

Lesson 9

Gifts of the Spirit: Part 1

In previous lessons, we have studied the fruit of the Spirit and the ministries of the Spirit. In this lesson, we now study the gifts of the Spirit. **1 Corinthians 12:1-10** *“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant. Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led. Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:”*

The nine gifts of the Spirit that are identified are:

- 1) word of wisdom;
- 2) word of knowledge;
- 3) faith;
- 4) gifts of healing;
- 5) working of miracles;
- 6) prophecy;
- 7) discerning of spirits;
- 8) divers kinds of tongues; and
- 9) interpretation of tongues.

Foundational Truths

Before we look at each of the specific gifts in more detail, there are foundational truths in the Word that are applicable to the gifts. These truths provide us with proper understanding of the nature, purpose and operation of these gifts. We know that this foundation is important because the chapter on the gifts of the Spirit begins in **1 Corinthians 12:1** *“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.”* The word ignorant means unlearned or without understanding.

The Lord manifests His power in the church through the gifts. The gifts are spiritual gifts so spiritual understanding, through His Word which is spirit, is required. **John 6:63** *“It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”* **1 Corinthians 2:12-14** *“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”*

First and Most Important Foundational Truth: Given “by the Spirit”

Note that the use of the capital “S” signifies a person of the Godhead. In this instance, this is the third person of the Godhead (Spirit) or the Holy Ghost. Therefore, these gifts are gifts of the Holy Ghost. To receive the gifts of the Holy Ghost, the church today must receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost. For if the gifts are of the Holy Ghost, how can they be received except that we first receive the Holy Ghost? **Acts 19:2-6** *“He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.”*

The gifts of the Spirit are part of the manifest power of the Holy Ghost spoken of by Jesus to the disciples. **Acts 1:8** *“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”* This scripture also tells us why the Gifts are given: “and ye shall be witnesses unto me”. All the gifts are to glorify Jesus and bear witness of Him through the Holy Ghost power that is now working in us. **John 14:12** *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.”*

To further emphasize the necessity and power of the Holy Ghost, we read in **1 Corinthians 12:3** *“Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.”* And yet again, we see the necessity of the Holy Ghost to show forth God’s love. **Romans 5:5** *“And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.”*

Second Foundational Truth: “Spiritual Gifts” Given “by the Spirit”.

No one can earn, demand or study his or her way to these gifts. Yet, we have seen that some will try. Gifts can only be given by the one who possesses the gift. For these gifts, the Holy Ghost is the Spirit who was sent by the Father in answer to the prayer of Jesus. The gifts are given only by the Lord and it is up to the Lord to decide who shall receive these gifts. There are gifts for **every member** of His church, given for the benefit of all His church. **1 Corinthians 12:7** *“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.”*

We also see that one person is not given all the gifts. Instead, the gifts are dispersed amongst His many-membered body as the Lord chooses. We see this in the scriptures in I Cor 12 with the words “to one” and “to another”. **1 Corinthians 12:8-11** *“For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.”*

The gifts are part of the wonderful plan of the Lord for His Church. The gifts join us one to another in one body by His Spirit. A part of His body dwells in each of us and we need our brother and sister to

know and experience the completeness of His Church. The gifts of the Spirit are given to profit the entire body of Christ. By the gifts, every member profits another and every member has a place and role. The gifts are given so that we may take up our place and complete the journey from son to servant of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 *“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.”*

Third Foundational Truth: Love and the Gifts of the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:31 *“But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.”* To understand this more excellent way, we need to carry on to Chapters 13 and 14 of 1Corinthians. The foundation of our entire Christian walk is “God’s love”. The gifts of the Spirit are also sourced from God’s love. The gifts operate by love and, without the love of God manifested in the gifts, they become unprofitable and bear no fruit.

This is shown to us beautifully in **1 Corinthians 13:1-13** *“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.”*

Through these scriptures, we understand that the Church is to seek after the gifts of the Spirit. They are a part of the “power from on high” for His Church. We also understand that the gifts of the Spirit operate by love and are to show forth God’s love. Without God’s love, the gifts accomplish nothing and cease to operate.

As we go on to study each of the gifts, our foundation of understanding must be in God’s love as ministered in I Corinthians 13. 1Corinthians 14 exhorts us to love and to seek spiritual gifts. We also see very specific instructions about the gift of prophecy and gift of tongues. This instruction is all part of “a more excellent way”. **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.”* **1 Corinthians 14:33** *“For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.”*

We will look more closely at 1Corinthians 14 in our next lesson as we study the specific gifts. **1Cor 14:1-5** lays an important foundation and emphasizes again that the gifts of the Spirit are founded on the love of God and that they are for the benefit of all to build His church. We see the words “edification” “exhortation” and “comfort” used in these scriptures. These are important words, chosen by the Lord, to bring further understanding when we study the individual gifts and their role in building His church. The Gifts of the Spirit are indeed part of the “power from on high” that His church receives. **2 Corinthians 4:7** *“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.”*

The gifts of the Spirit enable His church to accomplish the “greater works”. **John 14:12** *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.”* **Luke 4:18-21** *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.”*

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

SCRIPTURES	QUESTIONS
<p>1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (1) <i>“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.</i> (2) <i>And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.</i> (3) <i>And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.”</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What gifts of the Spirit do we see in these scriptures? 2. What is meant by “charity”? 3. What happens if the love of God is not manifest in these gifts?
<p>1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (4) <i>“Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,</i> (5) <i>Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;</i> (6) <i>Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;</i> (7) <i>Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.</i> (8) <i>Charity never faileth:”</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. What qualities of God’s love are identified in these scriptures? 5. What is the connection between the qualities of love and the qualities of the gifts of the Spirit?

<p>1 Corinthians 13:9-12 <i>(9) “For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. (10) But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. (11) When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. (12) For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.”</i></p>	<p>6. What do these scriptures speak of concerning our journey in Christ Jesus?</p>
<p>1 Corinthians 13:13 <i>“And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.”</i></p>	<p>7. What is identified as the greatest of Gods’ gift to us? Why? See also Matt 22:36-40</p>