encourage everybody to break into pairs.
- (b) Tell them to say some words of encouragement, in a perfectly natural way, to the other person which they believe the Lord is giving them (e.g. The Lord wishes to bless you) or "God loves you" or "God is with you" or "God hears the cry of your heart" etc.
- (c) Now encourage them to expand on these words, but ensure they say nothing which directs people or tells their future.

- (d) As the person begins to say something, they should believe the Lord as giving them words which would be words of encouragement exhortation or comfort for the other person.

Step 1: Prophecy

Bring everybody back together again and break them into groups of, say, 6 people. Then begin to practice the gift of prophecy by encouraging each person in the group to say something that they believe the Lord wants to speak out to the group. As they do so, they should speak in the first person e.g. "I love you My people and I'm with you at this time". Let the person say something that they have made up for the first part of the sentence but let the Holy Spirit help them to complete the sentence.

After this has practiced, say 10 or 15 minutes we should move on to the next step.

Step 2: Gift of Tongues and Interpretation

Ask each group to pair off again into twos and encourage them individually to speak in tongues and let their partner or themselves give what they believe to be an interpretation. This interpretation should be similar to the form of prophecy above e.g. God giving words of encouragement such as "I wish to encourage My people" or again "I'm with you My people" etc.

After a few minutes, bring the group back together and tell the group to encourage individual people to speak out in their tongue and either that person or one other person bring out what they believe is their interpretation. We should bear in mind that their interpretation is normally a word of encouragement like a prophecy.

We should emphasise that we are only practicing and therefore people should feel at ease.

Step 3: Word of Knowledge

Again, before moving into this step, the leader of each group should pray briefly, asking the Lord in His wisdom to grant words of knowledge. The next step is to encourage people into the word of knowledge. We should ask people in each group to allow the Holy Spirit to give them a thought or impression concerning somebody else in the group. They should not name the particular person but have some thought about them, eg somebody is worried about some situation or has some particular illness or has some problem in their lives. The person to whom the word of knowledge applies should immediately say that it is them. Nobody should be prayed for at this stage. (Allow 10 minutes)

Discernment of spirits

In each group a person should now bring forward a problem in their life such as sickness or some oppression that they may be feeling such as fear, addiction or doubt or something which is driving, compelling or tormenting them. The others in the group should wait on the Lord as to what type of spirit might have been affecting that person. They should speak it out but no pressure be given it who should be made at this stage. If time permits, another person can bring forward their problem and repeat the procedure. (Allow 10 minutes)

Word of Wisdom

Two or three members in each group should be asked to bring forth a situation affecting their lives and others should wait on a brief word of wisdom from the Lord as to how to deal with that situation. There should be no prayer at this stage. (Allow 10 minutes)

Step 4: Healing and deliverance

Those who have been discerned as requiring prayer for healing or deliverance in the groups should now stand up, and the other members should stand and wait with them for the anointing of God and then lay hands upon them. Before doing so, however, the people should be counselled to forgive others, honour their parents and put God first in their lives.

If any demonic powers manifest then they should be cast out at that point.

11. ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF PRACTISING THE GIFTS

- (a) To demonstrate how people can come into the gifts, ask four or five people to come to the front who have never practised the gifts. There should be at least several women among them.
- (b) After inviting the group out, you should ask for the anointing to fall upon them before you taken any further steps.
- (c) You could ask them one by one to say some words that they believe the Lord has given them to encourage the gathering. This leads them into prophecy.
- (d) Then ask one of them to speak in tongues and suggest that another gives what they believe is the interpretation of that. In this way faith increases in the meeting.
- (e) After doing this several times, bring a fresh group out to do the next lot of gifts.
- (f) Encourage several in turn to reach out for words of knowledge concerning people in the gathering.
- (g) Suggest then that the person who has the word of knowledge asks the Lord for discernment as to whether the person needs to repent in some part of their life, eg for unforgiveness or whether there is some spirit attacking them. This shows the exercise of the gift of discernment.
- (h) Suggest then that the person who has responded to the word of knowledge for healing comes up to the platform.
- (i) Then ask one or more members of the panel how they believe the person should be prayed for, ie where the person should place their own hands and how the person should be actually prayed for. This, of course, is the word of wisdom.
- (j) Ask one or two of the group to lay hands on the person concerned, exercising faith for healing. This demonstrates the gift of faith and the gift of healing. If there is an immediate healing, then of course this establishes the gift of miracles.

- (k) Then suggest that all the people present be prayed for by one another to receive such gifts of the Holy Spirit as the Lord would grant. Suggest they tell each other what gifts they believe God has given the other person.

Both or either of the above methods can be used.

12. FINAL PRAYER

- (a) The nine gifts of the Spirit should be read out slowly so that each member can be thinking of the gifts which the Holy Spirit may be imparting to another person.
- (b) Everybody should be encouraged to stand in pairs, men with men and women with women. They should lay hands on each other and say a prayer similar to this:

"Dear heavenly Father, in Jesus' name I ask You to impart to my brother (or sister) such gifts of Your Spirit as You would, to the end that they be established."

- (c) Finally each person should tell the other person the gifts of the Spirit which he or she believes God has given the other person. Then they should pray finally together and the meeting should conclude.



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