

The Power of the Holy Spirit, Part Three

Do you enjoy receiving gifts? God is a gift giver!

☞ **Review: The Power of the Holy Spirit, part one & two**

Three main types of spiritual gifts: Gifts of Comprehension, Capability and Communication

Gifts of Capability:

- **The Word of Wisdom – Supernatural guidance for difficult situations.**
- **The Word of Knowledge – Supernaturally knowing the unknowable.**
- **Discerning of Spirits - Seeing into the spirit world**
- **Faith – Absolute trust in God that see with certainty and wait without wavering.**
- **Gifts of Healing – Supernatural ability to cure from sickness, disability, or evil spirits.**
- **Miraculous Powers – A supernatural demonstration of power that overrides nature.**

Today:

☞ **III. Gifts of Communication**

☞ **A. Prophecy**

1. Definition: A supernatural **utterance given to the church to edify, exhort, or comfort.**

Edify means to build up or strengthen.

Exhort means to stir up or motivate.

Comfort means to inspire, encourage, or console.

The word “prophetic” is sometimes generically used to describe spiritual giftedness. Often, when a person operates in Words of Wisdom, Knowledge, Discernment or Prophecy, we describe it all as “prophetic.” Technically, the term “prophetic” is referring to **anything** ☞ **inspired by or spoken on behalf of God**. It is a divinely inspired message delivered to others in the church. Those with this gift are sensitive to both the prompting of the Holy Spirit and the needs of the church body.

☞ Prophecy **sometimes involves predicting the future**. However, the gift of prophecy is not always linked with the office of the prophet. Any spirit-filled believer can be enabled by the Holy Spirit to prophesy. Though inspired, this gift is not on the level of the Word of God (Bible). In fact, Paul tells us to test prophecy against God’s Word.

☞ The message contained in this gift should **always be in harmony with the Word**. The gift of prophecy never takes the place of preaching or teaching, but rather, these should work in harmony. All sermons should be at least partially “prophetic.”

2. Examples:

Numbers 11:25

The seventy elders with Moses.

1 Samuel 10:10

Saul, when anointed king.

Luke 1:42-45

Elizabeth, when Mary visited her.

Luke 1:67

Zechariah, when John was born.

Acts 19:6

The Ephesian disciples received the Spirit.

Acts 21

Philip's four unmarried daughters. Agabus, about Paul going to Jerusalem.

3. Operation:

☞ A spoken word inspired by the Spirit to build up faith, warn or stir up the church, and to confirm the Word of Truth. Prophecy can come **through dreams, visions, or revelation to the mind.**

Some have experienced this gift in operation, when God gives insight into something before it happens. Also, I believe that a lot of preaching is prophetic in that it is God's specific message for a specific people at a specific time.

In 1 Corinthians 14:1 Paul says we should "eagerly desire spiritual gifts, *especially the gift of prophecy.*"

☞ B. Tongues

1. Definition: The supernatural power to **speak in a language not known by the speaker** for a specific purpose of God.

This subject is one that some people are unsure about. Some think it's strange and don't want anything to do with it. But remember, it is a gift from God just as much as wisdom or healing.

The scriptural foundation of the gift:

- It was prophesied. Isaiah 28:11; Joel 2:28.
- It was predicted by Christ. Mark 16:17.
- It was the pattern for receiving the baptism with the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:4.
- It was perpetuated as a pattern in subsequent outpourings in the book of Acts.

☞ **The purpose of the gift of tongues:** (*why tongues?*)

To be a sign of the Spirit's infilling. Acts 2:4; 10:46; 19:6.

☞ **To speak to God** supernaturally. Tongues is spiritual prayer. I like to call it "**Prayer language.**" 1 Corinthians 14:14-15 talks about praying with the spirit and praying with understanding. Tongues is praying with the spirit. We can even sing with the spirit.

1 Corinthians 14:2

For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God.

- This gift makes up for the inadequacy of words.
- The Spirit helps in our weakness & intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. Romans 8:26.

☞ **To exalt and magnify God.**

- Acts 10:46 ...speaking with tongues and praising God.
- Acts 2:11 ...We hear them declaring the wonders of God.

☞ **To edify.**

- For self-edification. 1 Corinthians 14:4.
- For edification of the church when interpreted. 1 Corinthians 14:5, 12-13.
- Like the rest of the gifts, it is for the common good. 1 Corinthians 12:7.

This gift should not bring confusion. (Confusion is the purpose for Paul's discourse on tongues in 1 Corinthians 14.) Over the years, some have suggested that this is an overwhelming urge by the Holy Spirit to speak and thereby disrupt what is going on in the gathering. However, Paul expounds on the truth that everything should be done in an orderly manner. The Bible says so in 1 Corinthians 14, where it tells us that the speaker has control over the gift. Paul also gives guidelines about how many should speak and that there are times when the gift of tongues should not speak. This is a gift from God and should not bring confusion. But some have objected to this particular gift and brought more confusion...

- "It was hysteria or intense emotion that swept over the one hundred twenty due to grief over the death of Christ and should not be emulated or desired." But, the disciples were doing exactly what Jesus had instructed them to do. And, the results speak for themselves – three thousand were saved.
 - Nightline Online did a report on this phenomenon of speaking in tongues. The report actually studied brain scans of people praying in tongues and compared those to people simply praying in English. The results strongly suggest that something extraordinary is happening and clearly indicate that praying in tongues is not just some hyped up gibberish that people are manufacturing. They couldn't explain exactly what was happening, but concluded that it was genuine.
- Some say tongues was only given for missionary purposes because Jerusalem was filled with foreigners who needed the gospel. Acts 2:5. However...
 - They were all Jews who understood Peter in a common language and they understood temple services so if it was only for missionary purposes, it was unnecessary.
- Some simply think this is a strange practice and should be avoided.
 - ☞ **1 Corinthians 14:39 says, "Do not forbid speaking in tongues."**

A comparison between tongues and prophecy: Both are forms of speech inspired by God.

- Prophecy is speaking to people. Tongues is speaking to God. 1 Corinthians 14:2-3.

- Prophecy edifies others. Tongues is for edification of self. 1 Corinthians 14:3-4.
- 1 Corinthians 14:5 says that prophecy is greater than tongues unless tongues is accompanied by an interpretation.
- 🗨️ **Prophecy and tongues-plus-interpretation are apparently equal in value.**

2. Examples:

The last two gifts are found only in the New Testament church.

Acts 2:4-11

The 120 on the Day of Pentecost.

Acts 10:46

The Gentiles at Cornelius' house.

Acts 19:6

The new disciples at Ephesus.

3. Operation:

🗨️ **Personally** – Through a person's voice, the Holy Spirit speaks in an unknown language to pray. **Prayer Language.**

🗨️ **Publicly** – Through the Holy Spirit, a person is given a message to speak in an unknown language in the assembly of the church. This needs to be **interpreted** and when that happens it is comparable to a prophecy and **edifies or exhorts others.**

If you've been coming here for any length of time you've probably heard this gift. There are a number of people present that pray in tongues frequently and you may have overheard them. And, on occasion, we have had a few that felt moved to speak out publically in tongues so that it may be interpreted to build up the whole church.

🗨️ C. Interpretation of Tongues

1. Definition: The supernatural ability through the Holy Spirit **to give the meaning of tongues in a known language, for the edification of the church.**

This gift is a miracle. A person who does not even know nor understand a language is enabled supernaturally by the Spirit to interpret this unknown language fluently and perfectly. The interpreter may be the one who gave the message or it may be another. 1 Corinthians 14:13, 28.

🗨️ This gift is an interpretation, **not a translation.** To interpret means to give the meaning of a message. To translate means to turn from one's own to another language, word for word.

According to 1 Corinthians 14:6, when the gift of tongues is interpreted it can be a revelation from God or a word of knowledge. It can also be a prophecy or simply a word of instruction. Here's another reference that suggests when the gift of tongues is interpreted it is similar to prophecy.

2. Examples:

Paul spends a whole chapter in 1 Corinthians giving instructions about tongues and interpretation – the instructions prove the evidence of this gift. 1 Corinthians 14.

At times people have heard an interpretation and confirmed that they also had a similar thought as to what God was saying. The most profound example I know of was years ago at Jefferson OBC... there were some African Missionaries visiting when a message in tongues was given and interpreted. They recognized the language and confirmed the interpretation.

3. Operation:

☞ Through the power of the Holy Spirit the interpreter is **given revelation to the mind** and speaks the meaning of the message in tongues. This **brings edification and exhortation**.

Summary of all the Gifts:

☞ 1. Don't forget – **the purpose of the gifts of the Spirit is to attract attention to the gospel, to build up the church, and to provide evidence of the presence of God** with His people. They are proof of the Divine call and commission. They are used to meet the needs of God's people, and to confirm the Truth of the Word.

☞ 2. The only **acceptable motive** in the ministry of the gifts **is love**. 1 Corinthians 13.

☞ 3. **All the gifts** are resident in the Spirit and **are in harmony**. They are never used competitively or in confusion.

☞ 4. The gifts are manifested by the Spirit **through believers** baptized in the Holy Spirit who place themselves **in position** to be so used by submission, **faith and obedience**.

While these nine are the primary gifts of the Spirit, there are other gifts listed in the Scripture: Serving; Encouraging; Giving; Leadership; Administration; and more.

Conclusion

☞ **1 Corinthians 14:1...eagerly desire spiritual gifts...**

Holy Spirit (you are welcome here)