**The Holy Spirit and Spiritual Gifts**

**Session 3**

God desires to use us to minister to others. The Holy Spirit gives us as believers in Christ a special spiritual gift to minister to others. It is something we enjoy doing and something we are good at. As God works through us with these gifts, the results must always be attributed to Him and not ourselves. We must guard against two imbalances. One, we must not become discouraged if our gift(s) are not like others, thus becoming greedy for someone else’s gifts rather than being content with the gift(s) He’s give us. Two, we must be careful not to inflate or boast about our gifts leading to pride. For in the true exercise of spiritual gifts, they are given in order to bring glory to God through the strengthening and building up of the believer.

* **1 Corinthians 12:1** Now concerningspiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed.
* **1 Corinthians 12:4** Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;

**What is the difference between a natural talent and a spiritual gift?**

**Natural Talents Spiritual Gifts**

1. Source: From God From God

Through parents Independent of parents

2. Possessed: From birth Probably from conversion

3. Purpose: To benefit mankind on To benefit mankind on the

the natural level spiritual level

4. Process: Must be recognized, Must be recognized,

developed, exercised developed, exercised

5. Function: Often used to impress Should be used to God’s

or puff up the flesh glory.

Every Christian has at least **one gift**.

* **1 Corinthians 12:11** All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as He wills.

**List of Gifts**

Romans 12:6-8 Ephesians 4:11 1 Peter 4:11

Prophesying Apostleship Speaking

Serving Prophesying Serving

Teaching Evangelizing

Exhorting Pastor-teacher

Giving

Leadership

Showing mercy

1 Corinthians 12:6-10 1 Corinthians 12:28-30

Word of wisdom Apostleship

Word of knowledge Prophesying

Faith Teaching

Healing Miracles

Miracles Healing

Prophesying Helping

Discerning of spirits Administering

Interpretation of Tongues Tongues

**Are All the Gifts Still in Operation?**

**Apostleship today?**

Certainly, we would agree Jesus had His 12 apostles who were eyewitnesses of His miracles, crucifixion, and resurrection. But there is no biblical evidence which exists to indicate that these thirteen apostles were replaced when they died. Jesus appointed the apostles to do the founding work of the Church, and foundations only need to be laid once. After the apostles’ deaths, other offices besides apostleship where introduced such as Pastors, Elders, Deacons, etc., not requiring an eyewitness relationship with Jesus, but would humbly and passionately carry on the work.

An apostle is one sent on a mission: to preach and teach the gospel, but to call someone an Apostle like the 12 in Jesus day is not scriptural. I travel overseas and preach and teach the authority of God’s Word. I fulfill the role of an apostle who is sent on a mission, but I would never call myself an apostle. I prefer the title of pastor. The term or title “apostle” today can bring too much controversy.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Temporary Gifts | | Permanent Gifts | |
| Supernatural Sign | | Speaking | Serving |
| Revelatory | Confirmatory |
| * Apostleship * Prophecy * Discerning of spirits * Word of wisdom * Word of knowledge * Tongues * Interpretation of tongues | * Healings * Miracles * Tongues | * Evangelism * Teaching * Pastor-teacher * Exhortation | * Service * Showing mercy * Giving * Administrations * Helps |

The debate continues among many good Christian leaders, as to whether or not all the gifts of the spirit are still active today. This should not be a dividing point among believers, for the scriptures are not absolutely clear on this. For example, here are two common views:

**The Cessationism View:**

Cessationism is a Protestant doctrine where spiritual gifts such as speaking in tongues, prophecy, and healing ceased with the Apostolic Age of the church (or soon thereafter).

Cessationists often cite 1 Corinthians 13:8-10 to support the idea that some gifts ceased when “the perfect” came. Some believe that “the perfect” refers to the completion of the Bible. This position holds that once the Bible was in completed form there was no longer any need for miraculous works of the Holy Spirit through believers. However, verse 12 clarifies the identity of that “perfect:” “For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.” Since we cannot see the Bible face to face, nor can it “know” us, continuationists consider this passage a reference to the second coming of Jesus. At that time there will be no need for the Holy Spirit’s gifts, including the gift of knowledge (verse 8), as we will be in the physical presence of Jesus Himself.

*“In the earliest time the Holy Spirit fell upon those who believed: and they spoke with tongues (Other known languages) which they had not learned ‘as the Spirit gave them utterance.’ These were signs appropriate to the time. For it was proper for the Holy Spirit to evidence Himself in all tongues, and to show that the Gospel of God had come to all tongues [languages] over the whole earth. The thing was done for an authentication and it passed away.”* – St. Augustine (354-430)

**The Continuationism View:**

Continuationism is the belief that all the spiritual gifts, including healings, tongues, and miracles, are still in operation today, just as they were in the days of the early church. A continuationist believes that the spiritual gifts have “continued” continuously since the Day of Pentecost and that today’s church has access to all the spiritual gifts mentioned in the Bible.

**Small Group Discussion**: Go back and look at the list of Spiritual Gifts. What gift(s) do you believe God has given you for the building up of the body? Do others confirm this as well of you? If yes, how so?

What to find out what your spiritual gift is? **https://giftstest.com/**

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