

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- DISCERNMENT
- KNOWLEDGE
- WISDOM

Week 2

1. **Jesus did what he did by the power of the Holy Spirit**: John 3:34 “For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit”; Acts 10:38 38 “how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him”.
2. **Jesus moved in all the gifts of the Spirit as the Father directed him**: a misnomer to say that Jesus “had the gifts of the Spirit” because in fact the gifts were given to the Body of Christ by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost after Jesus ascended back to Heaven following his resurrection. When Jesus was physically present here he *was* the Body of Christ. Mark 7:37 “He did *everything* well”. John 5:19 “Jesus gave them this answer: “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.”

3. **We are now the “body of Christ”**: 1 Cor 12:27: “Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” In other words God wants to work through us to continue the work of Jesus on this earth. Acts 1:1-2 “all that Jesus **began** to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven.” Jesus is still “doing” and “teaching” through us today!
4. **One of the signs of a Christian is that we are led by the Holy Spirit**: Romans 8:14 “For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.” Fulfilment of Joel 2 Joel 2:28 - 28 “And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.29 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.” Pentecost – Acts 2.
5. **What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit?**: In 1 Corinthians 12, two Greek terms are translated as "spiritual gifts". In verse 1, the word “pneumatika” (“spirituals” or “things of the Spirit”) is used. In verse 4, “charisma” is used. This word is derived from the word charis, which means “grace”. **The gifts of the Holy Spirit are found in 1 Corinthians 12; 1 Corinthians 14; Romans 12: 4-9. Ephesians 4: 7-13 | Peter 4: 10-11.**
6. **Have the gifts of the Holy Spirit been withdrawn from the church?**: No! 1 Cor 1:7 “7 so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.” ‘Cessationism’ versus ‘Continuationism’ which involves a Christian theological dispute as to whether spiritual gifts remain available to the church, or whether their operation ceased with the Apostolic Age of the church (or soon thereafter). Cessationism says spiritual gifts such as speaking in tongues, prophecy and healing ceased with the Apostolic Age. Wrong doctrine will hold you back from operating in the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
7. **Are the gifts of the Holy Spirit revocable from a person?**: No! Romans 11:29 “for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable.”

8. **Is it ok to desire to have spiritual gifts?:** Yes! We are commanded to! I Corin 14:1 “Follow the way of love and **eagerly desire** gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy.” I Corin 12:31 “Now **eagerly desire** the greater gifts.” That word “eagerly” (Gk. zēloō) means to desire earnestly, pursue, have zeal.
9. The Holy Spirit operates in our lives in four ways/stages:
 - **Convicting us to bring us to Christ** – John 16:8 “And when [the Holy Spirit] comes, he will **convict** the world of its sin, and of God’s righteousness, and of the coming judgment.
 - **Birthing us into God’s family** – John 3:6 (NLT) “Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives **birth** to spiritual life.” This is being “born again”.
 - **Filling us and producing Christ’s character in us** – Galatians 5:22 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control.” Ephesians 5:18 “Don’t be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, **be filled** (Gk. plēroō - Present Passive Imperative tense) with the Holy Spirit.” In other words it’s a command to you the reader in the continual present tense ‘be being filled with the Holy Spirit’ - not a “one off”.
 - **Empowering us and giving us the gifts** - Acts 1:8 “but you will receive **power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;” I Corin 12:7 (NLT) “A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.”

10. What will dullen the work of the Holy Spirit in and through our life?

- Grieving the Holy Spirit – sin. What is the remedy? Repentance. Ephesians 4:30 (NLT) “And do not bring sorrow (grief) to God’s Holy Spirit by the way you live.”
- Quenching the Holy Spirit – lack of faith or a failure to operate in the gifts. What is the remedy? Obedience. I Thessalonians 5:19 (NLT) “Do not stifle (quench) the Holy Spirit.”

11. Personal testimony

- Plymouth Brethren lad – really a cessationist denomination – certainly as far as the sign gifts are concerned (tongues, word of knowledge, prophecy, miracles etc).
- Step out for God and you will encounter his presence and power.
- Tongues (piano); word of knowledge; discernment of spirits; word of wisdom; healing.
- Deliverance – is not a gift of the Holy Spirit – it is something that all Christians have the authority to do!

12. What is the gift of discernment of spirits? (Gk diakrisis = distinguishing, discerning, judging) I Corinthians 12:10 “to another discerning of spirits” (e.g. someone might carry something spiritually dangerous with them into the church and that is discerned; in deliverance ministry identifying particular demons operating in that person; seeing the presence of the Holy Spirit on a person or working in a person; even identifying the presence of angels). Acts 5:3; Acts 8:23; Heb 1:3, John-Rev 4:5

13. What is the gift of the word of knowledge? – (“word” = Gk logos = something said; “of knowledge” = Gk gnosis = something known). I Corin 12:8 “to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit”. This is not a gift of human knowledge or the “smarts” kind of knowledge. With this gift only part or a fragment of information is given. God is all knowing but he only gives us what we need to know at any given time. Examples: the woman at the well, John 4:17; Acts 5:3; Acts 9:10-12; Acts 10:9-19; Acts 11:28; Acts 13:9; Acts 21:11.

14. What is the gift of the word of wisdom? – (“word” = Gk something said; “of wisdom” = Gk sophia = the wisdom of God here). I Corin 12:8 “for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit”. This is not a gift of human wisdom or advice. Paul in Acts 27:23-24, James – Acts 15:19; Agabus- Acts 11:28 & Acts 21:10,11.

15. We are to go and be Jesus’ hands and feet:

- Matt 10:7 “As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’
8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.”
- Mark 16:17 “17 And 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.”

16. Have you given your life to Jesus?: John 3:16; I John 5:12; Romans 1:17