

Christ Church

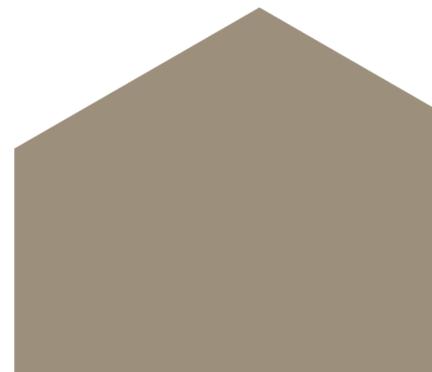
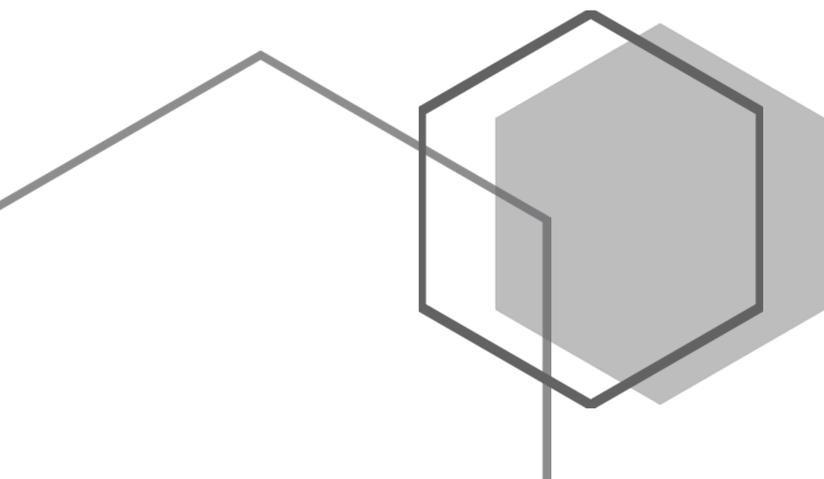


Discovering the Gifts of the Spirit

Lesson 1

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

- 1 Corinthians 12:7



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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

Discovering the Gifts of the Spirit

Discovery is a precursor to developing your faith!

Note: The Lord has not left His Church powerless to fulfill The Great Commission—reaching lost people with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Through the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we are able to accomplish supernatural feats and strengthen the Christian community. Let’s explore this exciting subject from the perspective of activating these gifts in our lives.

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

1 Corinthians 12:1-11—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.”

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>

DISCOVERING THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

1.1 What is the definition of the word "gifts" (1 Cor. 12:4)?

- A) The Greek word *doma* (Eph. 4:8) means: a present; lends greater stress to the concrete character of gift, than to its beneficent nature.

- B) The Greek word *dorea* (Acts 2:38) is: a free gift stressing its gratuitous character; a gratuity.

- C) The Greek word *charisma* (1 Cor. 12:4) means: gracious deliverances; of that which is imparted through human instruction.

1.2 What is the purpose of the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

Note: Everything has a purpose, even spiritual gifts. Once you identify the purpose, you will be empowered to yield to their operations. This study will explore six purposes.

- A) Spiritual gifts show the hand of God (1 Cor. 12:7).

- B) The physical, redemptive work of the Spirit is seen through the gifts (1 Cor. 14:23-25).

- C) The gifts of the Spirit edify the church (1 Cor. 14:12).

- D) Their expressions strengthen, encourage, and comfort the body of Christ (1 Cor. 14:3).

- E) The gifts are a witnessing tool of the Holy Spirit (Acts 4:29-31; 8:5-8).

- F) Through the benefits of the gifts, the church grows numerically (Acts 5:12-14).

2.0 Are the Gifts of the Holy Spirit for Today?

Note: Throughout the church age, this question has caused great debate and rifts in the Christian community. To answer it, we must approach the topic with maturity and pay close attention to the relevant Bible passages. Remember, the question before us is on the biblical proof of charismatic gifts and not the abuse of spiritual gifts; misuse of spiritual gifts; or the subject of “ministry” gifts. The question clearly asks: Does the Bible teach that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are for today? The answer is an emphatic **yes**.

- 2.1 The gifts will cease when perfection comes (1 Cor. 13:8-10). Perfection—the Lord Jesus—has not yet come (or returned); thus, the gifts continue to function today.
- 2.2 The gift of prophecy and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit are to be evidenced in the last days (Acts 2:17-19). We’re still living in the last days!
- 2.3 The gifts of the Spirit are signs that ought to accompany believers as they live out the expectations of The Great Commission (Mark 16:15-18).
- 2.4 Why do many Christians say that the gifts of the Holy Spirit have ceased their expression?

Note: The doctrine of the ceasing of the gifts is known as Cessationism. Cessationists believe “the gifts of the Spirit, along with miracles, ended with the death of the last apostle or shortly thereafter.”¹ If the Bible is the sole source of one’s authority, this perspective cannot be proven. It is taught because of the following four principal reasons.

- A) These Bible teachers have not personally experienced the manifestation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- B) The abuse of the gifts or a negative experience has caused them to “toss out the baby with the bath water.”
- C) These Bible teachers/scholars have not seen the gifts in operation.

¹ Jack Deere. *Surprised by the Power of the Spirit* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1993), 267.

DISCOVERING THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

D) The proponents of the cessationist view approach the Bible with the perspective that the gifts are no longer for today. Then they find awkward passages to support and reinforce their prejudiced views.

2.5 There are clear parameters of the gifts of the Spirit (1 Cor. 12:1-7).

A) The gifts of the Spirit can be studied and understood.

B) They are all supernatural expressions of God's love and power working through the personality and uniqueness of His children.

C) The gifts of the Spirit are expressed within the boundaries of:

1. Glorifying Christ (1 Cor. 12:3)

2. Edifying the Church (1 Cor. 14:12)

3. Honoring and confirming the completeness of the Bible (Rev. 22:18-19)

D) The manifestation of the gifts of the Spirit has been given to each believer (1 Cor. 12:7).

1. The gifts are different from one another.

2. The gifts have different intentions because they provide different services.

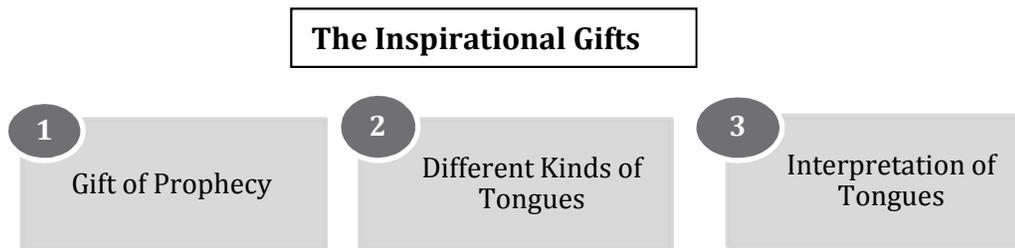
3. The same gift may work differently within another person's life and ministry, but it is the same God who is at work.

3.0 What are the Inspirational Gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:1-11)?

1 Corinthians 12:1-11—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.

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3.1 How are the inspirational gifts defined?

- A) *Prophecy*: A divinely inspired utterance or revelation.

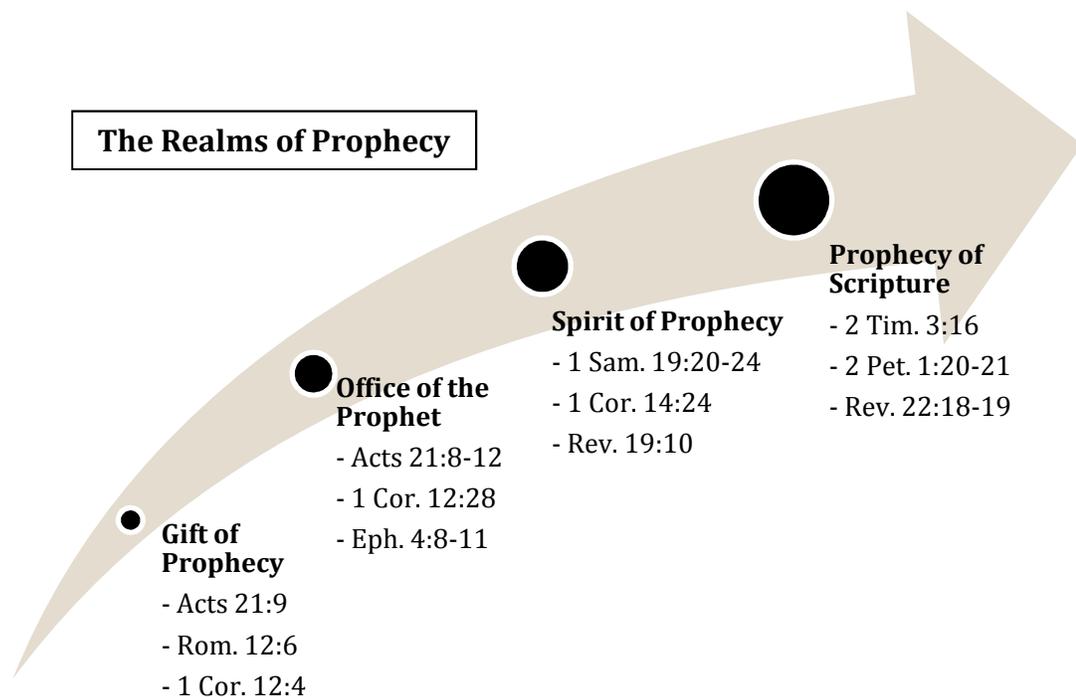
- B) *Different Kinds of Tongues*: The ability to speak supernaturally by the Holy Spirit in a language foreign to the one possessing it.

- C) *Interpretation of tongues*: The ability to interpret supernaturally a language foreign to the one speaking or interpreting into the known language of the assembly (by the Holy Spirit).

DISCOVERING THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

3.2 What are some common threads among the inspirational gifts?

- A) They are all vocally based and supernatural in manifestation.
- B) These three gifts are for public usage and not individual “bless myself” sessions.
- C) These gifts require at least two people to operate in accordance with Scriptural guidelines (1 Cor. 14:3-5, 29-32).
- D) There are different realms of prophecy.



4.0 How Do the Inspirational Gifts of the Spirit Function?

4.1 Let's explore the *gift of prophecy*.

- A) Prophecy is a divinely inspired speech.
 1. The definition of the word "inspiration", which is the Greek word *theopneustos*, means divinely breathed in (2 Tim. 3:16).

DISCOVERING THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

2. An object/goal must be apparent to the inspired person as well as God. Something triggers an inspirational response (Luke 1:39-42, 62-67).
- B) It operates by foretelling or forth telling.
1. It edifies, exhorts and/or comforts the recipient of the inspired message regarding their *present* circumstance and their *future* (1 Cor. 14:3-4).
 2. It has a learning or teaching mode (1 Cor. 14:29-33).
- C) An inspired person is not a zombie. They are not in a trance where he/she is oblivious of his/her actions!
1. The outcome of inspiration must be edifying.
 2. The receptor of the inspirational information must be spiritually sensitive and knowledgeable of what was said, if they are to fully comprehend the experience.
- 4.2 Let's examine the *gift of different kinds of tongues*.
- A) Tongues is a language, not gibberish or ecstatic speech unintelligible to God (Acts 2:4-11; 1 Cor. 14:2)!
- B) Speaking in tongues is supernatural (Acts 2:7-8; 1 Cor. 14:21-25).
- C) Different kinds of tongues is not the same as preaching or a missionary's evangelistic effort to speak the native language (Acts 2:6-7, 14).
- D) Tongues: Is it a prayer language and/or a charismatic gift?
1. A tension may appear to exist (1 Cor. 14:18-19). Are tongues a private prayer/praise language or an inspirational gift for public usage? It is both!

DISCOVERING THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

2. They spoke in tongues, not received the gift of tongues (Acts 2:4).
3. Private strength should work towards public edification (1 Cor. 14:5, 12).
4. *In private* speaking in tongues is used for:
 - a) Prayer and spiritual warfare (1 Cor. 14:2, 14)
 - b) Worshiping and praising God (1 Cor. 14:15-17)
 - c) Building up yourself (1 Cor. 14:4)
 - d) Increasing your faith (Jude 20)
5. *In public* speaking in tongues is used:
 - a) To give a prophetic utterance (1 Cor. 14:3-5)
 - b) To provide Spirit-directed instruction (1 Cor. 14:27-31)
 - c) To share a bold encouragement to the audience (Acts 19:6)
 - d) As a powerful sign pointing to the existence of God (1 Cor. 14:22)
 - e) For inspirational praise that includes the whole group (Acts 10:44-46)

4.3 Let's explore the *gift of interpretation of tongues* (1 Cor. 14:13).

A) It is the translation of a language and not the interpretation.

1. Translate means "to express in another language, systematically retaining the original sense."²

² The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language (New College Edition)

2. Interpretation means “an explanation; expounding the significance of.”³
- B) The *gift of interpretation* works in conjunction with the gift of different kinds of tongues. They need each other (1 Cor. 14:5).
1. You can only interpret what has already been publicly spoken.

Discovery Time

Gather in a 3-4 person group to better grasp an overview of the gifts of the Spirit and the three inspirational ones we just examined. Introduce yourself to your study partners. The person with the shortest vacation over the summer is the group leader for this exercise.

1. *Has God ever used you to operate in any of the inspirational gifts of the Spirit? If so, which one(s)? How did you know it was the Holy Spirit working through you and not your own charisma or winsome personality? Discuss.*
2. *What intrigued you the most having witnessed the gifts of the Spirit at work? Why? Discuss.*

³ Ibid.