

If you don't believe in the supernatural, you don't believe in Jesus.

Steve Hill, Pensacola Revivalist

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Prayer Study #294

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

First Love Ministries, Inc. of Perry, Georgia

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

1st Corinthians 12:1

(The following is taken from Holy Spirit Studies at High Point Church.)

WHAT ARE THEY?

We'll answer this first in a very general way and later in a more specific way as we deal with each one. Let us just say that the gifts of the Spirit are tools God supernaturally gives us for ministering to one another in the Body of Christ. They are supernatural enablements, not attainments. They are not ours by merit; they are neither earned nor learned. For example, the gift of healing does not come from having spent years in medical training nor is it an aptitude in that area. One with a gift of healing perhaps knows very little about the body, disease, etc., but would have an ability given by the Holy Spirit to minister to the physical needs of individuals in a wholly spiritual way. Ideally no one in the Body of Christ should have to go outside the Body for needs to be met. If all the gifts of the Spirit were being exercised in the Body of Christ any and every need physical, mental and spiritual could be met by His powerful Spirit working through various members of the Body in their God-given capacities.

ARE THEY FOR TODAY?

Paul wrote in 1st Corinthians 12:1, "*Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.*" This is quite a blunt word and yet the average believer today could hardly fill a thimble with his knowledge of spiritual gifts. 1st Corinthians 12, 13, and 14 are a trilogy concerning spiritual gifts, and, though most believers are fairly well-acquainted with chapter 13, they fail to see that its real meaning can only be grasped in the context of spiritual gifts.

WHY HAS THERE BEEN SO LITTLE UNDERSTANDING OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

The reason is largely fear and ignorance:

because of an imbalance of emphasis on the gift of tongues in some

movements,
Because of the fear of the supernatural or the unknown,
Because of character flaws in the lives of those who move in these
realms,
Because of ignorance-(This is no doubt why Paul wrote "*concerning
spiritual gifts...I would not have you be ignorant.*"),
Because if Satan can keep men ignorant of God's power gifts, their faith
stands largely in the wisdom of men and not in the power of God (1st
Corinthians 2:5).

One proof text that we'll consider to show that they are in the Church until Christ comes is 1st Corinthians 1:7: "*So that ye come behind in no gift (charisma, Greek word always used for spiritual gifts) waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*"

The other reference in the New Testament to spiritual gifts indicate, too, that they were *NOT* temporary gifts. It is quite popular (or was) for people in certain circles to say that spiritual gifts are only mentioned in 1st Corinthians which was written to a very carnal church. The truth is that spiritual gifts are mentioned in the following AND in other passages that will be discussed in the next handout:

Romans 1:11 (*For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established.*) [imparted that saints may be established]

Romans 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; of ministry, let us wait on our ministering; he that teacheth, on teaching; or he that exhorteth, on exhortation; he that giveth, let him do it with liberality; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that showeth mercy, with cheerfulness.* [gifts differing according to the grace given us]

1st Timothy 1:18: *This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which pointed to thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare.* [Timothy's charge came by "prophecies," and they are important enough that "by them" he might "war a good warfare."

1st Timothy 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.* [This shows

that spiritual gifts can be imparted with “*the laying on of hands*” and that we can “*stir up*” the gifts thus given.]

2nd Timothy 1:6: *Wherefore, I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.* [This shows that the gifts can be received by the “*putting on of hands*” and that we can “*stir up*” the gifts thus given.]

Hebrews 2:4 (implied): *God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders and with diverse miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will.* [Gifts sometimes vindicate or bear witness to or confirm the truth preached.]

Follow Me
Ira Stanphill

I traveled down a lonely road and no one seemed to care.
The burden on my weary back had bowed me to despair.

I oft complained to Jesus how folks were treating me.

And then I heard Him say so tenderly,

“My feet were also weary upon the Calv’ry road;

The cross became so heavy, I fell beneath the load.

Be faithful weary pilgrim, the morning I can see.

Just lift your cross and follow close to me.

“I work so hard for Jesus,” I often boast and say.

“I’ve sacrificed a lot of things to walk the narrow way.

“I gave up fame and fortune; I’m worth a lot to Thee.”

And then I hear Him gently say to me,

“I left the throne of glory and counted it but loss,

My hands were nailed in anger upon a cruel cross.

But now we’ll make the journey with your hand safe in mine.

So lift your cross and follow close to me.

Oh, Jesus, if I die upon a foreign field some day,

‘Twould be no more than love demands, no less could I repay.

No greater love hath mortal man than for a friend to die.

These are the words He gently spoke to me,

“If just a cup of water I place within your hand,

Then just a cup of water is all that I demand.”

But if by death to living they can Thy glory see,

I’ll take my cross and follow close to Thee.