

Now Concerning Spiritual Gifts

Please Read: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Verse 1 – 3

- Believers formerly worshiped idols and were accustomed to yielding to the wrong spirit
 - o Church history records they unconsciously yielded to religious spirits
 - o Some would even say that Jesus was accursed
- Paul was saying that we would recognize the Holy Spirit when Jesus is declared as Lord
 - o The Holy Spirit always magnifies Jesus not man

John 16:14-15, “The Holy Spirit will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.”

- Spiritual gifts must always line up with the Word

1 Corinthians 14:29

Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said.

Acts 17:11-12, “Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.”

Revelation Manifestations:

- The Word of Wisdom
- The Word of Knowledge
- The Discerning of Spirits

Reveals Something

Power Manifestations:

- The Working of Miracles
- Gifts of Healings
- Special Faith

Do Something

Utterance Manifestations:

- Prophecy
- Tongues
- Interpretation of Tongues

Say Something

Word of Knowledge:

It is important to note that this manifestation of the Spirit is called the “Word of Knowledge” in the KJV translation of the Bible, not the “Gift of Knowledge.” The Word of Knowledge is the supernatural revelation by the Holy Spirit of certain facts in the mind of God concerning past and present things. God is omniscient and He knows everything. Fortunately for us, He does not reveal everything He knows to man. He gives him just a word, or a part of what He knows. A word is a fragmentary part of a sentence, so a word of knowledge is simply a fragmentary part of knowledge- just that part which He wants us to know. Therefore, this supernatural manifestation of knowledge given by the Holy Spirit from God has nothing to do with academics, someone’s IQ, experience or studying the Bible a lot. This is divine revelation of things not known to the individual concerning past and present things.

1 Corinthians 2:9-11, “However, as it is written: ‘No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him’- but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man’s spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.”

Manifested through visions

Ananias & Paul

It was revealed to Ananias that a man named Saul was expecting a visit from Ananias. The Lord revealed this revelation knowledge to a regular believer. The Lord will use anyone in the Body of Christ as He chooses. In this vision the Lord told Ananias to go to a certain house and pray for Saul. At the same time He appeared to Saul in a like vision, showing Saul that Ananias was coming to pray for him *“that he might receive his sight.”* Ananias could not have known in the natural that in a certain house on a certain street, a man named Saul was praying at that very moment. He could not have known this any other way than by super natural revelation- a manifestation of the Word of Knowledge.

Acts 9:10-12

In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, “Ananias!” “Yes, Lord,” he answered. The Lord told him, “Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight.”

Peter & Cornelius

Here again the word of knowledge was manifested through a vision. Peter had fallen into a trance and saw a vision. While he was thinking about what it meant, the Holy Spirit said to him, *“Three men are seeking you.”* Peter did not know that the men were there. He had no way of knowing who they were, except that the Spirit of God told him. That was a Word of Knowledge in manifestation.

Acts 10:17-20, “While Peter was wondering about the meaning of the vision, the men sent by Cornelius found out where Simon’s house was and stopped at the gate. They called out, asking if Simon who was known as Peter was staying there. While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Simon, three men are looking for you. So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them.”

Manifested through an Inward Revelation

Woman of Samaria & Jesus

Sometimes the word of knowledge comes by an inward revelation. When Jesus dealt with the woman at the well in Samaria, He used the Word of Knowledge to convince her (a sinner), of her need for a Savior. Jesus knew by an inward revelation personal facts about the woman’s life, revealed to Him by the Holy Spirit. Through the operation of the Word of Knowledge, Jesus used this manifestation of the Holy Spirit to point this woman to salvation.

John 4:15-19

The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.” He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.” “I have no husband,” she replied. Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.” “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet.”

Mark 2:5-8, “When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, “Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, “Why are you thinking these things?”

Old Testament Example: Elisha and Gehazi – 7 manifestations of the Spirit in the OT

After Naaman was healed of leprosy, he wanted to give the prophet Elisha changes of raiment, silver, gold, and other gifts to express his gratitude. Elisha, however, refused the gifts. But Elisha’s servant, Gehazi, ran after Naaman and lied to him that Elisha had changed his mind. Naaman was so thrilled to be healed that he gave Gehazi twice as much as he asked for. Then Gehazi hid the gifts because he was a thief as well as a liar. When Gehazi returned and Elisha asked him where he had been, he said, “Nowhere, my master.”

2 Kings 5:25-26, “Then he went in and stood before his master Elisha. “Where have you been, Gehazi?” Elisha asked. “Your servant didn’t go anywhere,” Gehazi answered. But Elisha said to him, “Was not my spirit with you when the man got down from his chariot to meet you? Is this the time to take money, or to accept clothes, olive groves, vineyards, flocks, herds, or menservants and maidservants?”

How could Elisha, sitting in his own house, know what was going on several miles away? God revealed it to him through a Word of Knowledge! Hebrews 4:13- Nothing in all creation is hidden

Word of Wisdom:

The Word of Wisdom is a supernatural revelation by the Spirit of God concerning the divine purpose in the mind and will of God. Like the Word of Knowledge, the word of wisdom must not be confused with natural wisdom that an individual acquires by experience. Nor is it the gift of wisdom that a believer can operate in continually. The Word of Wisdom according to the Bible is a manifestation of the Holy Spirit as He wills, not as we will.

God has all wisdom and all knowledge. He knows everything, but He never reveals to anybody everything that He knows. He just gives them a word of what He knows. A word is a fragmentary part of a sentence, and so it is with wisdom. For example, if you needed legal advice, you would call a lawyer. But the lawyer would not give you all the legal wisdom he has, because you would not need all of it. He would just give you a part, a word of the legal wisdom that fits your particular case.

The difference between the Word of Knowledge and the Word of Wisdom is this. The Word of Knowledge always brings revelation knowledge that deals with present or past information. On the other hand, the Word of Wisdom always deals with future events that have not occurred yet.

In teaching about them, we usually divide these two gifts and deal with them separately; however, they frequently operate together. For example, when Jesus had appeared to the Apostle John while he was in exile on the Island of Patmos, the Lord had appeared to him in a vision. Jesus told him about the spiritual condition of seven churches in Asia Minor at that time. The revelation given to him concerning the present condition of the churches was a manifestation of the Word of Knowledge. Then the Lord went on to give John a Word of Wisdom. Jesus foretold of the events that would transpire during the dispensation of the Age of Grace, and then during Daniel's last 70th week, the Second Advent, the Millennium, and finally the new heaven and the new earth.

Please Read: 1 Cor. 12:27-31

Spiritual gifts are manifested as God wills through those He chooses. We can only eagerly desire and pray that God would manifest Himself according to the need and the occasion. According to the context above, "*do all speak in tongues,*" is referring to one of the 9 manifestations of the Spirit, not the devotional gift that every Spirit filled believer has to speak in tongues as they will.

The Word of Wisdom, like the Word of Knowledge, may be given by an audible voice, a vision or in the form of a dream. It may come through the vocal gift of prophecy, or through tongues and interpretation. In the Old Testament, Joseph received a Word of Wisdom through a dream which revealed God's plan and purpose for the future.

This was also true of the prophets of the Old Covenant who prophesied many things concerning Israel's future, the New Covenant, the coming Messiah, and even events yet to be fulfilled. They communicated it through prophecy, but it was actually a Word of Wisdom they had received.

Throughout the Old Testament as the prophets would prophesy, the Word of Wisdom and the Word of Knowledge would flow together. In the New Testament we see the same thing in operation:

Acts 11:28-30

One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.) The disciples, each according to his ability, decided to provide help for the brothers living in Judea. This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

Agabus prophesied that a drought was coming, and the people believed him because he was a man of integrity who had a proven ministry. We can't believe everything that everyone says. We must exercise some discretion in order to judge things in line with God's Word. When Agabus prophesied about the drought, the people immediately began to prepare, by raising relief for the victims of the drought.

We again read of the prophet Agabus in the twenty-first chapter of Acts. Paul and his company, including Luke, the writer of the Book of Acts, were at Philip's house.

Acts 21:10-11, "After we had been there a number of days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. Coming over to us, he took Paul's belt, tied his own hands and feet with it and said, The Holy Spirit says, 'In this way the Jews of Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.'"

Notice that something was revealed. When any revelation comes, it is always a Word of Wisdom, a Word of Knowledge, or Discerning of Spirits, because these are the only three manifestations of revelation.

No others are listed in the Bible. The revelation concerning Paul in Acts 21:10-11, was not a Word of Knowledge because it dealt with the future. "Knowledge" encompasses past and present facts and events given to us through the Holy Spirit. A Word of Wisdom is revelation of the future given to us through the Holy Spirit; God in His divine wisdom knows all about the future.

Word of Wisdom Used to Assure of God's Protection

The Word of Wisdom is also given to assure of a coming deliverance in a time of calamity. When Paul was aboard a ship enroute to Rome to appeal his case to Caesar, a violent storm arose. Paul had a Word of Wisdom for his fellow passengers even before they had set sailed. **Acts 27:10, 23-25**- the promise was still conditional and required further obedience **Acts 27:30-34**.

Discerning of Spirits:

Everything within the realm of knowledge- facts, events, purpose, motive, origin, destiny; human, divine, or satanic; natural or supernatural; past, present, or future- comes within the focal range of the Word of Wisdom (Greatest), the Word of Knowledge (2nd greatest) and the manifestation of Discerning of Spirits (3rd greatest of the revelation gifts). They include in their comprehensive scope all that God knows.

There is nothing God knows that may not be made known to mankind as the Spirit wills through the operation of one or more of these three gifts! The Word of Wisdom gives us a revelation of the mind and purpose of God; therefore, it is ranked first among the revelation gifts. The Word of Wisdom always deals with the future. The Word of Knowledge gives us a revelation of things present or past.

The Discerning of Spirits gives us insight into the spirit world. It actually has a more limited range than the other revelation gifts, because its revelation is limited to a single class of objects- spirits. Revelations that the Word of Wisdom and the Word of Knowledge bring are broader and apply to people, places and things, whereas the Discerning of Spirits gives supernatural insight into only the realm of spirits. It is important to realize that the gift of Discerning of Spirits is not just the, “discerning of devils or evil spirits” only. It is supernatural insight into the realm of spirits both good and bad.

Discerning the Godhead

God let Moses look into the spirit world on more than one occasion. One time, He told Moses that He was going to reveal His form to Moses.

Exodus 33:18-23

Then Moses said, “Now show me your glory.” And the LORD said, “I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.” But, he said, “you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live.” Then the LORD said, “There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen.”

This is an example of Moses seeing into the spirit realm. He was able to see the similitude or likeness of God. All through the Word of God we encounter people who in visions have been able to see the similitude of God. They did not see God; they saw the likeness of God. As He was revealed, they were seeing into the spirit world, like Isaiah the prophet.

Please Read: Isaiah 6:1-5

John, in his vision on the Isle of Patmos, saw the Holy Spirit as seven spirits before the throne of God. That simply meant that John was seeing into the spirit realm and seeing seven aspects of the Spirit of God. All such visions would be a manifestation of the gift of Discerning of Spirits. A vision might bring with it a Word of Wisdom and/or a Word of Knowledge. But the vision itself would be a manifestation of Discerning of Spirits in operation, because that person would at that time be seeing into the spirit world.

To “discern” means to “see,” so a person is discerning or seeing into the realm of spirits. In the spirit world there are both divine spirits and evil spirits. Discerning of Spirits also means the discerning of cherubim, seraphim, archangels, the host of angels, or the discerning of Satan and his legions. It also refers to the discerning of human spirits, with its good or evil tendencies.

Discerning of Spirits and its Operation

The discerning of spirits also reveals the kind of spirit behind a supernatural manifestation- whether good or evil. An example of this is found in the apostle Paul’s ministry.

Acts 16:16-18, “Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, ‘These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.’ She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and **said to the spirit**, ‘In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!’ At that moment the spirit left her.”

By the discerning of spirits, Paul knew that this young woman who was following his group through the streets of Philippi had a spirit of divination. When the manifestation of Discerning of Spirits was in operation, Paul turned to her and spoke directly to the spirit, commanding it to come out of her. Notice that Paul dealt with the spirit involved; not the person. As a result, the slave girl was set free so that her owners could no longer profit from her demon possession.

An angel appeared to Mary and angels had appeared to some Shepherds in the field at night. These are classic examples of Discerning of Spirits- the ability to see into the spirit world.

Even in the Old Testament, there are countless examples of the manifestation of Discerning of Spirits in operation. My favorite example is when Elisha is in the city of Dothan of the land of Israel. At night the army of Syria surrounded the unsuspecting city ...

2 Kings 6:15-17, “When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. ‘Oh, my lord, what shall we do?’ the servant asked. ‘Don’t be afraid,’ the prophet answered. ‘Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.’ And Elisha prayed, ‘O LORD, open his eyes so he may see.’ Then the LORD opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.”

The spirit realm is more real than the natural realm, for it was through the spirit realm that this natural world was created. Supernatural manifestations originate from one of two sources: God or the devil. Even without discerning of spirits in operation we can still correctly identify the source of the manifestation since we know the Word and have the Holy Spirit within us:

Please Read: 1 John 4:1-3

As a result some things will be revealed by the inward witness which is available to all believers, and other times by the Discerning of Spirits which is manifested as the Spirit of God wills. The bottom line is, if what someone says or does brings attention to themselves and not Jesus, such a demonstration does not originate from God- Holy Spirit is only in the business of lifting up Jesus!

John 16:13-14

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.

Discerning is not Mind Reading

Someone has said that the best way to find out what something is, is to find out what it is not. So let us look at some things the gift of Discerning of Spirits is not. First, Discerning of Spirits is not discernment." Some people say, "Well, I have the gift of discernment."

Actually, there is not such gift mentioned in the Bible. What they really have is a bad case of suspicion and prying into other people's business. Many times what people call "the gift of discernment" is really the manifestation of the Word of Knowledge in operation. People know things by the Spirit of God and mistakenly call it the gift "discernment." Discerning of Spirits is not a kind of spiritual "mind reading." Nor is it psychological insight, mental penetration, or the power to discern the faults in others. Note, fault finding is forbidden by Scripture, James 4:11.

One purpose for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is to destroy this critical attitude, and amplify the fruit of our recreated human spirit- like gentleness. The manifestation of Discerning of Spirits is not a gift of faultfinding. If those who think they have this gift would just turn it on themselves for a few minutes, they would never use it again. The manifestation of Discerning of Spirits is not the discernment of character flaws; it is not the discerning of people in general. It is the discerning of spirits. The noted English Bible teacher, Howard Carter, wrote in Questions & Answers on Spiritual gifts said:

"The Word of Knowledge gives one a revelation of anything that can be classified as existing or having existed, so the fact of a spirit possessing a body could be revealed by this gift, but the one so informed would have no vision of the spirit, he would not "discern" it. By the Discerning of Spirits we see beyond the sphere for which we have been created, since we are natural beings. It is only by the revelation of the Holy Spirit that we can perceive the beings that live in the spirit world."

Working of Miracles:

What does the word “Miracle” mean? Well, from a secular definition it means anything that can be classified as amazing, extra ordinary, or some phenomena. It is quite evident that business marketing departments have capitalized on the term “miracle” and have come up with all kinds of buzz words- miracle drugs, miracle cleaners, and miracle whip. However, from a Biblical point of view, a miracle is a specific classification of events.

- In a general sense all the manifestations could be viewed as miraculous – supernatural
- However, this is a specific manifestation of the Spirit
- **1 Corinthians 12:10 (KJV)- To another the working of miracles...**

Biblical Definition:

A miracle is a supernatural intervention in the ordinary course of nature; a temporary suspension of the accustomed order through the Spirit of God.

If a person had a broken arm and was instantly healed through prayer, that would not be a miracle since it is a restoration or healing of damaged or existing tissue and/or bone.

However if a person was born with no legs and through prayer brand new legs instantly grew out from the stubs, that is a manifestation of working of miracles, not of healing.

Old Testament Examples

Exodus 7:8-9

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “When Pharaoh says to you, ‘Perform a miracle,’ then say to Aaron, ‘Take your staff and throw it down before Pharaoh,’ and it will become a snake.”

- How about the parting of the Red Sea
- The Old Testament is chopped full of examples of miracles

After Elijah ascended to heaven in a chariot in the whirlwind, Elisha took his mantle and struck the Jordan River with it and parted the waters- an intervention in the ordinary course of nature.

The Ministry of Jesus

- The virgin birth was a miracle- a virgin becoming pregnant
- Jesus turning water into wine, the feeding of the multitudes
- The raising of the dead
- **Please Read: Hebrews 2:3-4; Mark 16:20; John 14:12- greater “More” works not less today**

In other words, the Greek could read, “The working of impelling, staggering wonders or astonishments, or the out-working of explosions of almightiness.” In his book, *Questions & Answers on Spiritual Gifts*, Howard Carter said, “...the working of miracles is a very important manifestation of the Spirit. It is the mighty power of God flowing through a person.”

Gifts of Healings:

The manifestation of the Gifts of Healings are given by God for the supernatural healing of disease without natural means from any source. Every one of the nine manifestations of the Spirit are supernatural occurrences. These manifestations are demonstration of the power of God not of man. Therefore, to suggest that the Gifts of Healings can be associated with medical science is pure error. Don't get me wrong, medical science has done a lot to ease the suffering of human beings. However it is important to clarify a point here. Doctors do not heal, only God can heal- either directly or through the wonders of natural restoration within the human body itself. If I was to get a cut on my finger, God so wonderfully designed my body to heal itself. Yet when I place a band aid over the cut, I do so in order to speed the healing process that is already resident within my body. The band aid protects the open wound, preventing infection, but it is not the source of my healing. Doctors and the wonders of modern medical science is like a sophisticated band aid that assists the body in healing itself faster. As much as I appreciate what doctors do, a lot of people place doctors and medical science on a pedestal as objects of worship. I believe a lot of doctors have been inspired by God in their understanding of the human body; if it is good it is from God any ways, God is a creative God who want all people to live and be saved.

- Since God is the creator, He is also the healer
- He knows what our bodies need more than anybody
- Sickness and disease is a defect, malfunction and an outright attack against our bodies
- It's origins are spiritual and so is the healing
- Sin/fall of man opened the door for sickness and the righteousness of Jesus brings healing
- Forgiveness for our sins and healing for our bodies is a part of the atonement of Jesus
- Healing is a form of spiritual warfare- **Acts 10:38**

The Bible tells us that Christ had the Spirit without measure, John 3:34 *"For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit."* But wouldn't the Body of Christ today have the full measure of the Holy Spirit collectively? Yes!

- God provides healing through a number of different methods:
 - o The prayer of faith, laying on of hands, anointing with oil
 - o Does special healings through Peter's shadow, cloths taken from Paul
- And of course there is the manifestation of the gifts of healing as the Spirit wills
- **Please Read: 1 Corinthians 12:28-30 – 'Gifts of Healings'**
- There are gifts of healings, because there are different kinds of diseases
- It also fosters cooperation and team work in the Body of Christ to work together

I have noticed in the ministries of others, that when these gifts are in operation, there is a greater degree of success in some areas of healing than in other areas. For some ministers there are certain kinds of diseases which are seldom healed in their ministries, yet certain other diseases are nearly always healed. Specialties of Gifts of Healings operate for different individual cases.

Special Faith:

1 Corinthians 12:9-10

...to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers.

Weymouth's translations puts it in 1 Corinthians 12:9 as "... to a third man, by means of the same Spirit, special faith."

Different kinds of Faith in Scripture:

Faith from God's Word: **Romans 10:17- "Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ."**
Exercised in order to receive the promises of God in one's life.

The Measure of Faith: **Romans 12:3- "in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you."** Every new believer starts out with the same measure of faith. Over time, by feeding and acting upon the Word, that measure will grow.

The Fruit of the Spirit: **Galatians 5:22- "But the fruit of the Spirit is ... faith" (KJV)**
Faith is a part of our very spiritual nature through the New Birth.

The Gift of Faith: **1 Corinthians 12:9- "to another faith by the same Spirit..."**
A special manifestation or deposit of God's faith in our heart for a temporary period of time in order to receive or operate in a realm far beyond our current faith level.

The Gift of Faith, like all the other manifestations of the Spirit, is supernatural. It is the greatest of the three gifts of power. One can supernaturally, and against all odds, believe God for a miracle. Whether it be for supernatural protection, supernatural sustenance, the casting out of unclean spirits, the raising of the dead, or the impartation of supernatural manifestations, such as in the ministry laying on of hands or pronouncing a blessing.

When the Holy Spirit manifests the Gift of Faith, the recipient is enabled to believe God in such a way that He honors their word as His own, and miraculously brings it to pass. The Gift of Faith is a supernatural endowment by the Spirit whereby that which is uttered or desired by a person, or spoken by God, shall eventually come to pass. The human or divine utterance or miracle, assurance, curse, blessing, creation or destruction, removal or alteration, will ultimately come to pass when it has been spoken by this gift of faith. So the Working of Miracles is more of an action or outcome, and the Gift of Faith is more of a process of receiving the manifestation.

The Gift of Faith for Supernatural Blessings

The Gift of Faith was used by the patriarchs of old for direct supernatural blessings or fulfillment of human utterances. Before dying they would lay their hands on their children and pronounce a blessing- may not come to pass until many years later.

The Gift of Faith for Personal Protection

Daniel received a miracle while he was in the lions' den. Why didn't these lions harm Daniel? The Bible says that Daniel, "believed in his God." There is no doubt that God gave Daniel Special Faith in order to receive deliverance. Daniel, didn't do anything: He just lay down and went to sleep. Notice that Daniel's faith was passive rather than active, yet he received a miracle- special faith.

The Gift of Faith for Supernatural Sustenance

1 Kings 17:2-6 & 1 Kings 17:7-15 – widow woman at Zarephath

Here we see an instance where the Gift of Faith was used for supernatural sustenance in the time of famine. Elijah's faith had to be given to him supernaturally by God for food. Ravens brought food to Elijah morning and evening. As a result, Elijah passively received a miracle through the manifestation of Special Faith. The "Word of the Lord" was God's Special Faith in operation.

The Gift of Faith for Raising the Dead

Spiritual gifts often work together in order to accomplish the task at hand. In the case of raising the dead, three gifts operate together- the Gift of Faith, the Working of Miracles, and the Gifts of Healings. First of all, in the raising of the dead it takes Special Faith from God to call a person's spirit back when it has left the body. It then takes a working of miracles to raise the person by restoring decayed and dead tissue. Finally, it takes the Gifts of Healings to remedy the original cause of death; otherwise, if the person is not healed, he/she would immediately die again.

According to Albert Hibbert, as many as fourteen people were raised from the dead during Smith Wigglesworth's ministry. In one case concerned a neighbor who had died just before Wigglesworth arrived at the man's home. Mrs. Wigglesworth was already there. As Wigglesworth began to pray for the dead man, Mrs. Wigglesworth shook her husband, pleading, "Don't, Dad! Don't you see that he is dead?" But Wigglesworth continued to pray. "I got as far as I could with my own faith," Wigglesworth said, "and then God got a hold of me. Oh, it was such a laying hold that I could believe for anything. The faith of the Lord Jesus laid hold of me and a solid peace came into my heart." The man returned to life!

This is beyond anyone's ordinary faith. It takes a supernatural manifestation of God's power to receive a miracle such as this. Many times if we will just take a step of faith (ordinary faith, the faith every believer has), when we come to the end of our own faith, this Special Faith from God will take over. The reason this has not happened with a lot of people is because they have not used the faith they already have.

Prophecy:

1 Cor. 13:2, “If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge...

Prophecy is a supernatural manifestation of the Holy Spirit upon a believer in the form of supernatural utterance in a known tongue. Prophecy is the most important of the three gifts of inspiration or utterance. The reason it is the most important, is because it takes the other two- divers kinds of tongues and the interpretation of tongues- to equal prophecy.

1 Corinthians 14:5

I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. He who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the Church may be edified.

The Hebrew word that is translated “to prophesy” means “to flow forth.” It carries the thought “to bubble forth like a fountain, to let drop, to lift up, to tumble forth, to spring forth.” The Greek word that is translated “to prophesy” means “to speak for another.” It means to speak for God, or to be His spokesperson.

1 Corinthians 14:1-4

Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy. For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit. But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort. He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.

We need to realize that the context in which this letter was written. Paul was writing to the believers at the Church in Corinth. Therefore, Prophecy is more applicable when a congregation of people are assembled; since the Gift of Prophecy speaks in a known tongue, everyone immediately understands the message. The Apostle Paul was not belittling Tongues and Interpretation, he was simply pointing out by the Spirit of God the proper use of these gifts.

1 Corinthians 14:6, 12

Now, brothers, if I come to you and speak in tongues, what good will I be to you, unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or word of instruction? Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church.

Remember that prophecy by definition is an inspired utterance in a known tongue that speaks to people for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort. Other manifestations of the Spirit such as Word of Wisdom (foretelling future events) or Word of Knowledge (reveals past and current events) could be carried and vocalized through the vehicle of prophesy that in the end results in people being edified.

The Gift of Prophecy and the Prophet's Ministry

Simple gift of prophecy should not be confused with the prophetic office. **1 Cor. 14:3**, says, "But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort."

- in the simple gift of prophecy there is no revelation
- In the office of a prophet, we often find revelation gifts coming forth even by Prophecy
- In the Old Testament, prophecy is essentially foretelling future events
- In the New Testament it shifts strongly to forth telling

Forth-Telling: is to utter forth, declare, a thing which can only be known by divine revelation; declare the divine will, to interpret the purposes of God, or to make known in any way the truth of God which is designed to influence people.

- All can prophesy, but we can't all be prophets
- In the simple gift of prophecy there is no foretelling whatsoever
- Acts 13:1, "In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers..."
- **Please Read: Acts 11:27-30 (Agabus)**
- **Please Read: 1 Corinthians 14:29-33 (Judge Prophecy)**
- Talking about revelation. The prophet would have these other revelation gifts operating
- **Please Read: Acts 21:8-11 (Philip's daughters who prophesied)**

Note that all four of Philip's daughters had this simple gift of prophecy. These young women must have prophesied in the services held in their house; otherwise, Paul and his company would not have known that they prophesied. They spoke to the whole company to edification, exhortation, and comfort. Evidently they never prophesied to Paul. When the prophet Agabus came however, he had something on a higher order which brought forth revelation through the manifestation of a Word of Wisdom concerning the future.

- All inspired utterance in a known tongue is prophecy in some form or another- word, sing
 - o There can be a spontaneous, bringing forth from the spirit of a believer to edify

Misuse of the Gift

1 Thess 5:19-21, "Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good."

- The gift of prophecy could be so misused and abused that people could despise it
 - o A lot of what some people call prophecy never comforts anyone; it discomforts them
 - o Or folks will predict dates and mates, trying to mimic Old Testament prophecy
- **1 Corinthians 14:1**, "... eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy."
- **Please Read: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2** Always judge prophecy by the Word & Inward Witness

Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues:

The manifestation of the Spirit of God which gives the Spirit filled believer the ability to speak in different kinds of tongues in 1 Corinthians 12:10. Not to be confused with the devotional gift of speaking in other tongues for personal edification; which is the initial sign of being Baptized with the Holy Spirit and fire according to Acts chapter 2 and verse four. Sadly, many Christian denominations make this very mistake. Not differentiating the separate work of the Spirit in the life of the believer- the Holy Spirit within and the same Holy Spirit upon.

Isaiah 28:11-12

Very well then, with foreign lips and strange tongues God will speak to this people, to whom he said, "This is the resting place, let the weary rest;" and, "This is the place of repose" - but they would not listen.

The Gifts of Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues are distinctive to this dispensation. We see all the other gifts of the Spirit — the Word of Wisdom, the Word of Knowledge, Discerning of Spirits, Special Faith, Working of Miracles, Gifts of Healings, and Prophecy — in operation in the Old Testament. In the ministry of Jesus we see all the gifts of the Spirit in operation except tongues and interpretation.

1 Corinthians 14:22-23

Tongues, then, are a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers; prophecy, however, is for believers, not for unbelievers. So if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and some who do not understand or some unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind?

The ministry manifestation of Tongues in 1 Corinthians 12:10, is meant to be interpreted in a known tongue in order for yourself and others to be edified- this gift is exercised as the Spirit wills. Praying in the Spirit or in other tongues is for personal devotions; a communication line between you and God that is coded- the enemy does not understand it.

Paul was teaching that only a few believers will be used in what we would call the public ministry of tongues, because he said in First Corinthians 12:30, *"...do all speak with tongues?"* Some take that out of context and say, "Speaking in tongues isn't for everyone. You can be filled with the Spirit without speaking with tongues." However, we must remember that Paul is talking about the ministry gift of tongues here, because he began by saying in 1 Corinthians 12:28, *"And God has set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues."*

Then Paul asked, "Are all apostles? [No, all aren't] are all prophets? [They are not] are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? [No, they do not] do all speak with tongues?" The obvious answer is no. But Paul is talking here about public ministry.

Our study of the gifts of the Holy Spirit has now brought us to the end of the list — the Gift of Interpretation of Tongues. The Interpretation of Tongues is the supernatural showing forth by the Spirit the meaning of an utterance in other tongues. It is not translation of the tongues; it is the interpretation of tongues. The purpose of this Gift of Interpretation of Tongues is to render the Gift of Tongues intelligible to the hearers so that the Church, as well as the possessor of the gift, may know what has been said and may be edified- 1 Corinthians 14:5, *“He who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may be edified.”*

Interpretation, Not Translation

As we have noted, the Interpretation of Tongues is not translation. Often times people wonder why it is that when someone speaks at length in tongues, an interpreter will occasionally give only a short interpretation. Because interpretation is simply showing forth supernaturally by the Spirit of God the meaning of what was said in tongues, the interpretation may not require as many words as the original message. Similarly, someone may give a short utterance in tongues, yet the interpretation may be lengthy. The same principle of clarity is involved: It may take longer to give the interpretation in order to clearly show forth the meaning of the message.

Interpretation in Private Prayer Life

1 Corinthians 14:13-15

For this reason anyone who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret what he says. For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind.

According to verse thirteen, those who speak in other tongues are instructed to pray for the Gift of interpretation. The reason Paul instructs us to seek this gift is not necessarily that we may interpret publicly, but rather that we may interpret our own private prayers, if God so wills. Knowing what we are praying would greatly edify us spiritually, and if God wished to use us publicly to interpret messages in tongues, that would be an added blessing.

Interpretation in Public Ministry

In the twenty-seventh verse of this same chapter, Paul said, *“If anyone speaks in a tongue, two- or at the most three- should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret.”* Only three people should minister in tongues in public in any one service. (The words “two” and “three” in the Greek are personal pronouns.) Some have asked, “Does that refer to three messages?” Actually, we do not find the expression “messages in tongues” anywhere in the Bible. This is just a phrase which has been coined to try to explain it. A better term would be “utterance in tongues.” However, this verse is talking about people, not messages or utterances.

Paul didn’t actually say how long people should or should not speak in tongues. He just said to let two or three people speak, and let it be by course, or, in turn. Notice Paul said, *“let one interpret.”* There is nothing in the Scriptures which would do away with the thought that one person may speak in tongues and interpret for himself/herself.