

GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

Gifts of the Spirit - Introduction

As we continue to seek God and find His purpose for our lives we find the Holy Spirit distributing gifts to the body of Christ.

Heb 2:3-4 This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

As Hebrews points out Salvation and the Baptism in the Holy Spirit are always prerequisites of receiving the gifts of the Spirit. We need to *know* Jesus.

The Message of salvation was confirmed to all those who heard it with Signs, Wonders, Various Miracles, and Gifts of the Spirit. As the church moves out into the world we can expect God to confirm our message through signs, wonders, and the gifts of the spirit.

Example - Mahesh Chavda was given a gift of healing as saw many people healed of blindness, cancer, and many other illnesses. Signs and Wonders followed confirming the message of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Acts 8:4-8 Philip proclaimed the gospel in Samaria and God confirmed his message with miraculous signs.

The Holy Spirit decides which gifts are best suited for us. They are distributed according to His will.

Purpose of the Gifts

TO CONFIRM THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

As we mentioned above the first purpose of the gifts was to confirm the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. A message given to the world that Jesus loves his creation, gave up his life to save it, and rose again on the third day so we might have life.

Just as God confirmed that Jesus was the Messiah through the things he did. The Old Testament shows that they would recognize the Messiah because he would heal the sick, bring sight the blind, and the lame would walk.

Matt 4:23-24 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

Matt 11:2-6 When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?" Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor.

Jesus knew John was familiar with what the Old Testament said about the Messiah and what He would do. That's why he replied with a word that lined up with *Isaiah 35:2-6* where it lists some of the works of the Messiah.

God wants to confirm His message of salvation to the world through the gifts of the Holy Spirit. This may be through a word of knowledge, prophetic word, spiritual insight, a word of encouragement, a healing, sign or wonder. This is the work of the Holy Spirit working through us. This is not us or something we decide to accomplish on our own. We need to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and follow his lead.

John 14:8-13 Jesus explained to Philip that He was doing his fathers will. The spirit of the father was working through him.

Mark 16:15-18 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."

Acts 2:1-12 When the Holy Spirit came, the believers spoke in other tongues as the spirit enabled them. The people around them had to acknowledge that something supernatural was taking place. This event opened the door for Peter to explain what was going on and 3,000 people were saved that day.

Acts 3:1 – 4:4 When the beggar was healed it stirred the whole city. Everyone came out to see what had happened. The number of believers grew to about 5,000.

Acts 4:23-31 They prayed for boldness asking God to confirm their message through healings, miracles, signs, and wonders. The place in which they were staying was shaken.

Acts 5:1-16 Ananias and Sapphira were judged by the Lord. This brought great fear and respect towards the movement (vs 15). As a result even more people showed up bringing the sick and those tormented with evil spirits and all of them were healed.

Acts 6:8-10 Stephen, a man like you and I, not an apostle, but functioning more like an evangelist went out proclaiming the gospel with signs and wonders following. The Holy Spirit also gave him wisdom and insight through the Holy Spirit. This means you don't have to be an apostle to preach and see things happen in the spirit.

Acts 8:4-13 Philip, the evangelist goes to Samaria ministering the word, proclaiming the gospel and many people were healed and delivered of unclean spirits.

Could it happen again?

Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever. This verse is an all-encompassing verse that covers the past, present and future.

Our God doesn't change and he's not a respecter of persons. Nowhere in the bible is it written that the gifts of the spirit are no longer for today. The Jesus we serve is alive today and is still working for those who have set their hearts on Him. Our Lord has touched millions of people since the day of Pentecost in many different areas and many different generations. In Joel chapter 2 it says *"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people"*. We are in the last days and God is getting ready to move.

What's Stopping a Move of God in our day

Heb 12:10-13 Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. "Make level paths for your feet," so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

The Lord is requiring us to walk in holiness. He wants to produce a harvest of righteousness. The power of God will not come to the unrighteous. If we continually disobey Him and refuse to put the sins out of our life as He brings them to our attention, we will quench the Holy Spirit and He will stop talking to us.

We need to learn how to choose to obey the Holy Spirit (enjoying His presence) rather than giving into temptations. Rom 8:1-17 Renewing our thinking and being able to sense His presence are key to victory in this area.

God will not start something that can be quickly blown out by our enemy. He normally tests us in different areas. If we fail the test we will go through the test again, and again until we become strong in that area.

When we sin we open the door to the enemy. There are 5 areas that normally open us to the enemy; disobedience (willful sin), unforgiveness, emotional hurts, vows, or generational curses.

Heb 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him

We are too quick to turn to doctors or medication. Our faith needs to be activated.

This faith is not faith that a healing will take place (faith in faith), it is faith in the Lord. We are His servants and we cannot command Him as to what to do. He will decide what is best for the situation.

We are becoming too rational and logical in our thinking. We look at the natural realm and can't believe God for the supernatural.

James 4:3-6 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit

he caused to live in us envies intensely? But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

Men and women in our generation have been too quick to take the credit for something and build their ministry. When God pours out his spirit He needs to get all the glory.

He's looking for humble vessels to work through.

We are trying to accomplish this in our own strength. It's going to be through prayer and obedience that it happens.

Heb 6:1 Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity

We need to understand how the gifts work and operate.

Many of the gifts work together. For example, someone with the gift of healing could also have the Words of knowledge, gift of faith, and discerning of spirits.

We need to study the gifts and learn from the Holy Spirit.

GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

Manifestation of the Gifts

1 Cor 12:4-11

*There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are **different kinds of service**, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the **message of wisdom**, to another the **message of knowledge** by means of the same Spirit, to another **faith** by the same Spirit, to another **gifts of healing** by that one Spirit, to another **miraculous powers**, to another **prophecy**, to another **distinguishing between spirits**, to another **speaking in different kinds of tongues**, and to still another the **interpretation of tongues**. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.*

INTERCESSION

This is one of the most important gifts given to the Body of Christ. There are different levels of this gift as we are all called to pray and intercede, but some are given special burdens of the Lord.

Isaiah 62:6-7

I have posted watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the Lord give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the Earth.

Jesus said, "My house shall be a house of prayer". He set the direction and the priorities for the church. Intercessors are in the engine room of the ship. They provide movement and direction to the church.

For our battle is not against flesh and blood but principalities and powers in high places. We are in a spiritual war and we need spiritual weapons. We can go out in the flesh or we can go out in the spirit. Prayer is how we enter spiritual battle. It's not always by rebuking the enemy but by inviting the Lord into the situation. Our focus should be to fellowship with the Lord. If you talk about the devil it gives glory to the devil. The enemy will try anything to get our minds off of Christ and onto something else.

Personal level – Our thought life needs to be centered around the Lord. The enemy will continue to try and distract us.

This is also expanded on a Family Level, Corporate Church level, and City level.

Prayer brings intimacy with the Lord. It's one of the most effective ways of tuning into the spirit. If you have a hard time hearing from the Lord, hang out with the intercessors and practice spirit led prayer.

Prayer gives birth to ministries and works of the Lord.

Only the presence of God can bring the power and anointing to the church. *Mark 9:1-29* illustrates how the church should be setting people free. Cutting the binds of the enemy and bringing us into the freedom of Christ. Think about this little boy who was bound by an evil spirit. Would you care enough about him to lay down your life to see him set free?

TONGUES

Acts 2:2-4

Tongues was one of the first gifts given to the early church. They were *"speaking as the Spirit enabled them...."*

Tongues brings a sensitivity to the Holy Spirit; They bring impressions, guidance, comfort, and peace. We are speaking to God through the Holy Spirit. 1 Cor. 14:2-4 and 14-15.

Tongues allows the Holy Spirit to pray through us, for us, for His kingdom. Man has been given rule over Earth and God will not intervene unless invited. Tongues allow us to participate in building Gods kingdom without letting the devil know what's going on.

Sometimes God allows a person to speak in an unknown language to communicate a message to someone in the crowd that knows that language. Acts 2:8 *"We hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own language...."* This spiritual gift confirmed to all in attendance that something spiritual had just taken place and opened the door for a gospel presentation.

Declaring praise to the Lord. Act 2:11

Does everyone have the gifts of Tongues? 1Cor12:29-31 This scripture implies that not all are apostles, or prophets, or teachers, therefore not everyone speaks in tongues. Read 1 Cor. 12:4-11 again. It says, *"...to one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing..."* By saying "to one" a gift is given and "to another" a different gift, it is implying that we are not all given the same gifts. If we all had the same gifts, why would we need one another. In other words, not everyone speaks in tongues.

Speaking in tongues is one of the gifts providing evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit. What are some of the other evidences of being filled with the Holy Spirit?

Important principal that everyone needs to apply. God will speak to you through your spirit not your mind. Col. 1:27 *...Christ in you the hope of Glory.* John 14:15-20 Jesus said the spirit of Jesus will be in us. If you're trying to hear from God don't look to the heavens, get into worship and find the spirit of God in you.

WORD OF WISDOM

We are to be lead and guided by the Spirit of the Lord. Jesus was filled with wisdom. Many of those who heard him teach were amazed at how someone could have so much wisdom and power. *Mat 13:54*

Luke 2:39-40

When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.

The first nine chapters of Proverbs were written by the Spirit of Wisdom.

The Lord wants us to search for wisdom with all of our hearts. We'll find it as we search for the Lord's heart. *Proverbs 2:1-8*

Allow Him to lead us in all major decisions. This includes relationships, our occupation, where we live, our health, our finances, and ministry.

Proverbs 8:1-3

Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice?

2 On the heights along the way, where the paths meet, she takes her stand;

3 beside the gates leading into the city, at the entrances, she cries aloud:

Take note of verse 2. Wisdom is found where the paths meet. When someone is walking down a path and it branches in multiple directions, a decision has to be made. The Lord wants us to come to Him for wisdom whenever we are making major decisions.

In times past the gates of the city always had gatekeepers at the gates. It was their job to protect the city. They needed to operate with wisdom and discernment. They decided if access to the city was to be granted. This also relates to guarding our hearts so evil is not given a place.

Wisdom dwells together with Prudence. *Proverbs 8:4-12*

Prudence – The ability to govern and discipline oneself by the use of reason. 2. Shrewdness in the management of affairs. 3. Skill and good judgment in the use of resources. 4. Ability to recognize danger or risk.

Wisdom was the first fruit of the Lord. *Proverbs 8:22-31*

What is a Word of Wisdom

An impression from the Holy Spirit providing direction for a particular situation.

Strategy given to fight the enemy.

A word that changes your outlook in life.

Jesus was talking about the last days and promised He would give us words of wisdom that no one could resist or contradict us.

Luke 21:10-19

Then he said to them: "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven.

"But before all this, they will lay hands on you and persecute you. They will deliver you to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. This will result in your being witnesses to them. But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict. You will be betrayed even by

parents, brothers, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. All men will hate you because of me. But not a hair of your head will perish. By standing firm you will gain life.

Also read 1 Cor. 2:6-16

WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

A word of knowledge is when the Holy Spirit reveals something about a person or situation that would not normally be known.

God's Talking Now

Why, Many times the Lord wants to establish that **He's the one doing the talking**. This man or woman who you think is talking with you is just the instrument.

John 1:47-49

When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false."

"How do you know me?" Nathanael asked.

Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you."

Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel."

As you can see from the example above, Jesus definitely told Nathanael something that no one else should have known and Second, Nathanael knew it must be God that's talking.

The Lord has used seasoned prophets starting a prophetic word with a word of knowledge to verify the word given.

God may also use a Word of knowledge because he wants to **speak direction into your life** or **bring a healing**.

Simon the sorcerer was rebuked by Peter because he wanted to selfishly use God's power for himself. *Acts 8:14-24* This rebuke was not intended to embarrass him but to correct a wrong attitude and make an adjustment in his life.

Randy Clark would get a Word of Knowledge about health issues because God wanted to touch that person or persons by healing them. Some of these words were given because Randy could actually feel part of the pain in his own body.

Some people hear things and other people see things.

God is All Knowing

To better understand the Word of Knowledge, we need to know that "God knows everything". He is all knowing. He knows the end from the beginning. In fact He was so precise with some prophetic words that many people have a hard time believing they were written 100's of years before they actually happened. Think about the prophetic words given about the betrayal and crucifixion of the Lord.

He knows how large the Earth is; how much it weights; how fast it must travel to remain in orbit. He holds all the secrets of the ocean; how deep is it; what keeps the water in place. He set the boundaries for the sea and causes rain to fall on the just and unjust.

He knows how each individual was made. He knows what brings us peace and joy. He knows how to make us complete. He has a plan and purpose for everyone. He knows every pain. He's familiar with suffering. He knows how to make changes in our life.

He knows how many hairs are on our heads. He knows every thought we have and every intention of our heart. Yet he still loves us. He knows all our faults, yet he loves us and continues to pursue us. We have been created for Him and will not be complete without him. Following him is a decision we make everyday.

Everything will be revealed on the Day of judgment.

We are now operating with words of knowledge but when we meet the Lord and receive our new spiritual bodies everyone will know your thoughts and understand the motives of your heart. His whole kingdom operates that way.

Read from "The Final Quest" by Rick Joyner, Pages 89-90.....92-96....106-108...129-130

Matt 10:26

Jesus said "There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known".

1 Cor 4:5

Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.

Matt 12:33-37

But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."

2 Cor 5:10

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

The Lord told us to guard our hearts. This is a two-fold thing; He wants to transform our hearts and gives us the responsibility of guarding it after he does the cleansing. We need to understand that sometimes evil thoughts come out of our hearts. Read *Matt 15:10-20*

FAITH

*Eph 2:8-10 For it is by grace you have been saved, **through faith-and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-** not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

Faith comes by knowing the Word of God.

The Word of God is a rock we can stand on. It's the truth. Our faith grows as we learn the word of God. It allows us to stand on a firm foundation.

Rom 10:17faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

Faith in Salvation

Rom 3:21-24 But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. 22 This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Eph 2:8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God- 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

Faith in Eternal Life

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

John 17:3 Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

Forgiveness of Sins

1 John 1:7-9 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Faith for Protection and Deliverance

Ps 91:1-2 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

Faith in God's love

Rom 8:35-39 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?..... For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Knowing the Word of God builds our faith in the promises of God. As we understand the truth our faith in Him continues to grow. All the promises of God are true.

Faith comes by knowing the Father.

As we know the Father he reveals his love for us. He has a plan for our lives and the church. As we begin to understand His love for us we will have the faith that God will accomplish what He started. He will never leave us or forsake us.

Luke 8:22-25 One day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's go over to the other side of the lake." So they got into a boat and set out. As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger.

The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!"

He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. "Where is your faith?" he asked his disciples.

In fear and amazement they asked one another, "Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him."

How could Jesus rebuke them for such little faith. Jesus knew his purpose. He came into the world to save it and redeem us. He knew the Father would not let them anything happen to them before the appointed time. Jesus knew he was not finished with the Father's work. This storm was just a very small obstacle.

Faith comes through obedience to the Spirit.

We should not be walking by sight, but in obedience to the spirit of God. If you have your eyes on the natural you will not be walking by faith.

Heb 11:1 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

Besides Jesus one of the men in history that stood out with a gift of faith was Smith Wigglesworth. Some people have given him the title "Apostle of Faith". Smith said, "We can't be moved by what we see but need to keep our eyes on Jesus". Read Smith Wigglesworth on Healing pp. 14-19.

Faith comes through brokenness.

Until we have finally come to an end of our selves we will never truly trust in God alone. God allows us to be broken to show us it's not us but Him. We are not here to promote our ministries but to promote Him. The more broken we are the more the light of Jesus can shine through us. 2 Cor. 4:7-18

We need to come to the cross and live out Gal 2:20

Gal 2:19-20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

When we come to a point where we are no longer living but Christ is living through us. The enemy can't stop us anymore. Most of the time he brings an offense and we get our feeling hurt by a situation. If we allow resentment and unforgiveness to come in the enemy has won. If we drop our offences and forgive one another we ask for the grace of God in our lives and we experience life. The key is you cannot hurt a dead man. If you are hurt maybe you're not dead yet.

Faith is a daily thing

We can only live by faith today. God wants us to live one day at a time. We need to make a conscience effort every day to die to ourselves and live with the God kind of faith that pleases our Father. When we come to a point where we can worship through our troubles we find ourselves touching His heart.

GIFT OF MIRACLES AND HEALING

1 Cor 12:4-11

*There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, **to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers**, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.*

John 14:6-14

12 I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. 14 You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

In this study we are going to take a look into Jesus' life. Jesus knew what the Father was looking to accomplish through His life and ours. Jesus walked in healings and miracles on a continual basis. As you will find, God is more concerned with our character than the gift. When we operate with these types of gifts we are God's representation to the world. To whom much is given much will be required.

It's not us, It's Him.

Jesus' life and relationship with the Father is a picture of what our life with the Lord can be. As Jesus walked the Earth he did so as the Son or Man. In other words he walked as a man showing us the way to the Father. The only way for Him to have victory over the Powers of the Air and free mankind was to walk as a man. Although He was with God in the beginning, he laid down his rights and submitted to the Father in every detail.

John 5:16-21 and 30

19 Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.

John 8:29, and John 12:49-50

28 So Jesus said, "... I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me.

We need to realize that it not our prayer, how we prayed, or what we did as we can not heal or create a miracle, only God can. Kathren Koolman said it the best, she said, " The Holy Spirit is control of His power". If we set the stage properly, God will get all the glory. Many times Smith would gather 4-5 people together to pray together and believe for a healing. Jesus always gave all the glory to the Father.

Confirm the message

These signs were sent to confirm the message that Jesus was the Messiah. They are also given to confirm the message of the Gospel.

John 5:36-37

"I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the very work that the Father has given me to finish, and which I am doing, testifies that the Father has sent me.

John 10:25-39

Do not believe me unless I do what my Father does. But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father."

John 15:18-24

If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. Now, however, they have no excuse for their sin. 23 He who hates me hates my Father as well. 24 If I had not done among them what no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have seen these miracles, and yet they have hated both me and my Father.

Notice the miracles were for the unbelievers so they might believe. After Lazarus was raised from the dead the Pharisees were more determined to kill Jesus. They said if this continues everyone will be following Him. *John 11:48*

Character Qualities

As stated earlier, God is more concerned with our character than He is with the gift. Will we be obedient to Him? Can he trust us with the gift? Will we remain humble? Will we live a life of sacrifice? We will keep our life free from sin? The last days church must demonstrate His nature and His ways.

Obedience, John 4:34 "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.

Humility, Phil 2:5-8 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death- even death on a cross!

Selfless, Matt 16:24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

Purity, Purity or His presence, you decide.

Only Love can create a miracle

We have to understand that every miracle is an expression of God's love. The goal in your life must be for love not power. Jesus will give us the love for the broken hearted and His power will heal the sick. It happens because the Father loves us and we love them too. Seek love, then faith.

Many times Mahesh Chavda would pray for people to understand the love of God when to his surprise God ended up touching them and healing their infirmities.

There is a great danger walking in great power.

The Final Quest, pp. 145

Never be self-centered. Always be Jesus centered.

Many people have failed the call after receiving these types of gifts. If we take our eyes off of Jesus and put them on ourselves we will fail. The Final Quest, pp. 114

God does not do miracles because of our greatness, because we are special, or because He is endorsing us. It's His miracle, His greatness, His Glory. He will not share His glory with anyone else.

GIFT OF PROPHECY

Prophecy is God speaking to man. The bible is filled with prophecy. It starts in Genesis and ends in Revelation. God has had a plan from the very beginning to redeem man and restore the Earth, *for the Earth will be filled with knowledge of the glory of the Lord Hab. 2:14*. This plan was established before the foundation of the world. As we read the bible we begin to understand God's plan of redemption and His pursuit of man. He announced it before it came, so we might know, He really is God.

Isa 41:22-23

"Bring in [your idols] to tell us what is going to happen. Tell us what the former things were, so that we may consider them and know their final outcome. Or declare to us the things to come,

*tell us what the future holds, **so we may know that you are gods**. Do something, whether good or bad, so that we will be dismayed and filled with fear.*

God announced the future from the beginning. Why? So the people of this Earth might know who the real God is. In the verse above we see three ways in which God is showing he really is God.

He told us of the former things (Genesis).

He declared to us the things to come (future).

He showed his power through many acts of creation, power, and deliverance.

He's the God who told Moses of the former things (Genesis) that we might consider them. Who else would of known exactly how we were created, how the fall occurred, who begot who, or how long everyone lived before the flood. I hate to tell you, but they were not keeping records during that time. It was said that Moses wrote the first 5 books of the bible. I believe God told Moses to grab a pen and said I have got something to tell you and started with "In the beginning God..."

Ex 33:11

The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend.

God told us of his coming plan to redeem man. Most of the prophetic words about the coming Messiah were written 700 to 1,000 years before he came. He told us of the coming King, the Christ; he would be born in Bethlehem, Born of a virgin, a descendant of David, he would die on a cross, be pierced in the side with a spear, not a bone would be broken, and he would be raised from the dead, and be seated at the right hand of God. He announced it before it happened. It took generations for many of these words to be fulfilled. Only God could predict futuristic events with such detailed accuracy.

Isa 44:6-8

I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God. Who then is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and lay out before me what has happened since I established my ancient people, and what is yet to come--yes, let him foretell what will come. Do not tremble, do not be afraid. Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago? You are my witnesses. Is there any God besides me? No, there is no other Rock; I know not one."

God showed his power through many acts of creation, power, and deliverance. He is the God of creation, the God of Abraham who promised to give him a son, the God that delivered Israel out of Egypt, the God that parted the Red Sea, the God that dealt with Israel in the wilderness, the God that brought Israel into the promised land, and the God who disciplined them when they failed to give up their idols.

He is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes and sets over them the lowliest of men. God predicted the rise and fall of many nations.

In Daniel 2:31-39 we read of the dream given to Nebacanezer. A statue of with a gold head, silver shoulders and chest, the mid-section was made of bronze and the legs and feet of iron and clay. This vision speaks of the coming world powers of this world. The gold head was Babylon, the chest and shoulders where the Medes and Persians, the midsection was Greece, and the legs of iron were the Roman Empire. The rock that was cut out of the mountain was the Christ. It fell at the feet of the status and crushed it. It fell into pieces. The rock grew into a mountain. The same mountain described in Isaiah chapter 2. It's interesting to note that when Jesus came, Rome was in complete power, He set up a new kingdom which will never end. All of this was foretold over 500 years before Christ came.

Daniel 8:19-22 talks about the same time period. The ram with the two horns was the Medes and Persians. The single horned goat coming from the West was Alexander the Great. When he died he divided his kingdom into four parts and gave it to his four generals, Cassander, Lysimachus, Seleucus I, and Ptolemy. The king of the North was Assyria and the King to the South was Egypt. These kings continued to battle with Judah being in the middle. These events came to an end when Jesus came. For more information on this check out www.bibleplus.org/prophecy/kings.html.

Many people think God just wanted to save the Jews. God's heart from the very beginning was to save the nations. He spoke to the nations. Remember how he sent Jonah to Nineveh. Nineveh was the Capitol City of Assyria. Jonah didn't want to go because he didn't care for the Assyrian's but God did. Obadiah had a word for Edom. Amos was given words for Damascus, Gaza, Tyre, Edom, Ammon and Moab. Isaiah also gave words to many nations. God was speaking to all the nations. When God delivered Israel out of Egypt the whole world heard of the stories of the real God showing himself in miraculous ways. When Joshua crossed the Jordan River and was about to go up to Jericho he had an encounter with the Lord, *Joshua 5:13-15*. Joshua asked are you for us or against us. The Lord said "Neither". God has always been in pursuit of man but he doesn't pick favorites. He is looking for us to line up with Him. If we line up with Him he will bless us. If we choose to disobey Him we are under a curse. It's that simple. God is looking to show the world who the real God is.

Purpose of Prophecy

1 Cor. 14:3 But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort.

There is always an "if" to personal prophecy. It's a conditional statement where man and god are co-operating together to make something happen. God gives us little pictures of the future to encourage us. It's our job to line ourselves up with the Lord.

When delays and disappointment come we're going to need an encouraging word to hang on to. Look at the life of Joseph, He received a dream where all of his family bowed down to him. Yet it seemed like everything happening to him was further from his destiny. He was sold into Slavery, then locked into prison when Potifer's wife tried to seduce him. God was using all these situations to mold and make his character. With great gifts come great responsibility and God is more concerned about our character than our position or gifting. God eventually fulfilled the dream and he became second in command over all of Egypt.

MOTIVATED BY LOVE

This study on the gifts would be incomplete without discussing the importance of Love. Love is the motivating power in using any of the gifts. We need to understand:

How much God loves us.

How we can return our love to Him

How we can love others with the same love.

1 Cor. 13 is the love chapter. It's right between chapters 12 and 14 which are discussing the gifts. They can not be separated. Paul is discussing the gifts in chapters 12, 13, and 14. You can not separate the gifts from love. Until we understand how to move out in love we will not be using the gifts to their full capacity. *Read 1 Cor 13:1-3.* Notice that Paul is stressing the importance of Love. Love is more important than the gift. Without love we are nothing.

When Paul talks about the gifts in Romans chapter 12, he goes right into the importance of loving one another and Christian living. Was this coincidence that in the two major areas the scriptures discuss the gifts, that the importance of love is expressed. We can not function without it. Love should be the motivating force behind everything we do. When love is our motivation you receive joy when someone gets touched by the Lord.

If we are following Jesus out of sheer determination, zeal, or will power it won't last. Zeal and determination will not last through the storm. Peter told the Lord before he was betrayed that he would never leave him.

Matt 26:31-34

Then Jesus told them, "This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: "I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered." But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee."

Peter replied, "Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will."

"I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times."

As we all know Peter denied him three times before the night was over. He was crushed. Everything he thought he was, was tested and found lacking. His foundation for making it through these trials was based on his zeal and determination to follow the Lord. Jesus knew all the time that Peter would deny Him and yet what did the Lord tell them. That night before they were all scattered he told them how much he loved them. Jesus knows about all our faults and our salvation is not dependent on strength or determination. It's based on faith understanding his love for us. He loves us even in our weakness.

After the resurrection, Jesus comes to Peter and restores him. Peter was fishing at the time and when Peter and the Lord were sitting around the fire Jesus asked him, Do you love me? He asked him the same question 3 times. Peter's reply was "Jesus, You know that I love you". Peter didn't understand it at the time but Jesus was restoring him by his confession of love.

Eventually you will be lead back to what your heart desires. That's why in these last days the Lord is revealing his love and his presence. Your desire for Him has to be greater than your desire for sin.

The gifts of the spirit go into operation when you get close to him. The gifts are just an overflow of your relationship with the Lord. When you are close to him the gifts are not a work but an expression of love.

GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

Gifts of the Spirit - Domata

To Build Up and Edify the Body of Christ

Eph 4:7-13 But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says:

"When he ascended on high,
he led captives in his train
and gave gifts to men."

(What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) It was he who gave some to be **apostles**, some to be **prophets**, some to be **evangelists**, and some to be **pastors** and **teachers**, to prepare God's people for **works of service**, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Apostles – Functions as a church planter. Normally has multiple gifts and works with others to provide the basic core gifts necessary in the church. Doing the work of the Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, and Teacher, to equip the church so they can reproduce themselves.

Acts 13:1-3 In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

1 Cor 9:1-2 Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not the result of my work in the Lord? Even though I may not be an apostle to others, surely I am to you! For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

The Corinthian church was the seal of Paul's work. If someone claims to be an apostle they should be able to point to their work in the Lord.

Prophets – Brings the word of God for today. They communicate the heart of God to the church. To encourage, edify and build up the body of Christ. As we can see from the above verse, the Holy Spirit said this word through a person. When Paul was going to Jerusalem a prophet felt prompted by the Holy Spirit to speak a word to him.

Acts 21:10-11 After we had been there a number of days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. Coming over to us, he took Paul's belt, tied his own hands and feet with it and said, "The Holy Spirit says, `In this way the Jews of Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.'"

Evangelists – Preparing and encouraging God's people to become witnesses for Christ. Developing a heart for the lost and understanding the Gospel of our Lord. Philip was one of the original 7 deacons chosen in Acts Chapter 2. We also see Philip going to Samaria in Chapter 8 of Acts.

Acts 21:7-9 We continued our voyage from Tyre and landed at Ptolemais, where we greeted the brothers and stayed with them for a day. Leaving the next day, we reached Caesarea and stayed at the house of Philip the evangelist, one of the Seven. He had four unmarried daughters who prophesied.

Pastors – Watch over and protect the flock of God. Encouraging and building up the church strengthening one another as we all become mature in the faith. Pastors were also called shepherds in the early church. We can see Jesus re-instating Peter when he encouraged him to "feed his sheep". *John 21:11-17*

Notice that the Apostle Peter was called to function as a shepherd, teacher, prophet, and evangelist.

Teachers – Communicates to the Body the truths of God imparting wisdom and knowledge. Knowing the ways of God. Jesus said to go into all the world and make disciples, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded. The disciples filled Jerusalem with their teachings.

Acts 5:42 Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.

Works of Service – The gifts above were given to the church to prepare the church for "works of service". All of us are servants of Christ. We need to be empowered by the Holy Spirit for works of service. It's an all-inclusive phrase that includes all of the gifts so we can build up one another, share the gospel, pray for one another and serving one another.

We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.