

The Power and Vocal Gifts of the Holy Spirit – Part 2

The Gift of Faith

The Gift of Faith can be a stepping stone to the other two Gifts of Power, i.e., working of miracles and gifts of healings.

Three main forms of faith presented in the New Testament:

1. **Faith to live by** – The just/righteous shall live by his faith – Habakkuk 2:4; Galatians 3:11
The faith you need to be a Christian. It supplies the ability and the direction for the Christian life.
2. **The fruit of faith** – An aspect of character - Galatians 5:22
3. **The gift of faith** – God's supernatural faith, above human faith, imparted by the will of God, by the Holy Spirit – 1 Corinthians 12:9. A mustard seed of God's faith.

Mark 11:12 – 14; Jesus spoke to the fig tree. Later in the chapter it tells us what happened when they passed the fig tree the next day, Mark 11:20 – 23.

In the New Testament, normally it is the gift of faith that Jesus exercised to cast out evil spirits. Normally a word spoken in faith produced this result.

Matthew 8:16 – When Jesus confronted evil spirits, he spoke to them the word with faith and authority and they had to obey Him. Acts 16:18, the girl with spirit of divination; Paul spoke to the spirit of divination with divine authority.

In almost every case where someone was brought back to life, Jesus used the gift of faith
Luke 7:11 – 18; John 11:43; Acts 9:40

Gifts of Healings

In the original Greek of the New Testament both parts are plural.

This may be understood in various ways: Each healing received is a gift and/or there are various kinds of healings.

A healing is the healing power of God channelled through the one who ministers the gift into the body of the one who is sick.

Healing is directly related to sickness. Where there is no sickness there is no need of healing.

References: Luke 4:40; Mark 5:24-34; Luke 5:17; Acts 5:15 & 16; Acts 28: 8 & 9.

The Effecting or Working of Miracles

Healings and miracles are closely related, however they are distinct.

Differences: Healings may be gradual and often they may be invisible. Miracles are visible and often instantaneous.

It often takes a specific inspired act to release God's miracle working power. The principle here is that faith without works is dead. Faith must be expressed by some appropriate corresponding act to be released.

References: John 9:1 – 7; Luke 17:12 – 14; Acts 3:1 – 8.

The Vocal Gifts

The vocal gifts are unique amongst the nine, because in some measure they are placed under the control of the believer. Hence, the need for the Apostle Paul's extensive instructions regarding the use and abuse of vocal gifts. 1 Corinthians 13 & 14.

Prophecy

Prophecy is the ability given to the believer by the Holy Spirit to speak in a language understood by the speaker, words given by the Holy Spirit and is:

- for **Edification** *oikodome* to build up, strengthen, to make more effective 1 Cor. 14:3
- for **Exhortation** *paraklesis* to stimulate, encourage, admonish, to stir up 1 Cor. 14:3
- for **Comfort** *paramuthiab* to give consolation or encouragement, to cheer up 1 Cor. 14:3
- not generally predictive i.e. it is more forthtelling than foretelling
- the only gift we are encouraged strongly to desire and seek after 1 Cor. 14:1
- of more edification than tongues unless the tongues are interpreted 1 Cor. 14:5
- for the church, but can also convince the unbeliever that God is amongst us 1 Cor. 14:24-25
- always to be judged 1 John 4:1-3, 1 Corinthians 14:29
- in part 1 Cor. 13:9

True prophecy must **centre on Jesus** (John 16:14), **come to pass** (Deuteronomy 18:20-22), **agree with scripture** (2 Peter 1:20) and will **never bring believers into bondage** (Romans 8:15). True prophets can be **judged by their fruit** (Matthew 7:15-23) and their spirit is subject to their own control (1 Cor. 14:32). 3 possible sources of prophecy - the Spirit of God, the spirit of man, an evil spirit.

Kinds of Tongues

Kinds of tongues (aka *different kinds of tongues* or *divers kinds of tongues*) is the ability given to the believer by the Holy Spirit to speak in a language not understood by the speaker.

As stated in Week 1, speaking in tongues as the initial evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is to be distinguished from this gift of the Spirit. The Apostle Paul generally referred to the former as **an unknown tongue** (singular), whereas the gift of the Spirit **kinds of tongues** is clearly plural. Some view the *unknown tongue* which comes with the Baptism of the Holy Spirit as one of these *kinds of tongues*. Others believe they are best viewed as distinctly separate. What is most important is to agree on the purposes i.e. the former being primarily for personal/private use and the latter for use in the public (assembly of the church).

Kinds *genos* - kind, kindred, offspring, nation, stock, diversity

Kinds of tongues

- *kinds* most likely does not mean different kinds of languages
- is best thought of in the same way as we think of different types of prayers 1 Timothy 2:1-3
 - kinds of tongues may include: Praise, intercession, exhortation, occasionally rebuke
- is a sign to unbelievers 1 Cor. 14:22, Acts 2:6-11, Mark 16:17
- those with this gift should only use it if there is an interpreter present (1 Cor. 14:28) but should ultimately pray for the gift of interpretation 1 Cor. 14:13
- only 2 or 3 at a gathering, done one at a time, with interpretation; no confusion 1 Cor. 14:27-33

Interpretation of Tongues

The ability given to the believer by the Holy Spirit to speak in a language understood by the speaker, the meaning of words previously spoken in an unknown tongue

Interpretation is

- not a word for word translation of tongues, although this may happen
- may be described as a thought, a vision, or the audible voice of God

Finally

- The gifts of the Spirit are tools not toys. They should always be operated in love 1 Cor. 13.
- In malice let us be children, in understanding let us be adults. 1 Cor. 14:20