

Christ Church

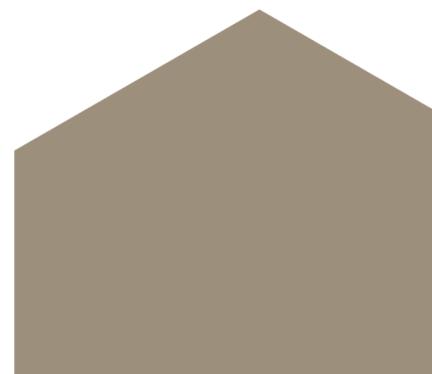
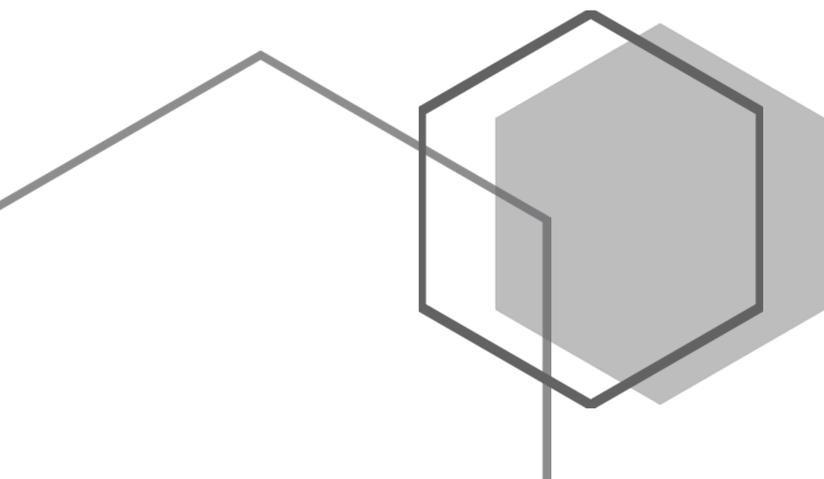


Understanding the Power Gifts

LESSON 1 of 2

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

- 1 Corinthians 12:7



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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 1

Understanding the Gift of Faith

The Gifts of the Spirit Provide Deliverance!

Note: When the power gifts of the Holy Spirit are in action we gain a glimpse of divine power. This supernatural manifestation awakens us to the reality of God's power to change human situations and outcome.

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 Let's take a quick look at the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

- A) All nine gifts are supernatural and are distributed to each believer as the Holy Spirit desires (12:4).

- B) You cannot choose a gift, only discover and develop the gifts you've been entrusted with (12:7).

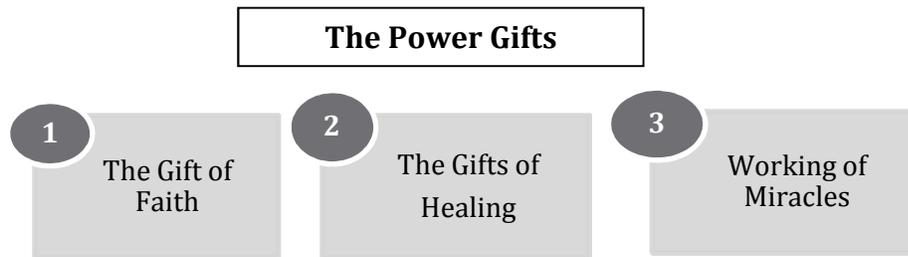
- C) There are three categories of the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit.

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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.

- C) The power gifts work through God’s people to provide a specific service.

Let’s explore the miracle of turning water into wine.

John 2:3-10 (NIV)—³When the wine was gone, Jesus’ mother said to him, “They have no more wine.” ⁴“Woman,^[a] why do you involve me?” Jesus replied. “My hour has not yet come.” ⁵His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” ⁶Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water”; so they filled them to the brim. ⁸Then he told them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.”

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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.”

1. The gift of faith and working of miracles were at work here. They performed an astounding supernatural feat that brought attention and glory to God.
2. The power gifts always meet practical needs. They are not a freak show aimed at bringing unwanted attention to human beings.
3. Power gifts always facilitate a deliverance of sorts that has a redemptive outcome.

2.0 Let's Examine the Gift of Faith.

Note: The word *faith* is spoken of in many contexts within the Bible. Before we can examine the supernatural gift of faith we must bring distinction to the varied uses of faith so no confusion exists in your mind. Your ability to flow in the gifts of the Spirit is tied to your cognitive understanding of them.

2.1 What is faith?

A) Faith is an inner assurance and confidence in God's willingness to help you.

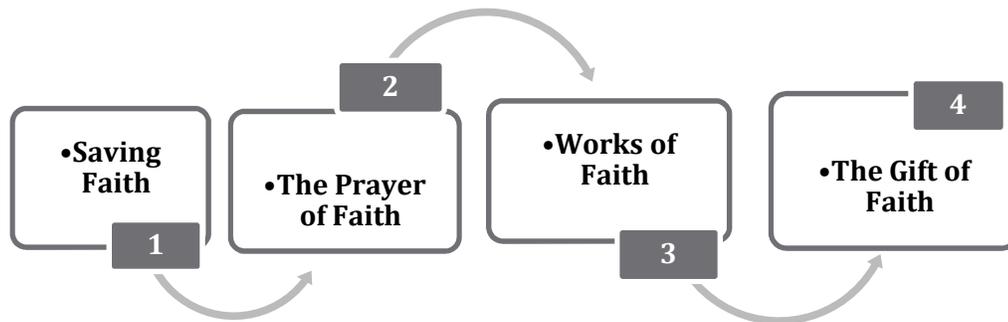
Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)—“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”

B) Faith is the assurance your hopes can be achieved now—in the present moment.

2.2 The Scriptures present faith in four distinct ways.

A) The distinctions are huge and must be understood because they matter.

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B) The distinctions are clear.

1. **Saving Faith.** The salvation Jesus offers everyone is only achieved by trusting implicitly in His atoning death on the cross. This is saving faith.

Ephesians 2:8 (NIV)—⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

2. **The Prayer of Faith.** Your inner convictions manifest themselves in a confident prayer to God about a specific matter and desired outcome.

James 5:15 (NIV)— And 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.

3. **Works of Faith.** These are works and accomplishments you achieve through dogged persistence and an unwavering trust in God.

James 2:14-17 (NIV)—⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? ¹⁵Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

4. **The Gift of Faith.** A supernatural manifestation occurs which is a direct result of a believer’s faith-inspired proclamation.

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C) What does the gift of faith do?

1. The gift enables you to gain insight for a moment into what God wants to accomplish and it equips you with the necessary power to bring it about.
2. The gift of faith *speaks* a miracle into existence.

Mark 11:12-14; 20-22—¹²The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. ¹³Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. ¹⁴Then he said to the tree, “May no one ever eat fruit from you again.” And his disciples heard him say it.

²⁰In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. ²¹Peter remembered and said to Jesus, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!” ²²“Have faith in God,” Jesus answered.

3. The gift of faith brings circumstances and people into divine alignment.

D) How does the gift of faith serve God’s purpose?

1. The gift brings attention to God by providing someone with a supernatural encounter.
2. The gift establishes an onlooker or recipient with an unexplainable miracle of the truth of God’s existence and personal care.

Acts 9:32-35 (NIV)—³²As Peter traveled about the country, he went to visit the Lord’s people who lived in Lydda. ³³There he found a man named Aeneas, who was paralyzed and had been bedridden for eight years. ³⁴“Aeneas,” Peter said to him, “Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and roll up your mat.” Immediately Aeneas got up. ³⁵All those who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

3. The gift establishes a clear distinction as to who is really in sync with God. Or better, the gift of faith communicates, “God is using this person because they act like God.”

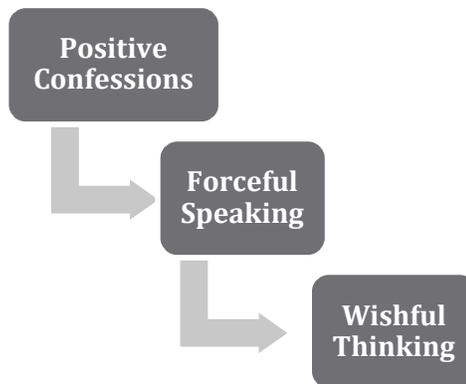
Acts 5:12-16 (NIV)—¹²The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon’s Colonnade.

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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.

E) The gift of faith is **not**:



1. The gift of faith is the outward act of obedience prompted by the inward guidance of God.

1 Kings 18:36-39 (NIV)— ³⁶At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: “LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. ³⁷Answer me, LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.”

³⁸Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench.

³⁹When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, “The LORD—he is God! The LORD—he is God!”

2. The gift of faith is the outward manifestation of power in response to your inward and silent act of listening to God's heart.