

The Power of the Holy Spirit

☞ **The Promise of the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is not some “mystical force.” **He is the third person of the Trinity works in you and can fill you, enabling you to live a godly life with power.** We need the Holy Spirit!

☞ **The Presence of the Holy Spirit**

Galatians 5:22-23 **the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.** This is the fruit of Holy Spirit; not the fruit of trying harder to be a good Christian. So, simply pursue the Spirit’s leadership in our lives then He will produce this good fruit in us. If what comes out when we’re under pressure is not the fruit of the Spirit, then we need more of the Holy Spirit in us!

☞ **Today: The Power of the Holy Spirit, part 1**

Power is always associated with the Holy Spirit:

Judges 14 Samson killed a lion bare-handed
1 Kings 18 Elijah outran a chariot for about 16 miles
Acts 4 The place shook and they became bold
Acts 6 Stephen performed signs and wonders
Acts 14 God confirmed Paul & Barnabas with signs

When we think of the power of the Holy Spirit, we typically think of the gifts of the Spirit.

☞ **Lists of gifts are found in...**

Romans 12:6-8 **1 Corinthians 12:8-10**
1 Corinthians 12:28-30 **Ephesians 4:11**

Today’s key text:

☞ **1 Corinthians 12:4-11**

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. 7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8 To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10 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. 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

In verse 1 it says, “I don’t want you to be ignorant about spiritual gifts.” Sadly, many Christians are ignorant exactly here. God wants us to know about these things.

v. 4 “Different kinds of gifts” There is indeed a diversity of gifts! Yet there is only one Giver, who works through the diverse gifts.

☞ **Gifts = spiritual endowment; miraculous ability**

Paul also calls these manifestations of the Spirit.

☞ **Manifestations = exhibition; expression; a shining forth**

The Holy Spirit is always present in and among Christians. However, at some times the Spirit's presence is more *apparent* than at other times. There are times when He may choose to *manifest* Himself with a display of power which then makes Him more apparent.

One of the ways the Holy Spirit displays his power is through spiritual gifts. A spiritual gift simply put, is a supernatural ability given by God. It's not a personal talent that a person develops, but it's supernatural. Verse 7 reminds us that the gift is not for the person only, but for the whole church. These are for the common good. The ministry of the Holy Spirit is not to promote Himself or any man, but to glorify and represent Jesus.

☞ **Purpose of the Gifts:**

- **To benefit others** 1 Corinthians 12:7; 1 Peter 4:10
- **Build up the church** Romans 12 & 1 Corinthians 12
- **Confirm God's message** John 10:37-38; Acts 14:3
- **Win the lost** John 6:2, 14

Three main divisions:

☞ **Gifts of Comprehension; Gifts of Capability; Gifts of Communication**

I. Gifts of Comprehension

☞ **A. The Word of Wisdom**

1. Definition: A supernatural **directing of the Holy Spirit to GUIDE** in wise judgment or action for a specific purpose of God. The Jewish New Testament Commentary says this is supernatural wisdom about how to solve a practical or spiritual problem. This is not natural wisdom, but is given by the Spirit for carrying out God's purposes.

Believers with this gift can often see through the confusion of a situation and can give direction that would help people obtain a God-glorifying goal. The church needs those with the spiritual gift of wisdom to guide her through uncertain or difficult times.

Have you ever been in a situation where you really didn't know what to do? It seemed like every option was a bad option and people would get hurt or angry? But you prayed about it and all of a sudden there's a fresh idea for dealing with the situation that actually works? That's probably the word of wisdom.

2. Examples:

1 Kings 3:28

Solomon received the wisdom of God. And he became widely known for his wisdom.

Matthew 1:20-25

Joseph received instruction about Mary in a dream; he also received wisdom about going to Egypt and later returning. – see Matthew 2:13-15; 2:19-20.

Matthew 2:12

Wise men received special wisdom to be guided away from Herod.

Acts 6:1-7

Wisdom was given for the government of the church. The leaders were to focus on prayer and the Word, while others took care of more practical matters.

Acts 6:10

Stephen argued persuasively against members of the Synagogue because of his wisdom and “the Spirit by whom he spoke.”

3. Operation:

☞ **Through speaking prompted by the Holy Spirit.**

Through dreams and visions.

Through revelation to the mind.

Natural wisdom is in shortage these days, so we especially need this gift!

☞ **B. The Word of Knowledge**

1. Definition: A supernatural **ability to KNOW any fact** concerning a person, thing or circumstance. This is the unique ability to declare knowledge **that could only be revealed supernaturally.**

--Jack Hayford... an utterance from the Holy Spirit revealing knowledge about people, circumstances or Biblical truth.

This knowledge never contradicts the Word of God. The Holy Spirit is the author of both the Word and the gift. It is not necessarily spectacular. God is not always in the wind, earthquake, or fire, – but many times in the still, small voice (1 Kings 19:12).

One scholar says, “The person with this gift is usually well-versed in the Scriptures. The gift of knowledge allows a believer to relate the Scriptures to all aspects of life in this world.” I believe the word of knowledge can also prove God’s presence by allowing the person with the gift to know something about a person or situation that could not otherwise be known.

Some of you have actually seen this gift in operation when a person praying with somebody brings something up that was only known to that person. Then the person being prayed for may be astonished, wondering, “How did you know about that?” It’s a demonstration or a proof of God’s power!

2. Examples:

1 Samuel 9

Samuel knew that Saul was coming to him and that he was to become king. Also, he knew about the animals that were lost.

2 Kings 6:8-12

Elisha revealed the enemy's military plans to the king.

Mark 2:8

Jesus knew the teachers were thinking that he was blaspheming God.

John 1:48

Jesus knew that Nathaniel had been under the fig tree. Nathaniel believed because of this.

John 4:18

Jesus knew the secrets of the woman at the well in Samaria.

Acts 9:11

Ananias was directed to a specific location to meet Saul.

3. Operation:

☞ **Through revelation to the mind.**

Through dreams and visions.

☞ C. Discerning of Spirits

1. Definition: A supernatural **ability to SEE into the spirit world**. This is the ability to tell the difference between true and false doctrine, and between what is of the Holy Spirit and what isn't.

The Jewish New Testament Commentary says this is the ability to tell whether a particular phenomenon is from the Spirit of God, from a person's own spirit, or from some demonic spirit; one might call it the supernatural ability to avoid being deceived.

Satan appears as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14). He deceives with a false, tempting message (Genesis 2:16-3:5). There can be lying spirits in the mouths of prophets (1 Kings 22:21-23 and 2 Chronicles 18:20-22). Satan can speak right after God speaks (Matthew 16:23). Sometimes people who seem to say the right things are really from the devil (Acts 13:6-12 and 16:16-18). It is important to test the word of anyone who claims to speak from God (1 John 4:1-3)

☞ We must be careful that we **do not confuse suspicion with discernment**. Suspicion is from the mind, not from the Spirit of God. Discerning of spirits is not the gift of discerning the faults in other people. This gift discerns spirits, not people. This is not natural ability to discriminate, size up, or psycho-analyze. It is not a critical spirit, which is a hindrance to natural discernment.

2. Examples:

Genesis 18

Abraham recognized the Lord.

Genesis 32:1

Jacob recognized a group of angels.

Acts 7:55-56

Stephen saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

Acts 13:9,10

Paul discerned the spirit of the sorcerer, Elymas.

Revelation 1:11,12

John had a vision on Patmos and wrote the Book of Revelation.

3. Operation:

☞ **It recognizes good and evil tendencies in people.**

It senses the presence of demon power.

It keeps the church free from deceivers.

Summary on the Gifts of Comprehension

☞ • **The Word of Wisdom**

• **The Word of Knowledge**

• **Discerning of Spirits**

The gifts of comprehension are most commonly exercised through the called ministry – Ephesians 4:11. (Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers) However, all the gifts are for all the believers. If the ministry of any believer warrants he could be enabled. In fact, I believe any believer can operate in any spiritual gift as the Spirit enables it. Typically, each believer has one primary gift that the Holy Spirit works in them most often. But, it is the prerogative of the Holy Spirit to give as he wills – all the gifts are resident in him.

We need wisdom; we need knowledge; we need discernment. We need the Holy Spirit!

Conclusion

☞ **1 Corinthians 14:1**

eagerly desire spiritual gifts

Holy Spirit (you are welcome here)