

## Term 2 – Equipped by God for the Journey

### Lesson 12

#### Gifts of the Spirit: Part 4

In this lesson, we continue to look at the gifts of the Spirit that are identified in **1Corinthians 12: 8-10**.

##### Working of Miracles

Although many of the other gifts are truly miraculous, the gift of working of miracles is a separate or distinct gift. The working of miracles is a supernatural event or occurrence that is not possible by man's own ability or understanding. The gift of working of miracles is not a gratuitous demonstration of God's power. It is selectively used for very specific purposes. These purposes are as follows:

- to bolster or confirm the gospel message that the hearers of the message might believe;
- as God's answer to a very specific need or situation for ministers of His gospel; and
- as an answer to prayers or needs of believers.

In all these instances, the overriding purpose is to demonstrate the truth of the Word and to activate the faith of all who witness these miracles. While we live in the time of the dispensation of the Holy Ghost, the working of miracles today is by the same Spirit that worked miracles in the old testament in the time of the Father and through Jesus in His time on the earth. The gift of working of miracles is now given by the Spirit to us, as temples of the Holy Ghost, so that we may perform miracles for the same reason that the Father and the Son performed miracles. It is so that the world might believe and be reconciled unto God the Father. The timing and nature of these miracles is not at the will of man but it is the will of the Lord.

There are numerous examples of miracles worked through the Father in the old testament and through Jesus in the new testament. For the purpose of this lesson, we will focus on the miracles worked through believers baptized in the Holy Ghost and given the gift of the working of miracles by the Spirit after the day of Pentecost.

Tabitha was raised from the dead. **Acts 9:36-42** *“Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did. And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber. And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay to come to them. Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them. But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up. And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive. And it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord.”*

Elymas, the sorcerer was blinded. **Acts 13:4-12** *“So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus. And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to their minister. And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Bar-jesus: Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God. But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith. Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand. Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.”*

Paul and Silas in prison. **Acts 16:16-34** *“And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour. And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers, And brought them to the magistrates, saying, These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city, And teach customs, which are not lawful for us to receive, neither to observe, being Romans. And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them. And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks. And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled. But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.”*

The sick were healed by handkerchiefs and aprons. **Acts 19:11-12** *“And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.”*

In these examples of miracles, we see that it was not just a show of God's power. The purpose was to bring mankind unto the Father through Jesus (the Word). That same power and purpose remains with us today so that, from time to time, miracles may be worked through us as required to build His Church.

### Gift of Prophecy

The gift of prophecy is best summed up by the phrase "the Word spoken in season". The gift of prophecy is the ability to speak the Word of God into a specific situation that faces the church. Prophecy occurs by an urging of the Spirit. **1 John 2:20** "But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things." Prophecy fulfills the work of the Holy Ghost spoken of in **John 16:13** "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come." **John 14:26** "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." Prophecy also fulfills the Word given in the old testament of a time to come. **Joel 2:28** "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:"

The believer who moves in the gift of prophecy may quote the Word directly. He or she may also give the "spirit" of the Word using a combination of the scriptures and further revelation or a vision given by the Spirit. The gift of prophecy is for exhortation, revelation, teaching and warning the church. It is always used to profit the whole body of Christ (His church) and it is always by the Word of God, not our individual thoughts. Of all the gifts of the Spirit, the gift of prophecy is the most widely given to believers and it is to be greatly desired or coveted. We see wonderful instruction for the operation of the gift of prophesy and the gift of tongues in **1 Corinthians 14:1-5** "Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy. For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort. He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church. I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying. In this scripture we see the instruction to the church "but rather that ye may prophesy". We see the purpose and effect of the gift of prophesy: "edification, and exhortation, and comfort". It is necessary for believers to speak in tongues for individual walks of faith. The gift of prophecy is vital for building up of the whole body of Christ (His Church). "I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied:" Why? "but he that prophesieth edifieth the church".

**1 Corinthians 14:21-25** "In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord. Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe. If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad? But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all: And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth."

Prophecy is for the believer, not the unbeliever for *“prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.”* Yet, when we come together and there is prophecy, the words of the prophecy may prick the heart of the unbeliever. This may activate the seed of faith so that he or she may know that God is real and to cry out to Him. *“But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all: And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.”*

Further instructions and truth are revealed about prophecy in **1 Corinthians 14:29-33** *“Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge. If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace. For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted. And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.”* The first instruction is that it is not a free-for-all with everyone prophesying at the same time. Instead, *“two or three”* speak because each prophecy is an important Word from the Lord for the body. The next instruction is to take time to meditate on or consider the prophecy - *“let the other judge”*. Then we see a jewel of truth about the widespread distribution of the gift of prophecy: *“For ye may all prophesy one by one,”*. We also see the purpose or effect of prophecy – *“that all may learn, and all may be comforted.”* Finally, we see that the words of prophecy are accountable to the Word of God. There is no confusion or contradiction, but rather; prophecy agrees with His Word and brings peace in the church; *“And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints”*

When we understand that the entire Bible is the prophetic Word of God, it is much easier to comprehend that the gift of prophecy is given by the Spirit. Prophecy is given so that God may use us today, the temples of the Holy Ghost, to deliver His Word in-season to build His Church. **2 Timothy 3:16-17** *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”*

**2 Peter 1:19-21** *“We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”*

**Revelation 19:10** *“And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”*

**DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS**

SCRIPTURES	QUESTIONS
<p><b>Acts 9:36-42</b>                      (36) <i>“Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did.</i>                      (37) <i>And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber.</i>                      (38) <i>And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay to come to them.</i>                      (39) <i>Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them.</i>                      (40) <i>But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.</i>                      (41) <i>And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive.</i>                      (42) <i>And it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord.”</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify the purpose of the miracle.</li> <li>2. What was accomplished by it?</li> </ol>
<p><b>Acts 13:4-12</b>                      (4) <i>“So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.</i>                      (5) <i>And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to their minister.</i>                      (6) <i>And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Bar-jesus:</i>                      (7) <i>Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God.</i>                      (8) <i>But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith.</i>                      (scripture continued next page)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Identify the purpose of the miracle.</li> <li>4. What was accomplished by it?</li> </ol>

*(9) Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him,  
(10) And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?  
(11) And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand.  
(12) Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.”*

**Acts 16:16-34**

*(16) “And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: (17) The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation.  
(18) And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.  
(19) And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers,  
(20) And brought them to the magistrates, saying, These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city,  
(21) And teach customs, which are not lawful for us to receive, neither to observe, being Romans.  
(22) And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them.  
(23) And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely:  
(24) Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.  
(25) And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.  
(26) And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.*

*(scripture continued next page)*

- 5. Identify the purpose of the miracle.
- 6. What was accomplished by it?

<p><i>(27) And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled.</i></p> <p><i>(28) But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.</i></p> <p><i>(29) Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas,</i></p> <p><i>(30) And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?</i></p> <p><i>(31) And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.</i></p> <p><i>(32) And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.</i></p> <p><i>(33) And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.</i></p> <p><i>(34) And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.”</i></p>	
<p><b>Acts 19:11-12</b></p> <p><i>“And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.”</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>7. Identify the purpose of the miracle.</li><li>8. What was accomplished by it?</li></ol>

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