

Christ Church

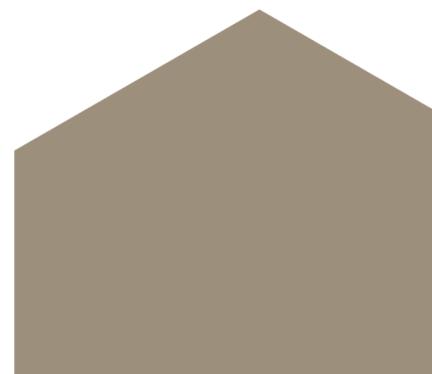
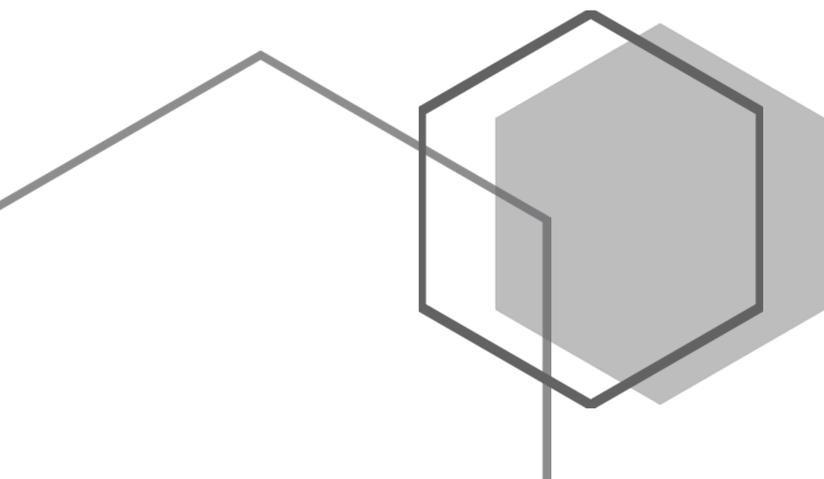


Understanding the Power Gifts

LESSON 2 of 2

"Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good."

- 1 Corinthians 12:7



Christ Church

Understanding the Power Gifts

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Discovery Wednesday

We've agreed to meet the first Wednesday evening of every month to discover together our gifts and explore ways of developing them for the glory of God. Life has many seasons and in each one we must accomplish specific goals through diligent use of the array of gifts God has given us. Therefore, it is our responsibility to discover our primary gifts and learn to develop them to their fullest potential, making every season of life enjoyable and satisfying.

Lesson 2

Understanding the Gift of Working of Miracles & Gifts of Healing

The Power Gifts Exists to Set People Free!

Note: God loves to deliver people from the calamities of this broken world. The power gifts have been given to the Church in order to demonstrate God's amazing power to heal, deliver, and set free.

1.0 What are the Power Gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:1-11)?

1 Corinthians 12:1-11 (NIV)—¹Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. ²You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. ³Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

⁷Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines."

- 1.1 An overview of the gifts of the Holy Spirit provides us with a quick working knowledge.
- A) All nine gifts are supernatural and are distributed to each believer as the Holy Spirit desires (12:4).

 - B) The gifts are sovereignly given by the Holy Spirit. To activate them you must understand their function, engage your faith, and maintain openness to the Holy Spirit.

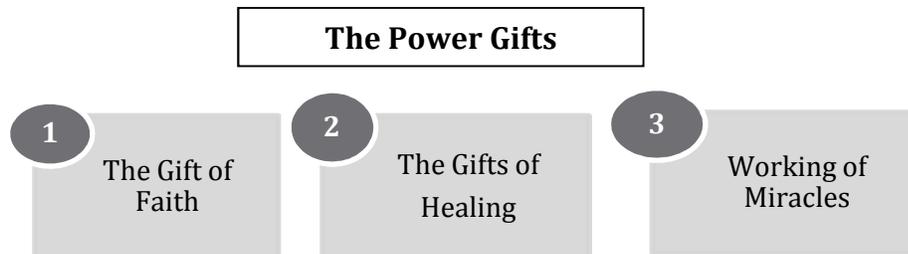
 - C) There are three categories of the nine charismatic gifts based on how they manifest themselves though a believer in Jesus.

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Gifts of the Holy Spirit		
No.	Manifestation	Name
1	Revelation <i>(Reveals Information)</i>	Word of Wisdom
2		Word of Knowledge
3		Discerning of Spirits <i>(Distinguishing Between Spirits)</i>
4	Inspiration <i>(Inspires Communication)</i>	Gift of Prophecy
5		Different Kinds of Tongues
6		Interpretation of Tongues
7	Power <i>(Performs Miracles)</i>	Gift of Faith
8		Gifts of Healing
9		Miraculous Powers <i>(Working of Miracles)</i>

1.2 What are the Power Gifts (1 Cor. 12:1-11)?

A) There are three gifts among the nine charismatic gifts of the Holy Spirit that display divine power.



B) The power gifts are all supernatural, extraordinary, and miraculous in manifestation.

1. The power gifts always meet practical needs. They are not a freak show aimed at bringing unwanted attention to human beings.

2. Power gifts always facilitate a deliverance of sorts that has a redemptive outcome.

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2.0 Let's Examine the Gift of Working of Miracles.

Note: Our culture uses the word *miracle* very loosely. In Scripture the word has a weightier meaning—a holy one that brings glory to God.

2.1 What is the meaning of the word *miracles*?

- A) Miracle: an event in the physical world that surpasses all known human or natural powers and is ascribed to a divine or supernatural cause (*The Random House College Dictionary*).

- B) Miracles [Gk. – *dunamis*]: force; miraculous power; miracle; power; violence; mighty (wonderful) work. *Strong's Concordance [SC 1411]*.

2.2 What is the meaning of *the gift of working of miracles* (also, *miraculous powers*)?

Acts 19:11-12 (NIV)—“¹¹God did extraordinary **miracles** through Paul, ¹²so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.” (Emphasis Mine)

- A) The supernatural working of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life that results in the suspending, shifting, or altering of a natural occurrence or outcome.
 - 1. Naturally speaking, handkerchiefs and aprons have no medicinal or healing powers. However, because the gift of working of miracles was at play the Holy Spirit used Paul's materials to heal those who made contact with them.

 - 2. We see the gift of working of miracles at play when demons were driven out just by the demonized making contact with Paul's handkerchiefs.

- B) The Scriptures use the word *miracle* to describe the supernatural occurrence or outcome that happened to the people. Without the expression of this gift they would have remained sick or demonized. The gift was used to alter the natural outcome of people's physical and emotional condition.
 - 1. Healing reverses a physical and emotional condition.

 - 2. Deliverance from demons reverses a physical, spiritual, and emotional condition.

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Acts 8:4–8 (NET)—“⁴Now those who had been forced to scatter went around proclaiming the good news of the word. ⁵Philip went down to the main city of Samaria and began proclaiming the Christ to them. ⁶The crowds were paying attention with one mind to what Philip said, as they heard and saw the **miraculous signs** he was performing. ⁷For unclean spirits, crying with loud shrieks, were coming out of many who were possessed, and many paralyzed and lame people were healed. ⁸So there was great joy in that city.” (Emphasis Mine)

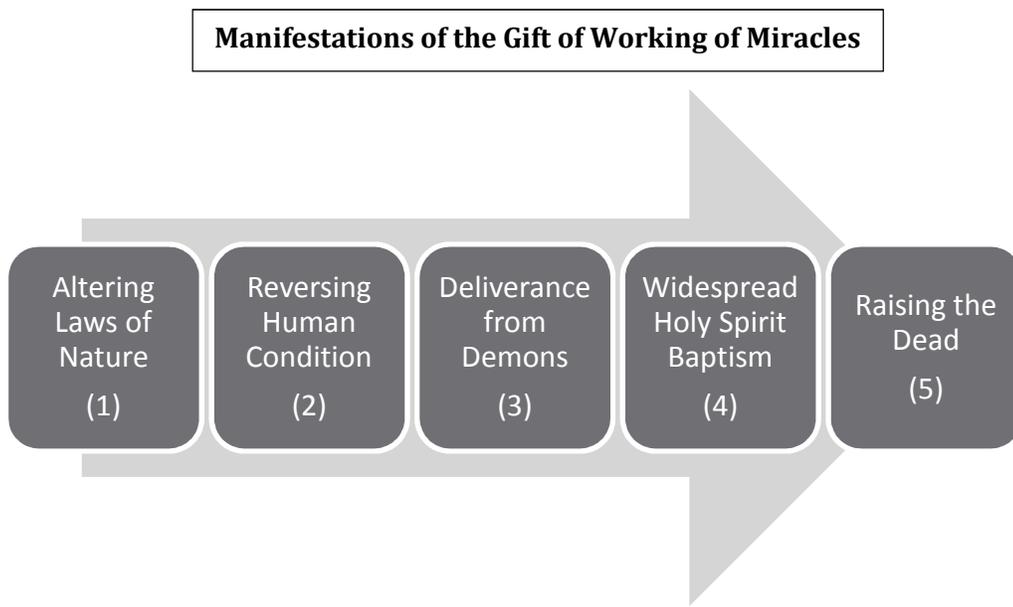
- C) The Scripture uses the word *miraculous signs* to describe the dramatic outcome of people encountering the power of the Holy Spirit at work through Philip’s life.
1. Demonized people were set free from the control and domination of demons at Philip’s command.
 2. Many paralyzed people were healed so that impotent limbs functioned as they were originally intended by God.

Acts 8:17–21 (NET)—“¹⁷Then Peter and John placed their hands on the Samaritans, and they received the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸Now Simon, when he saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles’ hands, offered them money, ¹⁹saying, “Give me this power too, so that everyone I place my hands on may receive the Holy Spirit.” ²⁰But Peter said to him, “May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could acquire God’s gift with money! ²¹You have no share or part in this matter because your heart is not right before God!”

3. The gift of working of miracles is also seen here as the vehicle in which a mass number of people received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Simon the Sorcerer admired *the power gift* at work and wanted to purchase it.
4. Peter told Simon that God’s gifts cannot be purchased. More importantly, Peter rebuked Simon, citing his sinful heart was going to be his downfall.

2.3 The Scriptures present the gift of working of miracles in five major categories.

- A) The distinctions are worth noting so your expectation and faith can be in sync with Scripture and history.



B) There are at least five major areas in which we see the manifestation of the gift of working of miracles.

1. **Altering Laws of Nature**—The gift of working of miracles was at play when Moses parted the Red Sea and Jesus turned water into wine. In both occurrences we see the laws of nature altered, suspended, and even supernaturally overridden.

Exodus 14:21-22 (NIV)—“²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, ²² and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.”

John 2:7-10 (NIV)—“⁷ Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water”; so they filled them to the brim. ⁸ Then he told them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.” They did so, ⁹ and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside ¹⁰ and said, ‘Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.’”

2. **Reversing Human Condition**—Through this gift we see the reversal of awful human conditions such as paralysis, blindness, etc. miraculously healed.

Acts 3:2, 6-8 (NIV)—“² Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts.

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⁶ Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” ⁷ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. ⁸ He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.

3. **Deliverance from Demons**—The forceful expulsion of demons occur through the use of this power gift.

Luke 11:20 (NCV)—“²⁰ But if I use the power of God to force out demons, then the kingdom of God has come to you.”

4. **Widespread Holy Spirit Baptism**—The baptism of the Holy Spirit occurs in a sweeping way as a believer prays and engages his/her faith toward that end.

Acts 4:29-31 (NIV)—“²⁹ Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. ³⁰ Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”
³¹ After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.”

5. **Raising the Dead**—Someone has died. In a miraculous way the Holy Spirit uses a believer to raise that dead person to life. Simultaneously, they are healed of whatever illness brought about their death.

Acts 9:40-42 (NIV)—“⁴⁰ Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, “Tabitha, get up.” She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. ⁴¹ He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive. ⁴² This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.”

3.0 Let’s Focus Our Attention on the Gifts of Healing.

Note: Divine healing, in general, is a very complex topic that takes years to comprehend all of its nuances. Let’s explore it by looking at a few key points.

3.1 What is the meaning of the word *healing*?

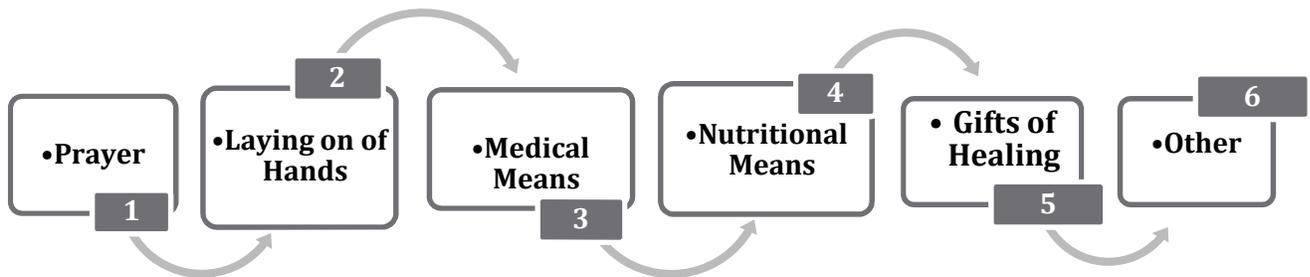
- A) The word **healing** according to Random House College Dictionary means *to make whole or sound; to restore to health; and free from ailment.*

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- B) Healing [Gk. – therapeia]: to cure; to relieve (of disease) (*Strong's Concordance [SC 2322]*).

3.2 What are the sources of healing?

- A) Physical healing can occur through the following ways. God is still credited as the ultimate source of healing.



1. **Prayer**—We’re instructed to pray in faith when sick. The Lord promises to heal us via this method.

James 5:11-12 (NIV)—“¹⁴Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.”

2. **Laying on of Hands**—Jesus taught us to lay hands on the sick and expect for them to experience divine healing. Faith is still a needed ingredient for this outcome to occur.

Mark 16:15-18 (NIV)—“¹⁵ He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. ¹⁶Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸ they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.”

3. **Medical Means**—One of the most significant persons in the whole New Testament was Luke—the beloved physician (Col. 4:14). Jesus also underscored the value and role of physicians.

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Luke 5:31 (NIV)—“³¹ Jesus answered them, ‘It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.’”

4. **Nutritional Means**—Scripture teaches that our nutritional practices affect our medical condition. History and personal experience confirm this fact around the world.

1 Timothy 5:23 (NIV)—“²³ Stop drinking only water, and use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses.”

5. **Gifts of Healing**—Scripture teaches that a powerful charismatic gift is the gifts of healing, which is the focus of today’s study.

6. **Other Human Means**—People experience healing, relief from pain, and a full recovery from illness in a myriad of ways including chiropractic adjustments, physical therapy, acupuncture, stretching, etc. The wisdom of these professionals and modalities for healing ultimately comes from God.

3.3 How do you minister the gifts of healing?

- A) Your faith must be engaged. And you should do your best to engage the faith of the person to whom you are ministering.

Mark 6:4-6 (NIV)—“⁴ Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home.” ⁵ He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. ⁶ He was amazed at their lack of faith.”

Acts 14:9-10 (NIV)—“⁹ He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed ¹⁰ and called out, “Stand up on your feet!” At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.”

- B) Place the responsibility to heal where it belongs—on God’s shoulders—not yours.

Numbers 12:13 (NIV)—“¹³ So Moses cried out to the LORD, ‘Please, God, heal her!’”

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1. You are **not** a healer or THE healer. God is!
2. God is the one who possesses healing power not you! Never forget this fact!
3. Your job is to pray and believe God. God's job is to demonstrate His divine power by healing the sick.

C) Create expectation in people's hearts for God to heal!

Acts 5:12-16 (NIV)— ¹²The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade. ¹³No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people. ¹⁴Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number.

¹⁵As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. ¹⁶Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by impure spirits, and all of them were healed.

1. Teach about divine healing! Talk about divine healing!
2. Present testimonies concerning divine healing! All of these actions help to create expectations for people who are in need of God's healing touch.
3. Establish special events centered on divine healing. This also creates expectation in people's hearts for God to show up in power.

D) Create theological safety and personal guidelines concerning the gifts of healing by the following parameters:

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Never Make Promises of Healing!

Don't Blame People for Their Sickness!

Some Healings Are Gradual!

Some Healings Are Instanteous!

Keep Your Confessions Positive!

Have the Healings Confirmed by Physicians.

**Let's Activate
the Gifts of the Holy Spirit!**