

Intro:

- *What are Spiritual Gifts? What do you know about them? Etc.*
- **Definition** - *A spiritual gift is any ability that is empowered by the Holy Spirit and used in any ministry of the church.*
- Empowered by the Spirit (1 Cor. 12:11)
- For the common good (1 Cor. 12:7)
- Used for edification or building up of the church (1 Cor. 14:26)

Old Testament:

- Activity of Holy Spirit (through Moses, Samuel, David, Elijah, etc.)
- Looked forward to greater empowering of the Holy Spirit that would reach all God's people (Joel 2:28-29, Matthew 3:11)

New Testament:

- Jesus has the power of the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:14, John 1:33)
- Jesus gives this power to his disciples (the twelve – Matthew 10:1,7-10, the seventy – Luke 10: 17-21)
- Pouring out of Holy Spirit on Church (Acts 2:1-4)

Purpose of Spiritual Gifts (in N.T. Age):

- To equip the Church to carry out its ministry until Christ returns (1 Cor. 14:12, Ephesians 4:11-13)
- They are a foretaste of heaven (Ephesians 1:13-14, 2 Cor. 1:21-22, 2 Cor. 5:5)

How Many are There? What are They?:

- *Apostles, prophets, teachers, miracles, healing, administration, tongues* (1 Cor. 12:27-28)
- *Wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discernment, tongues* (1 Cor. 12: 7-11)
- *Those who speak, those who serve* (1 Peter 4:10-11)
- *Prophecy, serving, teaching, encouraging, generosity, leadership, mercy* (Romans 12:6-8)

Conclusion:

- Discovering your spiritual gifts – S.H.A.P.E seminar, pray, ask others, experiment with different ministries (What do you enjoy? What are you good at?)
- What are they? – an ability empowered by the Holy Spirit, given to every believer
- Why does the Holy Spirit give us spiritual gifts? – For the work of ministry, they are tools to be used to that end

Wellington Student Ministry

Sunday School

7/3/05

Gifts of the Holy Spirit (CH. 52-53)

Week 4

Becca Smythe

Gifts of the Holy Spirit: Teaching, Miracles, and Healing – 7/3/05 – Becca Smythe

A spiritual gift is any ability that is empowered by the Holy Spirit and used in any ministry of the church.

Teaching: *The ability to explain Scripture and apply it to people's lives. (purpose of S.S.)*

Acts 15:35 – *teaching and preaching*

Hebrews 5:11-12 – *ought to have been teachers, but needed to be taught*

2 Timothy 3:14-17 – *all scripture profitable for teaching, building others up*

NT - "Repeating and explaining the words of Scripture (or equally authoritative teachings of Jesus and of the apostles) and applying them to the hearers."

"Thus it was not prophecy but teaching which in a primary sense (from the apostles) first provided the doctrinal and ethical norms by which the church was regulated. And as those who learned from the apostles also taught, their teaching guided and directed the local churches."

Miracles: *A less common kind of God's activity in which He arouses people's awe and wonder and bears witness to Himself.*

- Miracles separate from physical healing
- Greek word for miracle – *dynamis*, means power, translated "miraculous powers" or "works of power" – 1 Corinthians 12:10
- May include: Answers to prayer for deliverance from physical danger – Acts 5:18-21 (Paul freed from prison)

Powerful works of judgement on enemies of the gospel or those who require discipline in the church – Acts 13:9-11

Miraculous deliverance from injury – Acts 28:3-6 (Paul uninjured from viper)

Power to triumph over demonic opposition – Acts 16:17-18

Divine intervention to meet special needs in the physical world – 1 Kings 17:8-15 (Elijah and widow with bread)

All of these would be works of "power" in which the church would be helped and God's glory would be made evident.

Healing:

- Sickness, illness, and disease are result of the fall, and the outworking of the curse after the fall, and will eventually lead toward physical death.

- Christ redeemed us from that curse when He died on the cross – Isaiah 53:4-5, Matthew 8:16-17
- Christ has purchased for us complete freedom from sin and complete freedom from physical weakness; however, our full and complete possession of all the benefits that Christ earned for us will not come until Christ returns.
- Healing is a partial foretaste of the perfect health that will be ours for eternity. We “already” possess some of the blessings of the kingdom, but those blessings are “not yet” fully ours.

Purpose of Healing:

- Brings comfort to those who are ill, demonstrating God’s attribute of mercy to those in distress.
- Equips people for service
- Provides opportunity for God to be glorified as people see physical evidence of His goodness, love, power, wisdom, and presence.

Questions regarding healing:

- Use of medicine – God has given us the gift of medicine; however, it is wrong to rely on doctors or medicine (only) instead of relying on the Lord – 2 Chron. 16:12-13
- Methods used in healing: Laying on of hands – Luke 4:40, Matthew 9:18
Anointing with oil – Mark 6:13, James 5:14-15 (elders did this for my dad)
- How we should pray for healing: Pray for God to be glorified in the situation, whether He chooses to heal or not.
- What if God chooses not to heal? – James 1:2-4, God can bring increased sanctification to us through illness and suffering – just as He can bring sanctification and growth in faith through miraculous healing.

“Those with ‘gifts of healings’ will be those people who find their prayers for healing are answered more frequently and more thoroughly than others...Perhaps the gift of being able to pray effectively in different kinds of situations and for different kinds of needs are what Paul referred to when he used the plural expression, ‘gifts of healings’(1 Cor. 12:9,28).”

“The point is that in everything God should receive glory and our joy and trust in Him should increase.”

Gifts of the Spirit: Tongues, Word of Wisdom and Distinguishing Spirits

Review: What other gifts have you heard about thus far?

Tell me about them: Why are they significant, what do they entail, etc?

I. Tongues and interpretation

- the phrase "speaking in tongues" comes from the Greek word, "*glossa*" which meant both the tongue in your mouth, and your language. So "speaking in tongues" actually just means "speaking in languages." Its really not that exciting.

* * When we are talking about tongues, we're just talking about different languages.

A. **tongues in the history of redemption**

1. Old Testament: there was no need for more than one language from the time of Adam and Eve, b/c all people were *united in the service of God*. When the people of the earth became *united in rebellion against God* at the tower of Babel, God scrambled their languages.

- In heaven, we will all once again speak the same language, because once again, we will all be united in the service of God.

Revelation 7:9-12; Zephaniah 3:9; 1 Corinthians 13:8

2. New Testament: Read **Acts 2:4-11**. Pentecost was significant in 2 ways:

a. gives a foretaste of the unity that will be achieved when language barriers no longer exist in heaven. No language barriers exist for the proclamation of the Gospel.

b. symbolizes the difference between the old testament and new testament covenants. The only "gospel" the Jews could preach, was to invite others to become Jewish, and therefore experience the blessings of God. Jesus opened heaven to all people from all nations. The preaching of this good news in all native languages symbolizes the opening up to all people now, instead of just ethnic Jews.

B. tongues is now understood to be "*prayer or praise spoken in syllables not understood by the speaker*"

1. words are directed *to* God (unlike prophecy, which is *from* God) so if an interpreter is not present, the person should keep silent, and speak only to God.

- **1 Corinthians 14:14** – understood to be prayer or praise from the "spirit" of the person, directly to God. I understand it to mean that the fleshly nature is what keeps the speaker from understanding what's going on btwn his spirit and God's

- not inconsistent with Pentecost, b/c the disciples were praising God, and the crowd was just listening. Not necessarily addressing the crowd till peter stands up to speak. (but everyone could still understand him, so wasn't that speaking in tongues?)

2. Not understood by the speaker.

- most of the time it isn't a "human" language, and someone else has to be given the gift of interpretation or no one will understand. But sometimes, like at

Pentecost, it will be understood in actual human languages, but still not by the speaker.

3. Tongues takes place in the spiritual realm. It is not the Holy spirit speaking through him, but rather his spirit speaking directly to God without forming words and sentences. A form of communication that somehow bypasses the mind. Back to 1 Corinthians 14

4. "Tongues" has been translated as "ecstatic speech" supporting the idea that it involves loss of awareness to surroundings, or self-control or forced to speak against their will, even crazy flailing etc. (Pentecostal movement) Read **1 Corinthians 14:27-28**. this idea of uncontrolled craziness is not represented in scripture ever, not even at Pentecost.

5. If tongues can be interpreted, then they are used for the edification of the church. If they cannot be interpreted, then they should only be spoken in private, as they have no value to the congregation.

6. Not everyone will have the gift of tongues, just like not everyone will have every other gift. Many bodies of believers believe that you are not saved until you receive the gift of tongues (Jerry Root, Arielle Tisci)

7. some people have been afraid to speak what they cannot understand, incase it is actually from demonic influence, and they are speaking blasphemy without knowing it.

- First, Paul never warns against this.

- second, no one who is speaking in the power of the Holy Spirit will be speaking against Christ. **1 Corinthians 12:3**

II. Word of Wisdom and Knowledge – 1 Corinthians 12:8

A. this gift is only mentioned once, and there is no other mention or information about them anywhere else in scripture or other Christian writings. So conclusions are drawn strictly from words, phrases and context of this one mention.

1. can be seen as a miraculous word of wisdom that speaks to a situation where the speaker responds to facts and information that they would have no way of knowing. They know exactly what to say to someone without knowing the details of the situation they are speaking to.

2. non miraculous word of wisdom or knowledge to a situation, ordinary wisdom that comes from real life instead of special revelation from the Spirit. Would be a characteristic of Church leaders, elders and teachers. Examples would be the appointment of the first deacons (Acts 6) Steven's proclamation of the Gospel (Acts 15) or even King Solomon's "cut the baby in half" solution to the problem of the two women.

B. since all the other gifts in that list are "miraculous" why wouldn't these be?

1. the words Paul uses for "word", "wisdom", and "knowledge" are extremely common Greek words. Never used to denote miraculous events, like "prophecy" or "revelation"

2. the message of that passage seems to be that Paul is saying "no matter what kind of gift you receive, it is given from the Holy Spirit" (vrs. 7 and 11) if he did not include both miraculous and non miraculous gifts in the list, than those w/ non would think they were left out, and those with m. would take pride in the exclusivity. Those 2 are the only ones that fall into the "non" category in that particular list.

3. the new testament already has a word for special revelation from the Holy Spirit: prophecy. So it is best to understand wisdom and knowledge as non miraculous, and prophecy as their miraculous counterpart.

III. Distinguishing Spirits

- the ability to recognize the influence of the Holy spirit or of demonic spirits in a person.

A. Read **1 John 4:1** – test the spirits. Also involves testing types of spirits (ex: infirmity, divination, dumb or deaf spirit, or a spirit of error)

- often demonic activity is blatantly obvious. It will be destructive to either teaching (standing up and blurting out false doctrine in the presence of teaching) or to a physical person (violent or bizarre physical actions)

- the gift also probably involves a more subtle and often subjective distinguishing of forces on a spiritual and emotional level, that can be beneficial to the church if it is highly developed. (roommate: one conversation, said had ability to detect darkness in situations, etc. didn't go into detail. Said stopped telling people b/c was drawing attention to self, and was not glorifying to God.)

- * * the point is that He that is within us is stronger than He that is in the world, so we have nothing to fear from demonic influences. (information that would have been helpful to me YESTERDAY!)