

Vol 17 The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The gifts of The Holy Spirit are just that. Gifts from God resulting from His Grace and Love toward us and are designed to be used for His Purposes as well as to help us do His Will.

You can ask for them or 'impart' them. But it is up to God whether or not they are given. If He does not give the gifts requested then Satan will try and give you his version of corrupted gifts and at times will succeed because a gift is expected and the source is expected to be The Holy Spirit. As The Holy Spirit does not give this gift Satan fills this empty spiritual space with His version of the 'gifts'. God will not go against our free will desire for the gifts and must allow Satan to fulfill this wrong desire for a gift.

It is wrong because God would have given It To us if we needed it and we would not need to ask Him for it (Matt 6:33)

You do not need to ask for gifts, guidance or understanding. These are all promised when you live according to Mat 6:33. Not asking, but waiting for God to give one avoids this trap of a false gift being given to a person. Its being given also shows the start of the period when it is to be used as well as of the ministry it is to be used in.

Gifts, like the Baptism of The Holy Spirit, are given for the purposes of service and are really part of the anointing (authorising) a person to minister in a certain area God has promoted them to minister in.

'Signs and wonders' are for evangelistic purposes while gifts are given to minister to a citizen of The Kingdom of God. This is why healing is mentioned as a gift and as a sign of Jesus being real. The gift of healing used in evangelism is to demonstrate to non-Christians the power of God over Satan and his works and that The Kingdom of God has come to them while the gift of healing is to demonstrate the Love of God to His people

Spiritual gifts are given for one purpose only. It is to assist a person in doing their work as a citizen of The Father's Kingdom and through their correct usage bringing Glory to Jesus. Any other reason is a misuse of the gifts, makes the gift an idol and is a sin against God if deliberately done for selfish purposes.

The gifts are given as God determines and not because someone asks for them. If God was to give you what you ask and it was not beneficial for you it would cause you to stumble and/or sin. Accordingly, God gives you only what you need. It is we who desire more than we should and in doing so can allow demons to give us their corrupted gifts, who will gladly help us 'achieve' what we should not have or do as well as express these gifts in the way they desire them to be manifested.

The true test of a person's gift is whether it is used for the purposes of The Father or for their own edification whether they use their God-given gift to promote The Kingdom of God or to promote their 'own ministry' achievements.

By their fruits you will know the source of their gift.

Ministries that advertise that at their services you will receive The Holy Spirit or gifts of The Holy Spirit, be healed or prophesied over are misusing the gifts and the anointing they are using them to sell their ministry and not to glorify Jesus unless they have asked Jesus and have been told what will happen to specific people. Even then it can only be in regard to some people and not all who will attend the service. They are also ignoring the role people

need to play in having a right attitude towards God to be able receive the gifts as well as the fact that the gifts of The Holy Spirit are a result of promotion and for service and not for self-education and their expression is for the purposes of encouraging the faith of a person.

They are ignoring the fact that God determines what gifts a person receives as well its expression and also how, where and when He desires these gifts to be used. It is in these types of services, that advertise the gifts are to be given to anyone, that demons can step in and place their 'gifts' on people in place of The Holy Spirit. Beware of people freely giving the gifts and anointing of The Holy Spirit to whoever asks for them.

The gifts of The Holy Spirit are given for our good {our profit}:

1 Cor 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

And The Holy Spirit is the one who decides how they should be given:

1 Cor 12:11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

They are given to unite The Body and to help each other care for one another:

1 Cor 12:25 That there should be no schism (doctrinal division) in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.

Each of us is given the gift(s) we need to play our part in The Body (Kingdom)

1 Cor 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

1 Cor 12:10 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:

There are three main passages that list the gifts of The Holy Spirit

Rom 12:6-8 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching: Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that showeth mercy, with cheerfulness.

1 Cor 12:8-10 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another, the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another, faith by the same Spirit; to another, the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another, the working of miracles; to another, prophecy; to another, discerning of spirits; to another, divers kinds of languages; to another, the interpretation of languages

Eph 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

These are the three main lists of spiritual gifts. Note the five-fold ministry are also a gift from God and are not earned by working or studying but by the maturity in your relationship with Jesus and are provided by Jesus to help you minister in the area He has asked you to minister in. In other words, they are not the result of years of service in a denomination or church or seminary, university or other types of degrees or certificates.

One wonders what God makes of the modern system where these five 'gifts' are 'learned' and 'exams' passed to be given the right to use them even though God may not have approved the person to minister in the position for which he has been qualified by man's criteria.

The Various Gifts

I will give a brief description of the gifts and discuss relevant points about them.

The various gifts are as follows in (alphabetical order)

Apostles: An apostle is someone sent by God on a special mission to represent Him. In a Christian context they are sent by Jesus to evangelise in areas churches do not exist and to establish these churches. It is of no use to send them to preach the gospel; to churches where it is already known.

Apostles do not stay after they are established a church as that is not their role and they do not stay and spiritually minister after it is established as that is a pastor's role and not theirs. They should be training people to do this.

A church cannot declare anyone an apostle unless Jesus tells them to as they are his representatives and not a church's representative. God alone can give them the ministry for which He declares them to be an apostle of His.

They will stay in a place for a period. Either to found a new *ekklesia* or to spiritually strengthen the group they are staying with. Then they will move on to new areas.

An apostle does not go to an establish Church and stay there afterwards as that is not their role. If they do that, they are no longer apostles but pastors, teachers or administrators. In fact, a church can only declare someone an apostle who is going to leave them and go out and church plant in places where there are no churches. They cannot declare a person an apostle and leave them in the church to minister.

So, any apostle who says they are sent to an established church is deceived as they can only be teachers, pastors or administrators as apostles are sent away from established churches to work and not to an established church to minister.

If they are sent to a church for any other reason, it can only be as a prophet, usually to warn the church when the prophets in the church are not doing this.

Discerning of spirits: The ability to tell the nature of a spirit in a person, whether it belongs to Jesus or Satan. There is also the ability to look into a person's soul and see what their spirit is like. Often a person's eyes will show the spirit in them, and even demons in them looking out through them.

Evangelists: The ability to tell clearly the good news of the Gospel of The Kingdom as well as demonstrate it in some way (through signs and wonders).

Exhorting: The ability to encourage another to persevere in their trials and suffering and endure whatever is happening to them.

Faith: The ability to believe God when others would have given up doing so.

Healing: Physical and spiritual healing of a person. Spiritual and inner healing is done in the deliverance ministry, which is part of the Pastoral Ministry but which every Christian should be able to do using the five steps. Physical healing is more the gift this refers to.

Remember. The gifts are for the church while the miracle of healing is for evangelism to demonstrate The Kingdom of God is there

Jesus may not heal immediately

There may be lessons to learn through the illness

You may have asked for the wrong reasons

Jesus may delay it to use the healing to bring someone into The Kingdom

The demons causing the illness (and the sin associated with them) have not been dealt with

Jesus may be using the illness to show His reality to others as you endure it in faith in Him even though He is not healing you

Through the example of your faith in the way you deal with the illness you will Show His Lordship and sustaining power and His reality to others

He may want you home with Him in heaven (The example of Hezekiah shows what can happen of you are healed and God does not want it because of what will happen afterward).

Other reasons we do not know about (Duet 29:29, He only tells us what we need to know)

Whatever happens will be for your eternal best (Rom 8:28)

Mercy: The ability to show God's love when others cannot. Everyone can show love and compassion but these people can do so when others find it hard to do so.

Pastors: Those who look after the people of Jesus on a day-to-day basis, pray for them and minister The Word to them. Bishops and similar are just pastors who mentor other pastors.

These spiritual leaders do not get involved in worldly affairs such as administration or maintenance (see Acts 6). Their role is to wait on God then advise people of what God says. They are mentors and counselors relying on God to tell them what to say to people.

There is a gift of administration which anyone running the physical organisational side of a church or organisation needs to have. People like deacons and elders who oversee the day to day running of an *ekklesia* are examples of people who should have this gift.

Notice there is no gift of bishop' or 'ministry.' Bishops are just pastors and all are expected to minister in some way.

Prophets: The ability to speak on God's behalf in regard to future events or current situations. Their gift is used to correct, encourage, and warn but also to call people to repentance, especially those that are out of a proper relationship with God. Anyone with the gift of prophecy who is not calling people to repentance when God says too is not using their gift properly.

Prophets should be warning leaders of nations and telling them what God says they should be doing but are not!

Ruling: (stewardship of others and possessions under their authority). These people have a gift to be able to organise and maintain things, using wisely what God gives them to be stewards of, whether it be people or assets. These are the people you want running the church finances and administration. They will be deacons in the church and not elders as elders minister the word and pray (See Acts 6). It is also handy for the running of a family.

Teachers: The ability to teach the things of God correctly and clearly to people in a way the people can clearly understand and apply them.

The word of knowledge: The ability to tell of things unknown in the natural by them or another about a person or object. This is to do with things a person does not know but needs to know to minister to them self or others.

The word of Wisdom: The ability to give God's guidance on a situation, problem or question that is might not be covered by the Bible. (Wisdom is applied knowledge).

The working of miracles: The ability to change supernaturally natural events. Note: All the gifts are empowered by The Holy Spirit and as people pronounce their faith in Jesus and His authority, He expresses these gifts in this world through people and uses them to minister through people to others.

Tongues: (Various kinds of languages). There is only one type of this gift. It is the ability to be understood in a language foreign to the one you speak, (demonic and angelic tongues are still a tongue that is foreign to us).

Tongues, Interpretation of: The ability to understand what a person is saying in a language that is foreign to you.

Both are mentioned together as if they only really are both used together and not individually. One is of no use without the other. Without the interpretation you do not know if it is from God or Satan. There is no need usually for interpretation in the church service as there should usually be no 'tongues' as it is only for communicating to others who do not speak your language and that is not usually necessary in a church service. (This was its original use when Peter first preached and is the pattern of how it should be used Acts 1:15).

The other use is in private prayer so Satan will not know what you are asking God for.

Why have the gifts been given?

Eph 4:12-13 summarises this as follows

For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

Literally

For bringing to full maturity all those who have set themselves apart for Jesus, to help those in the ministries appointed by God to minister in the way God desires them too, for the building up of all those who follow Jesus until we come to a common agreement and unity in our belief in and knowledge of Jesus, to the level of maturity He requires of us who have The Holy Spirit's presence in us.

The gifts are given for the benefit of all and not just for the benefit of those considered worthy of them.

Webster 1 Co 12:7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the profit of all.

God gives everyone the gifts they need to live the Christian life.

How does one receive a gift of The Holy Spirit?

Websters 1Co 12:4-7 Now there are various kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are various kinds of service, and the same Lord. There are various kinds of workings, but the same God, who works all things in all. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the profit of all.

The Holy Spirit gives them as He wills in accordance to need of the ministry or service and not as we think we need them.

I quote two verses:

Webster Jam 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom can be no variation, nor turning shadow.

Webster Mat 6:32-33 For the Gentiles seek after all these things, for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first God's Kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things will be given to you as well.

All good gifts come from The Father so you can ask Him to release them towards you but only if you are seeking the good of His Kingdom and are wholeheartedly seeking His righteousness and ministry in accordance with His Will for His Kingdom. But it is The Holy Spirit who distributes them as He thinks necessary and works through your faith to release them as He tells you too. He is the one whose presence is in you and knows what you need and what God wants you to do with whatever He has trusted to you with.

Laying on of hands

The uses in The New Testament are as follows:

For the healing of the sick. Laying on of hands and the sick being healed are a sign of a follower of Jesus.

(Mar 5:23) And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live.

For the Impartation of a gift.

(1Ti 4:14) Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

The Holy Spirit would have told them to impart these gifts or healing or it would have been a sin to try to do so without God's authorisation.

Note the conditions:

The person to impart the gift may be any mature Christian who has been authorised by God to impart that gift. The gift must be ordained by God (authorised) so the gift is really from Jesus (and at His direction) and not the people actually laying on hands. They are just carrying out the orders of their Lord and Master. It is Jesus that authorises the gift to that the person under the guidance and empowerment of The Holy Spirit.

It may also be a group of people who have Jesus as Lord of their life and service and so represent Him and hear Him clearly to know what He wants them to.

Any gift must be in accordance with the Will of God so should not be quickly or carelessly given. Time must be taken to ask The Holy Spirit what type of gift(s) to give as well as when to give them and not just assume these things. To assume and not ask God may result in sin and the warning here is against people who go around supposedly imparting the His Gifts of The Holy Ghost at their command and direction while ignoring God's Will in this matter. The devil will gladly give gifts in place of those of The Holy Spirit. The people they are 'ministering' too are receptive to a gift and are open to it because they have been told that they are to receive one and have usually not checked with The Holy Spirit to ensure it is from Him.

(LTI 5:22) Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.

The Fivefold gifts.

These are mentioned in Ephesians as separate gifts of a special kind and authority in a church is often based on your having one of these gifts which are: Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Teacher, Pastor.

The problems is that Ephesians is not considered to have been written by an apostle but one using the name of Paul and nowhere else in the New Testament are they mentioned like this. They are not in the Didache or were not mentioned by Jesus so must be of the making of men.

Also, they can have no administrative or control functions in a church as they are spiritual gifts and in Acts 6 we have the division of spiritual and administrative roles in the church so that those having spiritual roles should not be encumbered by administrative roles. So, to give these roles any control over others, except in a mentoring role, is incorrect.

Desire a gift from God but make certain it is from Him and is appropriate to any ministry you are doing.