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Lesson Outline

Preface – One of the unique characteristics of true (Biblical) Christianity is the dispensing of Spiritual Gifts from the Lord Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit to members of New Testament churches for the functioning of that particular body of Christ.

These gifts are the life and ministry of every Baptist church. Therefore the study of them is essential – even though it may require having to wade through some of the muck and mire of doctrinal error built up over the last 50 or so years largely by the controversial and flamboyant modern-day Charismatic Movement. This movement, with its hallmark emphasis on “speaking in tongues” and the so-called “gift of healing,” has successfully infiltrated (and influenced) practically every denomination within Christendom – as well as Baptists!

Sound doctrine is never established by majority belief. Neither is it based upon appearances, experiences, or emotions. It ALWAYS must be grounded in and on the Word of God. To know things as they ARE is better than believing things as they seem!!

The major Bible passage dealing with the gifts of the Holy Spirit is 1 Corinthians 12-14.

In studying these chapters, it is important to keep in mind the following:

- Read 1 Corinthians 1:2² *Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both their's and our's:* **1 Corinthians was primarily addressed to the church of Corinth.**
- Read 1 Corinthians 3:3³ *For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?* **The church was filled with envy, strife, and division.**
- Read 1 Corinthians 1:11¹¹ *For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you.* **There serious contentions within the church membership.**
- Read 1 Corinthians 11:19a¹⁹ *For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.* **There were heretics present in the church.**

It is NOT a complimentary epistle, and much of what is written concerning spiritual gifts is done so to correct misconceptions and abuses.

This study is concerned with the Biblical doctrine of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the application of these gifts in the apostolic times as well as today.

I General Facts About Spiritual Gifts

The word “gift” is translated from the Greek word “charisma” [kuh-riz-muh - a spiritual power or personal quality that gives an individual influence or authority over large numbers of people.] which comes from “charis” meaning “grace,” which comes from the root word “char” or “joy.” Spiritual gifts are spiritual endowments - freely (and deservedly) bestowed upon us by God.

A. Spiritual Gifts Are God-Given Abilities For Service.

1. Read Ephesians 4:7-8 ⁷ *But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.* ⁸ *Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.* They were given gifts after He ascended up on high.
2. Read 1 Corinthians 12:4 ⁴ *Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.* There are numbers of spiritual gifts
3. Read 1 Corinthians 12:7a ⁷ ***But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.*** (visible evidence of the Spirit)
4. Read 1 Corinthians 12:7b ⁷ ***But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.*** They (gifts) are given for profit as well.
5. Read 1 Peter 4:10 ¹⁰ *As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.* The gifts are to be used minister to one another.

6. Read 1 Corinthians 14:12 ¹² *Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.* The gifts are to used for the edification of the Lord's church.

Note: Spiritual gifts differ from talents. Talents are certain NATURAL abilities which need to be enhanced by training and education. These talents may be used in many ways for good or bad.

B. Spiritual Gifts Are Sovereignly Bestowed.

1. Read I Corinthians 12:11 ¹¹ *But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.* Spiritual gifts are given by the Holy Spirit "severally" [uniquely] as He [God] will.

Note: This means it is futile for a Christian to seek or pray for a particular gift. The best gift is the one God gives you.

2. Read I Corinthians 1:7 ⁷ *So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:* The church at Corinth "came behind no gift." – meaning that every spiritual gift was represented within its membership.

Note: This shows that possessing a spiritual gift does not equate to spirituality. The church at Corinth had all the gifts , but at the time was carnal, schismatic [division or disunion, especially into mutually opposed parties], and filled with serious problems.

C. Every Church Member Has A Spiritual Gift.

1. Read I Corinthians 12:7-11 ⁷ *But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.* ⁸ *For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;* ⁹ *To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;* 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:* ¹¹ *But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to **every man severally as he will.** Gifts are given to EVERY MAN.*
2. Read Ephesians 4:7 ⁷ *But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Gifts are given to every one of us.*
3. Read I Peter 4:10 ¹⁰ *As **every man hath received the gift**, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*
4. Read Romans 12:3f ³ *For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, **according as God hath dealt [given gifts] to every man the measure of faith.***
5. Read Romans 12:6a ⁶ **Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us**, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;
Note: Read I Corinthians 12:29-30 ²⁹ *Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?* ³⁰ *Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?* ³¹ *But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.* The rhetorical question asked shows that **no one person has all the gifts.**

Note: Church members have differing ministries and functions within the body of Christ. Each ministry, function, and office has certain spiritual abilities. Read I Corinthians 12:14-24 ¹² *For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.* ¹³ *For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.* ¹⁴ *For the body is not one member, but many.* ¹⁵ *If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?* ¹⁶ *And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?* ¹⁷ *If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling?* ¹⁸ *But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.* ¹⁹ *And if they were all one member, where were the body?* ²⁰ *But now are they many members, yet but one body.* ²¹ *And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.* ²² *Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:* ²³ *And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.* ²⁴ *For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked. **God has tempered the church body together by setting the members of the body in such a way that the body functions as HE desires. Each member is necessary, and each spiritual gift bestowed is necessary!***

D. Spiritual Gifts Are To Be Discerned By Preaching and by the Pastors:

1. **Preaching:** Read the scripture below to see the hearing of the Word of God preached directs a believer to his/her spiritual motivation [gift]:
 - I Timothy 4:14 ¹⁴ *Neglect not the **gift that is in thee**, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery [a body of presbyters or elders].*
 - Romans 1:11 ¹¹ *For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established;*
2. **Pastors:** Read I Timothy 4:14 (again) ¹⁴ *Neglect not the **gift that is in thee**, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery [a body of presbyters or elders].* The laying on of hands on Timothy by the pastors of the church at Derbe/Lystra indicates their recognition of (and identification with) his spiritual gift.

E. Spiritual Gifts Are To Be Used.

1. **A spiritual gift can be neglected.** Read I Timothy 4:14a ¹⁴ *Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.*
2. Read:
 - **Our gift needs to be STIRRED UP.** II Timothy 1:6 ⁶ *Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.*

- **This stirring up will happen** when we are put in remembrance of the Word of God. Read II Peter 1:13 ¹³ *Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance;*
3. According to I Timothy 4:15, there are two things we must do if our profiting (gift) is to appear to benefit all: Read I Timothy 4:15 ¹⁵ *Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.*
- Meditate of these things (The things mentioned in I Timothy 4:13 ¹³ *Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.*)
 - Give thyself wholly to them (use them, exercise them!)
4. The Lord expects us to concentrate exercising our gift in the church. Read Romans 12:6-8 ⁶ *Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;* ⁷ *Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;* ⁸ *Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.*
5. The **motive** for using our spiritual gift is that God in all ministries may be glorified. Read I Peter 4:11 ¹¹ *If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*

F. Spiritual Gifts Are to Be Controlled.

Sandwiched between I Corinthians 12 and 14 is the “Love Chapter”. The exercise of all spiritual gifts is to be controlled by the Fruit of the Spirit – exemplified by the first mentioned fruit: **charity (self-giving LOVE)**. Read Galatians 5:22-23 ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Read I Corinthians 13:1-3 ¹Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. ² And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. ³ And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

1. The gift of tongues without charity is just empty noise.
2. The gifts of prophecy and understand all mysteries and all knowledge is nothing without charity.
3. The gift of giving without charity has no profit.

II The Number of Spiritual Gifts.

A. The Gifts of the Spirit **FOR** the Churches.

This derived from I Corinthians 12, Romans 12, and I Peter 4

1. WISDOM and KNOWLEDGE - Read I Corinthians 12:8 (from verse 7) ⁷
But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal [as well, with that; therewith]. ⁸ For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;
2. FAITH and the ability to do MIRACLES - Read I Corinthians 12:9 ⁹ *To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; (also read Acts 6:8 ⁸ And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.)*
3. More Gifts: Read I Corinthians 12:28-30 ²⁸ *And God hath set some in the church, **first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.** ²⁹ Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? ³⁰ Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? ³¹ But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way. [Note: Read Chapter 13 which then goes on to speak about the importance of CHARITY - generous actions or donations to aid the poor, ill, or helpless.]*
4. Read I Corinthians 12:10 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:*
5. To more gifts, read all of Romans 12: ¹ *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy,*

acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. ² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. ³ For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. ⁴ **For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: ⁵ So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. ⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; ⁷ Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; ⁸ Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness. ⁹ Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. ¹⁰ Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; ¹¹ Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; ¹² Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; ¹³ Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. ¹⁵ Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. ¹⁶ Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. ¹⁷ Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. ¹⁸ If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. ¹⁹ Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. ²⁰ Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for**

in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. ²¹ Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

6. Also, read I Peter 4:11 (from verse 8-19) ⁸ *And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.* ⁹ *Use hospitality one to another without grudging.* ¹⁰ *As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.* ¹¹ *If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.* ¹² *Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:* ¹³ *But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.* ¹⁴ *If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.* ¹⁵ *But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.* ¹⁶ *Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.* ¹⁷ *For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?* ¹⁸ *And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?* ¹⁹ *Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.*

More will be said about the relevance of gifts of the Spirit to the Lord's churches today.

B. The Gifts of the Son **TO** the Churches.

Read Ephesians 4:8,11 to see that Christ gave gift to men and gave gifted men to His churches:

- ⁸ *Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.*
- ¹¹ *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;*

1. APOSTLES
2. PROPHETS
3. EVANGELISTS
4. PASTORS and TEACHERS

Three of these offices are also mentioned in I Corinthians 12:28 ²⁸ And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

More will be said about the relevance of these offices to the Lord's churches today.

III The Permanency and Passing of the Gifts of the Spirit.

At the heart of the “Charismatic Debate” is the question of whether ALL of the spiritual gifts (and gifted offices) mentioned in the New Testament are available and operational today. We believe that all spiritual gifts were available in the early church but that after the New Testament was finalized, some of these spiritual gifts passed away.

Read I Corinthians 13:8 ⁸ *Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.*

- Prophecies shall fail.
- Tongues shall fail.
- Knowledge shall vanish.

To see when these gifts will fail, read I Corinthians 13:9-10 ⁹ *For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.* ¹⁰ ***But when that which is perfect is come***, then that which is in part shall be done away.

Some would say that the point of failure (“***when that which is perfect is come***”) refers to the return of Christ.

However, read Joel 2:28-31 ²⁸ *And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:* ²⁹ *And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.* ³⁰ *And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.* ³¹ *The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, **before** the great and terrible day of the LORD*

come. According to Joel, there will be an outbreak of prophesying associated with the second coming of Christ, Not the ending of it.

On this key question, scripture interprets scripture:

A. We HAVE That Which Is Perfect.

That which is perfect (discussed below) refers to the completed (written)

Word of God (New Testament) penned 95-100 A.D.

1. Read II Peter 1:19 ¹⁹ *We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:* According to this scripture, **we have a more sure word of prophecy:**

- This refers to the written scriptures. Read II Peter 1:20-21 ²⁰ *Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. ²¹ For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*
- These scriptures are superior to even to an EYEWITNESS experience of the transfiguration of Christ [see Matthew 17:2]. Read II Peter 1:16-18 ¹⁶ *For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. ¹⁸ And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.*

2. James likens the Word of God to a glass (mirror). Read James 1:23-25 ²³ For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: ²⁴ For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. ²⁵ But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. James 1:25 speaks of the Word of God as the PERFECT law of liberty.

Summary

Before the New Testament, during the days of Church infancy, the gifts of prophesy, word of wisdom, word of knowledge, and discerning of spirits were necessary.

- I Corinthians 13: ⁹ *For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.*
- I Corinthians 13: ¹² *For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.*

After the New Testament, the Bible gives us all the wisdom, knowledge, and discernment necessary to live for and serve the Lord.

- I Corinthians 2:16 ¹⁶ *For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? but we have the mind of Christ.*
- I John 2:20-21 ²⁰ But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things. ²¹ I have not **written** unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

B. There Was A Specific & Limited Purpose for Some Gifts.

1. Some of the gifts were “signs” which followed those who believed. Read Mark 16:17-18 (starting with verse 14... Jesus after rising from the dead)

*¹⁴ Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. ¹⁵ And he said unto them, **Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶ He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. ¹⁷ And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.***

2. Mark 16:20 shows that the purpose of these particular signed gifts was to confirm the WORD preached by the apostles. ²⁰ *And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.*

3. Read Hebrews 2:3-4 ³ *How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; ⁴ God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?*

GOD BORE WITNESS to the word of salvation preached by those that heard Jesus Christ:

- With signs and wonders.
- With diverse miracles and gifts.

4. Read Acts 4:29-30 ²⁹ *And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,* ³⁰ *By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.*

According to Acts, the church at Jerusalem prayed that the Lord would grant boldness in speaking the Word by:

- Stretching forth His hand to heal.
 - Doing signs and wonders in Jesus' Name.
5. TODAY, faith comes from hearing the Word of God. Read Romans 10:17 (from verse 13 for context) ¹³ *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.* ¹⁴ *How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?* ¹⁵ *And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!* ¹⁶ *But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?* ¹⁷ **So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**

Hearing the Word of God is the SWORD of the Spirit. Read Ephesians 6:17b (from verse 10) ¹⁰ *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power*

of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. ¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; ¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, **and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:**

C. Some Gifted Offices Were Also Temporary.

1. **Apostles** – the office of “apostle” has ceased. This is because an apostle:

- Was required to be a witness of the resurrected Christ. Read:
 - Acts 1:22 ²² Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.
 - I Corinthians 9:1 ¹ Am I am not an apostle? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are not ye my work in the Lord?
 - I Corinthians 15:8 (from verse 4) ⁴ And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: ⁵ And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: ⁶ After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater

part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. ⁷ After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. ⁸ And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

- Was to be audibly CALLED by Christ. Read:
 - Matthew 10:1 ¹ *And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.*
 - Romans 1:1 ¹ *Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,*
- Was to be accredited by the signs of an apostle. Read II Corinthians 12:12 ¹² *Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.*

2. **Prophets** – The office of predictive prophet (fore-telling) has ceased because the gift of prophecy “failed” with the coming of the completed Word of God. Read I Corinthians 13:8. ⁸ *Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.*

Moreover, Revelation 22:18 FORBIDS ANY additional prophecy (revelation). ¹⁸ *For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book. ¹⁹ And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part*

out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. ²⁰ He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

IV The Sign Gifts.

He gifts of the Spirit which are denoted as sign gifts are given in Mark 16:17-18 (reading from verse 15) ¹⁵ *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.* ¹⁶ *He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.* ¹⁷ *And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;* ¹⁸ *They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.*

- Casting out of devils
- Speaking with new tongues
- Taking up serpents (and other poisons)
- Healing the sick

These “sign gifts” are passing and passé!

The Purpose of Sign Gifts – These signs were given for accreditation [to provide or send with credentials; designate officially: *to accredit an envoy*, to make authoritative, creditable, or reputable; sanction.]

A. . These signs either ACCREDITED God’s man or God’s message.

1. Read Exodus 4:1-9 ¹ *And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee.* ² *And the LORD said unto him, What is that in thine hand?*

And he said, A rod. ³ And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it. ⁴ And the LORD said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand: ⁵ That they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared unto thee. ⁶ And the LORD said furthermore unto him, Put now thine hand into thy bosom. And he put his hand into his bosom: and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous as snow. ⁷ And he said, Put thine hand into thy bosom again. And he put his hand into his bosom again; and plucked it out of his bosom, and, behold, it was turned again as his other flesh. ⁸ And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe thee, neither hearken to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign. ⁹ And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe also these two signs, neither hearken unto thy voice, that thou shalt take of the water of the river, and pour it upon the dry land: and the water which thou takest out of the river shall become blood upon the dry land.

2. Read Acts 2:22 ²² Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

B. The Place of Sign Gifts. Signed gifts were manifested not only for a particular purpose (accreditation) and at a particular time (apostolic age), but also TO a particular group of people.

1. Read I Corinthians 1:22 (verses 18-25 because the WORD is so powerful) ¹⁸ For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;

but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ *For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.* ²⁰ *Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?* ²¹ *For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.* ²² ***For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:*** ²³ *But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;* ²⁴ *But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.* ²⁵ *Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.*

The Jews required a sign.

2. Read Matthew 12:38-40 (from verse 36) ³⁶ *But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.* ³⁷ *For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.* ³⁸ *Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee.* ³⁹ *But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:* ⁴⁰ *For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*

Certain of the scribes and Pharisees came seeking a sign from Jesus.

It is interesting to note that whenever the New Testament records the manifestation of any signed gift, **Jews and at least one apostle** were

present. Furthermore, Micah 7:15 suggests that signed gifts will be operative ONLY when Israel is in the land (there is no record of any signed gift after 70 AD).

C. The Peril with Sign Gifts.

1. Exodus 7:10-12 ¹⁰ *And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did so as the LORD had commanded: and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a serpent. ¹¹ Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. ¹² For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods.*
 - Exodus 7:22 ²² *And the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, neither did he hearken unto them; as the LORD had said.*
 - Exodus 8:7 ⁷ *And the magicians did so with their enchantments, and brought up frogs upon the land of Egypt.*
 - Exodus 8:18-19 ¹⁸ *And the magicians did so with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not: so there were lice upon man, and upon beast. ¹⁹ Then the magicians said unto Pharaoh, This is the finger of God: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.*

2. II Corinthians 11:13-15 ¹³ *For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.* ¹⁴ *And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.* 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.*
3. Mark 13:21-23 (from verse 14) ¹⁴ *But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains:* ¹⁵ *And let him that is on the housetop not go down into the house, neither enter therein, to take any thing out of his house:* ¹⁶ *And let him that is in the field not turn back again for to take up his garment.* ¹⁷ *But woe to them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!* ¹⁸ *And pray ye that your flight be not in the winter.* ¹⁹ *For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be.* ²⁰ *And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days.* ²¹ ***And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ; or, lo, he is there; believe him not:*** ²² ***For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.*** ²³ ***But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things.***
4. II Thessalonians 2:9 (from verse 1 for context) ¹ *Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,* ² *That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by*

word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. ³ Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; ⁴ Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. ⁵ Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? ⁶ And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. ⁷ For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. ⁸ And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: ⁹ Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, ¹⁰ And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹ And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: ¹² That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

5. Revelation 13:13-14 (from verse 11) ¹¹ *And I beheld another beast (who is this 2nd beast?) coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. ¹² And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. ¹³ **And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, ¹⁴ And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to***

them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. ¹⁵ *And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.*

Satan is able to provide any experience outside the Word of God an unbeliever (or a believer) may seek! Note What Jesus said about why He did miracles: John 4:48

⁴⁸ **Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.**

Jesus knew man was susceptible to the influence of miracles.

V The Serving Gifts.

In Romans 12 we find a list of seven spiritual gifts which are available today for service within each church. These are the “serving” gifts – permanent and profitable.

The gifts are listed in verses 6-8, and in verses 9-15, the corresponding dispositions need for using the gifts are given.

Read (all) Romans 12: ¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. ² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. ³ For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. ⁴ For as we have many members in one body, and all

members have not the same office: ⁵ So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. ⁶ **Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; ⁷ Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; ⁸ Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness. ⁹ Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. ¹⁰ Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; ¹¹ Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; ¹² Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; ¹³ Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. ¹⁵ Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. ¹⁶ Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. ¹⁷ Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. ¹⁸ If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. ¹⁹ Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. ²⁰ Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. ²¹ Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.**

- A. The Gift of Prophecy – Romans 12:6 **⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;**

Biblical prophets are either **fore-tellers** or **forth-tellers**. [Fore telling and forth telling are two different things. To foretell is to tell something of the future, yes. But to forth

tell is to give a message from God; not specifically about the future; just something from God. i.e., Jonah and the Ninevites; John the Baptist telling people to repent.]

The gift of PREDICTIVE prophecy has failed (ended).

Read I Corinthians 13:8 (⁸ Charity never faileth: **but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail**; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.)

It is the gift of PROCLAMATIVE (forth telling) prophecy which remains.

1. Prophecy must be done according to the proportion (analogy - a *similarity between like features of two things, on which a comparison may be based*) **of FAITH** which according to Romans 10:17 (¹⁷ *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*), comes through the hearing of the Word of God (The Bible).
2. Read Acts 13:1 ¹ *Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. **Barnabas and Simeon are called prophets and teachers.***
3. Read Acts 15:35 ³⁵ *Paul also and Barnabas continued in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also. **They preached and taught the Word of God.***

4. Read I Corinthians 14:3 ³ *But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.* According to this I Corinthians passage the purpose of prophesying (forth telling) is:

- Edification [build them up]
- Exhortation [encourage them to continue in their Christian ways]
- Comfort [about the coming plan of God with all His promises]

5. Read I Corinthians 14:4b ⁴ *He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; **but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.***

Prophesying is to directed to the church (members).

6. Read Romans 12:9 ⁹ *Let love be without dissimulation [to disguise or conceal under a false appearance]. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.*

The disposition required of a prophet (preacher) is:

- Sincere (also, read Ephesians 4:15 ¹⁵ *But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.*)
- Hatred of evil.
- An exemplified holy life ('cleave' means to 'hold to' or to 'stick with').

B. The Gift of Ministry.

The Greek word "ministry" ("diakonia") means "to serve."

Read Romans 12:7 (from verse 4) ⁴ *For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: ⁵ So we, being many, are one body in*

Christ, and every one members one of another. ⁶ *Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;* ⁷ **Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;** [i.e.; use the gifts God has given us and let Jesus show through these gifts.]

Also read:

- Matthew 20:27 (from verse 20 for context just after the parable about the workers in the field): ²⁰ *Then came to him the mother of Zebedees children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him.* ²¹ *And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom.* ²² *But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able.* ²³ *And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father.* ²⁴ *And when the ten heard it, they were moved with indignation against the two brethren.* ²⁵ *But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them.* ²⁶ **But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;** ²⁷ **And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:** ²⁸ *Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.* **[Heaven is NOT like Earth.]**

- Luke 22:26 (at last supper, from verse 24):²⁴ *And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest.*²⁵ *And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors.*²⁶ **But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve.**²⁷ *For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth.*

Jesus gave the BEST example of ministering (serving) by dying on the cross.

1. From Romans 12:7(a)⁷ **Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering:** The gift of ministry requires us to WAIT (as in “waiter”, i.e. waiting on someone). In other words, the gift must be used!
2. Read Romans 12:10 (read verses 9-18 for the evidence of Christianity)⁹ *Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.*¹⁰ **Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;**¹¹ *Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;*¹² *Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;*¹³ *Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.*¹⁴ *Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.*¹⁵ *Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.*¹⁶ *Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.*¹⁷ *Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.*¹⁸ *If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.*

From verse 10:

- Kindly affectioned toward others.
- To honor and prefer others (over one's self).

This is the servant's heart!

Those who hold the office of deacon are to be servants of the church.

And, believers need to be servants. Read:

- *Galatians 5:13e* ¹³ *For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, **but by love serve one another.***
- *Colossians 3:23 – 24* ²³ *And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;* ²⁴ *Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.*

We serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

C. The Gift of Teaching.

Read Romans 12:7b ⁷ *Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: **or he that teacheth, on teaching;***

This is the God given ability to present the truth of God's Word clearly and precisely.

Read Romans 12:11 ¹¹ *Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;*

The disposition in exercising this gift is that the teacher is to be:

- Not slothful [well prepared]
- Fervent in spirit [passion for the subject]
- Serving as unto the Lord [not to impress men - teaching as if they were teaching to Jesus Himself]

Apollos shows the qualities of a teacher...

[knowing your subject and believing it will do miracles!]

Read Acts 18:24-28 ²⁴ *And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus.* ²⁵ *This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.* ²⁶ *And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.* ²⁷ *And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace:* ²⁸ *For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.*

Those who hold the office of bishop are to be teachers. Read:

- I Timothy 3:2g ² *A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, **apt to teach**;*
- II Timothy 2:24-25 ²⁴ *And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, **apt to teach, patient,*** ²⁵ *In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;*
- Titus 1:9 ⁹ *Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.*
[gainsayer - to deny, dispute, or contradict, to speak or act against; oppose.]

But, all church members are to teach one another. Read:

- Colossians 3:16a ¹⁶ *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; **teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.***

D. The Gift of Exhorting.

Read Romans 12:8(a) *Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.*

The exhorter is motivated to get along other church members and, with the Word of God encourage, stimulate, and motivate them to pursue spiritual growth, spiritual labor, and a spiritual course of conduct.

1. For details, read Romans 12:12 ¹²Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;
 - Rejoice in the blessed hope. Read Titus 2:11-13 for a definition of this “hope”: ¹¹*For the grace of God that bringeth **salvation** hath appeared to all men,* ¹²*Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;* ¹³*Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;*
 - Be patient in tribulation.
 - Be persistent in prayer for others.

2. Perhaps the greatest example of an exhorter in the New Testament was Barnabas. Read:

- Acts 4:36-37 ³⁶*And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus, ³⁷Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.*
- Acts 9:27 ²⁷*But Barnabas took him [Saul], and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.*
- Acts 11:23 (from verse 22) ²²*Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch. ²³Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord. ²⁴For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord. ²⁵Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul:*

Also read that believers are to exhort one another every day:

- Hebrews 3:13 (from verse 12): ¹²*Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. ¹³But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of*

you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;

- Hebrews 10:25 ²⁵*Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

E. The Gift of Giving. Romans 12:8(b) ⁸*Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: **he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity**; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.*

This is the motivation to gain and give bounty in order to meet the needs of others in the church.

1. Romans 12:8b states that giving is to be done simplicity (without ulterior motive(s).)

Also, read Matthew 6:3-4 ³*But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: ⁴That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.*

2. Read Romans 12:13 ¹³*Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.* Exercising the gift of giving will meet the NECESSITIES of other believers.

3. Read Matthew 10:8e (Jesus' directions to His apostles) ⁸**Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.**

Also read Luke 6:38 ³⁸Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

F. The Gift of Ruling. Romans 12:8(c) ⁸*Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; **he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.***

1. This is the God given ability to oversee and direct the activities of others in the church in order to accomplish a work of God.
2. Those exercising this gift must be diligent.
3. According to Romans 12:14 ¹⁴*Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.*

This implies: Rulers must also bless those resist their rule.

G. The Gift of Mercy. Romans 12:8(d) ⁸*Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; **he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.***

1. Those with this spiritual gift are motivated to identify with and share in the sufferings and joys of others using the Word of God to bring comfort.
2. The merciful must be cheerful and uplifting.
3. Read Romans 12:15 ¹⁵*Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.* Those exercising the gift of mercy will empathize with the sorrows and joys of others in the church.

Nevertheless, ALL believers are to:

- Galatians 6:2 ²*Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.*

- Colossians 3:12 ¹²Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, **bowels** [archaic word meaning “feelings of pity or compassion”] **of mercies**, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

Key precepts of Christianity: MERCY, empathy, sympathy [Empathy and sympathy are very closely related. Here's how these two "feeling" emotions work. Empathy is when you feel what someone else is feeling. If they're sad, you can feel their sadness. If they're ecstatic, you feel their glee. Conversely, sympathy is what you feel as a result of someone else's **situation**. If your friend is having a bad day, you may feel sorry for them, or sympathize with.]

VI The gift of Tongues

The best known feature of the Charismatic Movement is its emphasis upon “speaking in tongues.” From the middle of the 20th century this phenomenon has crossed practically every denominational boundary, and has infected (and destroyed) many Baptist churches along the way.

The gift of tongues is one of the “signed gifts,” and therefore has ceased:

- *Mark 16:17 [appearing to the 11 apostles after rising from the dead]*
¹⁴Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. ¹⁵And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. ¹⁷And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; ¹⁸They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands

on the sick, and they shall recover. ¹⁹So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

²⁰And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

- I Corinthians 13:8 ⁸Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; **whether there be tongues, they shall cease**; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

Nevertheless, a large segment of present-day Christendom not only holds that speaking in “tongues” is for today, but that it is an experience to be earnestly sought by all Christians. Some teach it is optional, while others contend it to be essential for salvation (as the evidence of the so-called “baptism of the Spirit).

To determine the Biblical truth about the gifts of tongues, we ask three (3) questions of every tongue speaker:

A. “In What Language Did You Speak?”

1. **How many different known languages and dialects are listed as having been heard on the Day of Pentecost?** Read Acts 2:8-11 [from verse 1] ¹And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ²And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. ³And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. ⁵And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. ⁶Now when this was noised abroad, the

multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. ⁷And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? ⁸And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? ⁹Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God. ¹²And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?

2. **How does scripture define the word tongue?** Read Genesis 10:5 ⁵*By these were the isles of the Gentiles divided in their lands; every one after his tongue, after their families, in their nations.*
3. Some claim the expression “unknown tongue” (mentioned in I Corinthians 14:2, 4, 13, 14, 19, 27) proves the existence of non-human (heavenly or ecstatic [of, pertaining to, or characterized by ecstasy, subject to or in a state of ecstasy; rapturous]) languages.

Read all the salient passages I Corinthians 14:1

¹*Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.*

²*For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.*

³*But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.*

⁴*He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.*

⁵*I would that ye all spake with tongues but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.*

⁶*Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine?*

⁷*And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped?*

⁸*For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?*

⁹*So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air.*

¹⁰*There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification.*

¹¹*Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me.*

¹²*Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.*

¹³*Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret.*

¹⁴*For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.*

¹⁵*What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.*

¹⁶*Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?*

¹⁷*For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.*

¹⁸*I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:*

¹⁹*Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue.*

²⁰*Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.*

²¹*In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord.*

²²*Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.*

²³*If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?*

²⁴*But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all:*

²⁵*And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.*

²⁶*How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.*

²⁷*If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret.*

²⁸*But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.*

However, the passage defines an unknown tongue as one:

- a) Which is not EASY to be UNDERSTOOD. ⁹*So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words **easy to be understood**, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air.*
- b) Which has no MEANING to the hearer. ¹¹*Therefore if I know not **the meaning of the voice**, I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me.*
- c) Which makes the speaker sound like a BARBARIAN. ¹¹*Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, **I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian**, and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me.*

According to I Corinthians 14:2,4, when someone speaks in a foreign language (unknown to the hearers) only God and the speaker can understand what is being said.

²*For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries*

⁴*He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.*

NOTE: The hyperbolic [exaggerated] expression “tongues of angels” (I Corinthians 13:1 ¹*Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.*) **means the ability to speak perfectly.** Angels are spirit beings (Hebrews 1:13-14 ¹³*But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? ¹⁴Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?) and as such do not have human tongues. However, whenever they appear in human form they have ALWAYS spoken in the language of the hearer and have always been perfectly understood.*

For some examples, read:

- Daniel 9:21-22 ²¹*Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation. ²²And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding.*
- Luke 2:10 ¹⁰*And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.*
- Acts 12:7 ⁷*And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands.*

If the gift of speaking with tongues were operational today, those who exercised the gift would have the miraculous ability to speak in a foreign language without any language training.

B. “To What Group Of Unbelieving Jews Did You Speak?”

1. Read I Corinthians 14:22 ²²*Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.*
2. Read I Corinthians 1:22 ²²*For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:*

Notes:

- Read I Corinthians 14:21 ²¹*In the law [see below] it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord.* This scripture refers to the prophecies (only 2 listed below) of:
 - (i) Deuteronomy 28:49 ⁴⁹*The LORD shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand;*
 - (ii) Jeremiah 5:15 ¹⁵*Lo, I will bring a nation upon you from far, O house of Israel, saith the LORD: it is a mighty nation, it is an ancient nation, a nation whose language thou knowest not, neither understandest what they say.*

In these scriptures, tongues are declared to be a sign of impending judgment upon Israel. **Interestingly, there is no instance of tongues after the fall of Jerusalem in 70 AD**

- A study of the (only) 3 recorded instances of tongues being manifested shows that Jews and an apostle were always present.

Read:

- (i) To unbelieving, unregenerate [not renewed in heart and mind or reborn in spirit; unrepentant] Jews: Acts 2:1-13 (only 1-4 shown below) ¹*And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.* ²*And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all*

the house where they were sitting. ³And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

(ii) To unbelieving, saved Jews: Acts 10:44-48 *⁴⁴While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. ⁴⁵And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. ⁴⁶For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, ⁴⁷Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? ⁴⁸And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.*

(iii) To unbelieving Jewish Christian members: Acts 19:6 *⁶And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.*

C. “Did You Follow The Biblical Rules When You Spoke In Tongues?”

If the gift of tongues were for today (which it is NOT), then the following rules would have been applied. Read I Corinthians 14:27-28

²⁷If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret.

²⁸But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.

1. Only three men at the most are to speak.
2. Those who speak are to do so “by course” (not all at once, but in turn.)
3. One person must interpret.
4. If no interpreter is available, those who can only speak in a foreign tongue are to keep silent.

VII The Gifts of Healing.

The so-called “gift of healing” is another hallmark of the Pentecostal and Charismatic movements.

The Word of God teaches divine healing but opposes the practices of modern day divine healers. God is omnipotent, and His power extends to His ability to heal the physical body. He can heal anyone at any time in any way He wills. The issue is NOT “Can God heal?” but rather, “Is the gift of healing operational today?”

The gift of healing is one of the signed gifts of Mark 16:18 and therefore is obsolete today (from verse 15) *¹⁵And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. ¹⁷And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; ¹⁸They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. ¹⁹So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.*

Modern-day “faith healing” is best shown for what it is by simply comparing it with the healing ministries of the Lord Jesus Christ and His apostles. Scripture then confounds [bewilder; confuse] these ‘charlatans of Christendom’ with their contrivances of:

- Selective sickness – psychosomatic illness [a physical disorder that is caused by or notably influenced by emotional factors.]
- Sideshow stooges – people who are miraculously ‘healed’ at every town.
- Surging sensationalism – emotional pulsating music, rhythmic repetition, climatic clowning.

A. The Healing Ministry of Jesus Christ.

The Bible records 18 specific miracles of healing by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Consider the following facts:

Read Matthew 4:23-25 ²³And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. ²⁴And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them. ²⁵And there followed him great multitudes of people from Galilee, and from Decapolis, and from Jerusalem, and from Judaea, and from beyond Jordan.

1. Jesus healed people where He found them – no special healing meetings
2. Jesus healed ALL manner of sicknesses.
3. Christ’s healing were complete – no failures, replaces, or convalescence.

4. Christ's healings were free of charge – no offerings, books, handkerchiefs, gimmicks.
5. Jesus generally healed without touching – no theatrics.
6. Jesus never prayed before he healed someone.
7. Jesus discouraged testimonials. Read Mark 7:36 (from verse 32) ³²And they bring unto him one that was deaf, and had an impediment in his speech; and they beseech him to put his hand upon him. ³³And he took him aside from the multitude, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spit, and touched his tongue; ³⁴And looking up to heaven, he sighed, and saith unto him, **Ephphatha**, that is, **Be opened**. ³⁵And straightway his ears were opened, and the string of his tongue was loosed, and he spake plain. ³⁶**And he charged them that they should tell no man: but the more he charged them, so much the more a great deal they published it;** ³⁷And were beyond measure astonished, saying, He hath done all things well: he maketh both the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak.
8. Christ's healing ministry was directed to Israel.
9. Those who Jesus healed were generally unsaved, or were saved at the same time they were healed.

B. The Healing Ministry of the Apostles.

The Book of Acts records four specific miracles of healings plus three general statements. For one example, read Acts 3:1-16: ¹Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour. ²And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the

gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple; ³Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. ⁴And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. ⁵And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. ⁶Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. ⁷And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

⁸And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God. ⁹And all the people saw him walking and praising God: ¹⁰And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him. ¹¹And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering. ¹²And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go. ¹⁴But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; ¹⁵And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses. ¹⁶**And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.**

1. The afflicted man did not seek to be healed. He wanted money!
2. The two apostles healed the man where he was. They did not conduct a healing meeting nor drew attention to themselves to attract a crowd.

3. The healings were complete. There were no relapses with any of the apostolic healings.
4. Peter and John did not claim any special power or ability. They gave all the glory to God. Read Acts 3:12 and 3:16 ¹⁶*And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.*
5. The miracle was a minor matter. Gospel preaching was the major focus of apostolic endeavor. More verses tell of Peter's subsequent preaching (and the conversion of 5,000 men) than of healing.

List of all Book of Acts miracles:

Miracles	Where Wrought	Recorded In
Peter heals a lame man	Jerusalem	3:1-11
Ananias and Sapphira struck dead	Jerusalem	5:1-10
Apostles perform many wonders	Jerusalem	5:12-16
Peter and John communicate the Holy Spirit	Samaria	8:14-17
Peter heals Eneas of a palsy	Lydda	9:33-34
Peter raises Tabitha, or Dorcas, to life	Joppa	9:36-41
Peter delivered out of prison by an angel	Jerusalem	12:7-17
God smites Herod, so that he dies	Jerusalem	12:21-23
Elymas, the sorcerer, smitten with blindness	Paphos	13:6-11
Paul converted	Road to Damascus	9:1-9
Paul heals a cripple	Lystra	14:8-10
Paul casts out a spirit of divination	Philippi	16:16-18
Paul and Silas's prison doors opened by an earthquake	Philippi	16:25-26
Paul communicates the Holy Spirit	Corinth	19:1-6
Paul heals multitudes	Corinth	19:11-12
Paul restores Eutychus to life	Troas	20:9-12
Paul shakes off a viper	Malta	28:3-6
Paul heals the father of Publius and others	Malta	28:7-9

Lesson Outline**VIII General Facts About Spiritual Gifts**

- A. Spiritual Gifts Are God-Given Abilities For Service.
- B. Spiritual Gifts Are Sovereignly Bestowed.
- C. Every Church Member Has A Spiritual Gift.
- D. Spiritual Gifts Are To Be Discerned.
- E. Spiritual Gifts Are To Be Used.
- F. Spiritual Gifts Are to Be Controlled.

IX The Number of Spiritual Gifts.

- A. The Gifts of the Spirit FOR the Churches.
- B. The Gifts of the Son TO the Churches.

X The Permanency and Passing of the Gifts of the Spirit.

- A. We HAVE That Which Is Perfect.
- B. There Was A Specific & Limited Purpose for Some Gifts.
- C. Some Gifted Offices Were Also Temporary.

XI The Sign Gifts.

- A. The Purpose of Sign Gifts.
- B. The Place of Sign Gifts.
- C. The Peril with Sign Gifts.

XII The Serving Gifts.

- A. The Gift of PROPHECY.
- B. The Gift of Ministry.
- C. The Gift of Teaching.
- D. The Gift of Exhorting.
- E. The Gift of Giving.
- F. The Gift of Ruling.
- G. The Gift of Mercy.

XIII The gift of Tongues

- A. "In What Language Did You Speak?"
- B. "To What Group Of Unbelieving Jews Did You Speak?"
- C. "Did You Follow The Biblical Rules When You Spoke In Tongues?"

XIV The Gifts of Healing.

- A. The Healing Ministry Of Jesus Christ.
- B. The Healing Ministry of the Apostles.