

A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT

July 22, 2018 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 by Bob Branch
Introducing The Holy Spirit, part 4 of 5

BIG IDEA: We should expect God's Spirit to move whenever we come together in ways consistent with him and as diverse as we are together. So, come ready to give, not just to get.

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

1. Use **BIBLICALLY-INFORMED COMMON SENSE**, not your gut-feel or past experiences, to discern what is God and what is not. (Jn. 15:26; 16:14)

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

2. God—Father, Son and Spirit—loves to **REVEAL HIMSELF** in all kinds of ways, through all kinds of people.

⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the benefit of all.

3. The gifts the Spirit sprinkles onto a meeting are intended to make **GOD'S INVISIBLE FULLNESS VISIBLE** to us. *Gracelets*

⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit a word of wisdom, to another a word message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miracles, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in

various kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the empowered by one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he wills.

- **Word of wisdom:** A supernatural revelation of instant insight, direction, or how something God reveals may be applied, which is not learned by natural means. (Jn 8:7; 1 Kgs 3:26-27).
- **Word of knowledge:** A supernatural revelation of facts about a person/situation, not learned by natural means. (Acts 5:3; Jn 4:18f)
- **Gift of faith:** A supernatural surge of confidence from the Spirit which arises within a person faced with specific situation or need where they receive certainty beyond fact that God is about to act in that situation. (Dan. 6:3; Acts 13:8; 1 Kgs. 18)
- **Gifts of healing:** God's supernatural healing of diseases coming thru people for his glory and the benefit of others. (Luke 5:17; Acts 3:6)
- **Works of power/miracles:** The supernatural intervention of the Spirit in the natural order thru an individual. (Mt. 9:36; 14:14; 20:34)
- **Prophecy:** A Spirit-enabled ability to receive and communicate an immediate message from God to his gathered people or person. Can be foretelling the future, but most biblical prophecy is simply saying what God is saying to people: forthtelling. (Acts 11:28, 21:10)
- **Discernment of spirits:** A Spirit-enabled perception given to distinguish the motivating spirit behind certain words or deeds. Jesus uses this all the time. "Knowing their thoughts." (Mt. 9:4; 16:23; Lk. 9:47; Acts 5:3).
- **Speaking in different tongues:** A Spirit-enabled ability to speak in a language not known by the speaker. There are 3 dimensions/kinds of tongues in NT. (Acts 2:4-8; 1 Cor. 14:27; 14:4) 1) Unknown to speaker, known to listener. (Acts 2); 2) Unknown to both speaker & audience, needs interpreting. (1 Cor. 14); 3) Unknown to speaker, private, but beneficial in prayer & praise. (1 Cor. 14)
- **Interpretation of tongues:** A Spirit-enabled ability to interpret a tongue given that makes the message intelligible and beneficial to the hearers. (1 Cor. 12: 10; 14:13, 28).

"Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy." **1 Cor. 14:1** ESV

MANIFESTATIONS OF THE SPIRIT

from 1 Corinthians 12

Word of wisdom: A supernatural revelation of instant insight, direction, or how something God reveals may be applied, which is not learned by natural means.

God's practical (directional) wisdom into a situation. Jesus had a WOW with the woman caught in adultery. Remember, he bent down, wrote in the dirt, then said, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." (John 8:7; 1 Kings 3:26-27)

Word of knowledge: A supernatural revelation of facts about a person or situation, not learned by natural means. (Acts 5:3; John 4:18f)

In Acts 5, Peter has a word of knowledge about the donation Ananias and Sapphira are offering. Jesus uses this gift in John 4 with the Samaritan woman, "The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true." (John 4:17-18).

Gift of faith: A supernatural surge of confidence from the Spirit of God which arises within a person faced with specific situation or need where they receive certainty beyond fact that God is about to act in that situation. Saving Faith is a gift, yes; this is different. It is an endowment, a surge describes it well. (Dan. 6:3)

Elijah called for a showdown on Mt. Carmel between the prophets of Baal and God. (1 Kings 18:19f) A surge of confidence and certainty, and God backed it up. The same with Paul in Acts 13:8.

Gifts of healing: God's supernatural healing of diseases coming thru human agents for his glory and the benefit of others. (Luke 5:17; Acts 3:6)

Acts 3:6, "Silver and gold, I do not have, but what I do have, I give you. In the name of Jesus, rise and walk."

Works of power/miracles: The supernatural intervention of the Spirit in the natural order through an individual. (Mt. 9:36; 14:14; 20:34; 8:26)

When Jesus is "*filled with compassion*," miracles tend to follow it.

Prophecy: A Spirit-enabled ability to receive and communicate an immediate message from God to his gathered people or person. We tend to equate this with foretelling the future, but most biblical prophecy is simply saying what God is saying to people: forthtelling. (Acts 11:28, 21:10)

The Bible encourages us to want this... Thus, people prophesy according to their faith. (Rom. 12:6)

Discernment of spirits: A Spirit-enabled perception given to distinguish the motivating spirit behind certain words or deeds.

You see Jesus using this all the time. "Knowing their thoughts." (Mt. 9:4; 16:23; Lk. 9:47; Acts 5:3).

Speaking in different tongues: A Spirit-enabled ability to speak in a language not known by the speaker. There are 3 dimensions/kinds of tongues in NT. (Acts 2:4-8; 1 Cor. 14:27; 14:4)

There are 3-3½ dimensions of the gift of tongues/languages in the NT. 1) In Acts 2:4,6; 10:44-47, the speaker speaks a language unknown to them, but known to the hearers. The words are directed upward in praise to God. 2) In 1 Cor. 14, a tongue that's delivered in a believer's meeting (unknown to speaker *and* audience) that needs to be interpreted to be beneficial. 3) Also in 1 Cor. 14, there's an expression of this gift that can be spoken/sung alone and has a "building yourself up" benefit to it. It's unknown to the speaker, but still beneficial to the one speaking it.

Interpretation of tongues: A Spirit-enabled ability to interpret a tongue given that makes the message intelligible and beneficial to the hearers. (1 Cor. 12: 10; 14:13, 28)

This gift accompanies a message in tongues given in a meeting, and interprets the message being given. One of the ways to tell is an IOT is that it's typically directed Godward. It may be a prayer or praise.