



GIFTS – SUPERNATURAL GIFTS

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Church Alive

We are on our journey in our series Church Alive. We're trusting that each one of us will be awakened in our God-given gifts and callings in a fresh way and begin to serve one another and make a difference in our city.

Supernatural Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:1, 4-11 NKJV

¹ Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:

⁴ There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. ⁶ And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. ⁷ But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: ⁸ for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

1 Corinthians 12:1 states very clearly that we are talking about gifts – they are offered to us, given to us, but we need to receive them. When Abram sent his servant to find a bride for Isaac, the servant loaded the camel with, amongst others, some very valuable gifts of jewellery. If Rebecca, the prospective bride, had refused to accept the gifts it would have dishonoured Isaac and his father and would have indicated that she was refusing to be his bride. God, our Father, sent God the Holy Spirit with many gifts for the bride of Jesus, His Son. Do you think that it is okay to refuse them? Definitely not. If you refuse, you could also be seen as not wanting to be part of the bride of Jesus!

Just like salvation we do not earn, or purchase something that is a gift. We must also remember **that we may not manipulate them, they're usually not for own benefit** and we cannot take credit for them. They are to be used for **God's purposes, to help others** and to bless the Body. Who may they be offered to? Any believer in Jesus who is filled with, and yielded to the Holy Spirit.

Scriptures to consider:

According to *2 Chronicles 5:13-14*, when the trumpeters and singers were as one and they were praising and thanking the Lord, making music and singing the house of the Lord was filled with a cloud, the priests could not continue ministering, because of the glory of the Lord.

Acts 16:25 **"But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God."**
Manifestation came.

Ephesians 4:30 **"Do not grieve the Holy Spirit."**

1 Thessalonians 5:19 **"Do not quench the Spirit."** This happens through unbelief and doubt, rather be sensitive to the stirring in our spirits and submit our wills and let the Spirit flow through us.

There are 9 Supernatural gifts listed in a 1 Corinthians 12:8-10. They are all manifestations of the Holy Spirit in your life. We cannot see the Holy Spirit with our physical eyes, but through the gifts He is manifested. The same Spirit operates differently in all of us, so we must not judge how God is working in someone else, nor should we compare ourselves with others. The Body of Christ benefits from us operating in diverse ways.

Let's see what the gifts are. To make it easier to remember we put them into 3 groups of each:

1. REVELATION GIFTS: Word of Knowledge; Word of Wisdom; Discerning of Spirits.
2. VOCAL GIFTS: Prophecy; Gift of Tongues; Interpretation of Tongues.
3. POWER GIFTS: Faith; Working of Miracles; Gifts of Healings.

1. REVELATION GIFTS

WORD OF KNOWLEDGE:

It is a supernatural revelation of information by the Holy Spirit, concerning the past, or the present, about a person or a situation which you could not have known. It does not come from the natural mind. Not absolutely everything about the person or situation gets revealed. God only gives you that part that you need to have.

The Word of Knowledge is sometimes experienced as the name of a disease being made known to you, or you may experience a sudden pain in an area of your own body, which is a pain that does not belong to you. It may be that a name of somebody is given, or the knowledge that you need to visit some specific person. You may see something in the spirit around a person or **a place. You hear a word or a phrase, see a word written on someone's forehead, it may be a thought that comes to you, it may be in a dream or vision.**

Examples:

- Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman at the well. The fact that Jesus knew that the man **she was living with was not her husband and He knew about all the men that's been in her life, overwhelmed her.** The result was that many in the city believed.
- Peter operated in the Word of Knowledge when he knew that Ananias was lying to him about the amount of money that he had sold his property for.
- Gideon was given very clear instructions on how to overcome the Midianites.
- Many received words of knowledge in visions, e.g. Daniel and many more.

This gift can be of great value in ministering to the needs of someone and provide you with boldness to speak out. There are times when you should not necessarily immediately speak it out, but approach the person in a quieter, private way, or not even just then. Often God gives a Word of Knowledge about a particular person or situation in order to protect, warn or guide.

WORD OF WISDOM:

This is a supernatural revelation given to you by the Holy Spirit. It is something that you could **not have thought of, using your own intelligence or experience. It's not by trial** and error. It may be something that needs to be said, some advice to be given to someone, or it may be concerning a plan of action to be taken. It may reveal **God's plan** and purpose for your own life and ministry for the present time, or in the future. It may be advice for an individual or group of people, telling them how to proceed **in God's will.**

The word may come as an inner voice, or through a dream or a vision. It may also be used while operating in the vocal gifts. The Word of Knowledge and the Word of Wisdom usually work closely together. The Word of Wisdom tells you how to use the Word of Knowledge, it creates greater faith and thus gives you boldness.

Examples:

- Jesus used this when He was talking to the rich young ruler, telling him to sell all he had and to come and follow Him. Jesus knew that this man was too attached to his goods.

- Solomon knew what to do about two babies
- Jesus knew the best answer to give when questioned about tribute to Caesar.

This word is of great value in evangelism ministry, telling you how to effectively present the Gospel in a specific situation. When you witness to an unbeliever and you receive either a Word of Wisdom, or also a Word of Knowledge they will most probably convince the unbeliever that God is real and cares about him. If you are flowing in the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the Word of Wisdom will let you know when to speak a word, pray for someone, lay hands on someone, let you know whether you should cast out a demon, or even perform a creative miracle.

DISCERNING OF SPIRITS:

This is a supernatural insight in the realm of the spirit world. It reveals the type of spirit behind what is taking place, or being said and lets you know whether it is the Spirit of God, a human spirit or from Satan. The Bible tells us that in the last days there will be great danger of being seduced. This means that the discerning of spirits has become vital.

Examples:

- In 1 Kings 22 we read that king Jehoshaphat visited king Ahab who then wanted him to join him in a fight against the king of Syria to **retrieve Ramoth Gilead. All Ahab's prophets** had said that they should go and would be victorious, but Jehoshaphat wanted to hear from a prophet of God. Ahab said that the only one left, always prophesied negative things about him. Jehoshaphat insisted and Micaiah was sent for. He said he saw Israel scattered upon the hills like sheep without a shepherd and God had said that the men should go home. God had shown Micaiah the hidden things that were happening in the heavens where God asked the host of heaven for someone to persuade Ahab to go and that he would fall at Ramoth Gilead. God had decided that this was to be the end of this **wicked king. One said that he would be a lying spirit in the mouths of Ahab's prophets and God said, "that will persuade him, go forth and do this".** And so, by having been shown this vision by God, Micaiah could discern the spirits and **know that Ahab's prophets were false.**
- **When Peter said to Jesus, "You are the Christ, The Son of the living God," Jesus knew that it was not coming from Peter's own mind, but was revealed by the Father (Matt 16:17).** Jesus said to him that flesh and blood had not revealed this to him, but His Father in heaven. Then again when Jesus told them that He would suffer and be killed, and Peter rebuked Jesus and said it would not happen, Jesus knew that the spirit of Satan was behind the words by Peter (verses 22 & 23). There are many examples in the Bible, e.g. the young girl in Acts 16 in Philippi who was possessed with a spirit of divination and Paul knew it and cast the spirit out.
- In Mozambique I met a man who testified how God had given him a 360° vision of a large area of Mexico where he should go and minister. He was obedient and God blessed his work tremendously. He knew that it was the Spirit of God directing him.

Before Jesus sent His disciples out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick, He gave them authority and power over all demons and to cure diseases. Luke 9:1-2.

2. VOCAL GIFTS

Here you will use your voice to speak or pray and it may be through prophecy, tongues, or interpretation of tongues.

GIFT OF TONGUES:

The gift of tongues is a supernatural expression of inspiration by the Holy Spirit using your physical voice organs. It is in a language that you have never learnt and your mind does not know what you are saying. It may be a heavenly language used by angels, or a human language which can be understood by someone who is hearing it. Paul said that it was a sign to the unbeliever – 1 Corinthians 14:22.

Examples:

- On the day of Pentecost various existing tongues (languages) were spoken and this was instrumental in bringing 3000 people to Christ. People had gathered from different countries with different languages and they heard their own languages. What a wonderful evangelistic outreach **that was! I've heard various testimonies of this** happening in real life in this day and age also.

We read that Paul said that he spoke in tongues more than anyone else and he encouraged others to do so too. In our private prayer times, **it is of wonderful help. When we don't have** words to speak out what our desires are, or we just long to worship the Lord more and more, it is wonderful to just hand over to the Holy Spirit and let **Him speak words that we don't even** understand. He knows what is in our hearts and can speak our desires and worship God. He even groans with us in desperate situations. You can trust Him because He knows everything in your heart and He intercedes for you **according to God's plans for your life. He will not be** speaking anything that is not for your good! Jude 20 tells us that praying in tongues builds us up in faith. I have many times experienced in my own life that praying in tongues builds faith and creates great joy and peace in my heart. Paul teaches us that in a church meeting we must use this gift only if we ourselves, or someone in the meeting, has the gift of interpretation – or of course it is wonderful if it is a known tongue and is meant for someone specific - present in the meeting. Singing in tongues is glorious and often speaking flows over into singing. When a group of believers are together worshipping in this way, is a great blessing.

INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES:

The Holy Spirit supernaturally gives the meaning or **explanation of a tongue. It's the vocal** expression of the tongue in your own language. It is not a literal translation, or rather not usually, but it unfolds what has been said and in this way, gives us the meaning of the tongue. When tongues, as well as the interpretation, take place, they have the same value as prophecy.

Should you pray in tongues while ministering to an unbeliever, he/she would probably not understand what is happening, but should the Holy Spirit then give you the interpretation and it contains some information concerning the individual, it will very valuable in helping the one to believe. Here we then find the tongue, interpretation of it and the Word of Knowledge, all working together.

GIFT OF PROPHECY:

The literal meaning of the Greek word means, to speak the mind and counsel of God. It is a spontaneous, supernatural vocal expression of inspiration given in a known tongue. It encourages, edifies and strengthens the body of Christ. An easy to understand, and to remember, definition for a prophet we find in Jeremiah 1. God told Jeremiah that He had ordained him to be a prophet and **Jeremiah said, "I cannot speak, for I am a youth."** Then God touched his **mouth I said, "Behold I have put My words in your mouth."**

If you are going to say, "Thus sayeth the Lord," you must be sure that God has put the words in your mouth. If you are not totally sure, it is safer to say, that you feel or sense that God wants to say something. It might be a direct message from God for a specific person, or group. **The prophetic word often contains words that indicate knowledge of the person's life and circumstances that the speaker could not have known and is a clear indication of God's presence.** It works in the same way as tongues plus interpretation.

In the Old Testament there were prophets with a very high level of prophecy. People such as Moses, Elijah, Jeremiah, to name just a few, were prophets who were very significant in the history of Israel. The New Testament tells us that prophecy must be tested and can also never become part of the Bible – **it's not operating on that level.**

Example:

- In Acts 13 we find the prophets and teachers fasting and ministering to the Lord and then by the Holy Spirit they prophesy that Paul and Barnabas should be released to the **work God had called them to. This led to Paul's 1st missionary journey.**

When receiving or giving a personal prophetic word, there should be a sense of God working on both sides. The one who receives must know that God has been speaking to him about the same matter and the prophecy should be a confirmation of what the person has sensed. It is possible to receive a glimpse of the future from God.

3. POWER GIFTS

The power gifts are the manifestation of God's power through us.

GIFT OF FAITH:

This is a supernatural gift of faith for a specific occasion and purpose. All believers receive a measure of faith, but this is something more. When you receive this gift, you do not have to strive to believe. It is an instantaneous impartation and infusion of faith. The revelatory gifts release boldness to speak and to do and the gift of faith may then follow. Then we see the Revelatory gifts, the Vocal gifts and the Power gifts all working together and supporting each other. When this gift is in operation, miracles and wonderful things happen immediately. Jesus always ministered with the Gift of Faith and did many miracles in this way.

GIFT OF MIRACLES:

This supernatural demonstration of the power of God by which the laws of nature are altered, suspended or controlled. It always confirms the word of God and glorifies Jesus.

Examples:

- There are many examples in the Bible, such as Abraham and Sarah producing a baby at ages where naturally it is no longer possible.
- When Moses and Israel were at the Red Sea, a path was miraculously formed for them, but immediately afterwards, swallowed up the Egyptians.
- Joshua asked the sun to stand still and it did, until they had achieved the victory they desired.
- In the miracle of calming the storm, Jesus **just said, "Peace, be still".**
- **When Jesus saw the widow of Nain's son being carried out of the city to be buried, He touched the coffin and He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." The dead man sat up and began to speak and Jesus presented him to his mother.**
- **Peter said to a lame man, "Silver and gold I don't have, but what I do have I give you, In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." Immediately he was able to.**

However difficult it may seem, when the gift of faith is operating, being dropped into your spirit by God, you can lay your hands on the sick and even speak a creative miracle.

We can even see God perform a miracle through us. I have seen, not necessarily done through me alone, but sometimes together with others, a shortened leg growing to the right length in a few seconds, blind eyes opened, deaf ears opened, weak hearts strengthened and much more. God can do these things through anybody who belongs to Him and is filled with the Holy Spirit.

- Miracles of provision have been experienced by many. Not only did Jesus feed thousands with a few loaves and fish, but a man like George Muller who cared for ever so many orphans, experienced God supplying meals at just the right time, when the cupboards had been empty. We could carry on and on recounting such miraculous stories!

GIFTS OF HEALINGS:

They are supernatural **impartations of God's healing power** into people who need it. They are not the same as receiving help through medical science, although I think that God also gives wisdom to doctors to know what to do, working with them.

In the Old Testament God is revealed as the healing God in Exodus 15:26. Mal. 4:2 says, "But to you who fear My name, the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings." Isaiah told us in chapter 53 that sickness and disease were included in the sufferings of the redemptive work of the Messiah. Matt. 8:16-17 tells us that Jesus healed all who were sick. 1 Peter 2:24 says, "By whose stripes you were healed."

Healing of the soul and the body are needed and provided for. Luke 4:18 quotes Is 61, saying that Jesus had come to heal the broken-hearted.

Miracles are immediate, while healings may take a while. The healed body may need time to regain strength. The book of Acts is also filled with stories about many miracles and healings. James 5:14 says that when you are sick you should call the Elders to pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. In the great Commission (Mark 16), which is for all believers, Jesus said that those who believe will lay hands on the sick and they will recover.

Many international evangelists talk about how they draw crowds to attend their meetings by first conducting healing meetings. These draw the crowds and then give opportunity for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The gift of discerning of spirits works closely with healings and miracles. Sometimes a sickness is caused by a spirit of infirmity and then if the Holy Spirit reveals the source of a problem by giving an impression or a thought which reveals the name of the spirit of infirmity, it makes it easier to minister gifts of healings and miracles. When an unbeliever is healed in this way, it opens the way for the person to come to know Jesus and accept Him as personal Saviour.

None of these gifts operate as a result of heightened natural ability, but it is supernatural ability. The Holy Spirit bestows the gifts to whom He wills as the occasion needs. Each gift is visible evidence of Holy Spirit activity.

It is possible for every believer, filled with the Holy Spirit to do the works of Jesus and to be a miracle-working witness for Jesus Christ. When this happens imagine the wave of miracle evangelism that will sweep across our cities and around the world.

Are you a child of God? Have you experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit that filled you with boldness and power? Are you walking hand in hand with Jesus and are continually filled and being refilled with the Holy Spirit? If so, be ready and willing to receive one, more, or even all of these gifts which will then equip you for whatever need arises.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Have you experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit that filled you with boldness and power? If not, speak to one of our pastors or community group leaders to pray with you.
 2. Has the Holy Spirit used you in any of these gifts mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12? Share your experiences with others to build their faith.
 3. Open your heart to the Holy Spirit now. What is He impressing on your heart? If He gives you a "gift" for someone else, be bold and use it!
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