

Word Of Life Ministries

Issue 43

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January 15, 2006—February 15, 2006

Gifts of The Spirit

1st Corinthians 12:8-11

For to one is given by the Spirit the word of Wisdom, to another the word knowledge by the same Spirit. To another faith by the same Spirit, to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit.

To another working of miracles; to another prophecy to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and self same Spirit, dividing to every man several as he will.

Spiritual Gifts have been a debate in the Christian Community throughout time and because of disagreements it has caused division. Some say the Gifts no longer exist after the Apostles, others accept the Gifts and misuse it; then there are those that have the Gift, accept the Gifts, but don't know how to go about operating in the Gift or Gifts.

Spiritual Gifts consists of spiritual offices that were given to equip the saints. The above scripture speaks about Gifts that minister by revelation, action and utterance. The most debated Spiritual Gift, is the Gift of Tongues. Many have misused this Gift as well as confused others to the point they either reject the Gift or doubt whether or not they're saved because they don't speak in an unknown tongue.

Speaking in tongues doesn't necessarily means the individual is saved. Just as Satan can and will quote scriptures, he also can imitate the Gift of Tongues, that's when the other Spiritual Gifts needs to be in operation to know whether or not the tongues spoken are godly or ungodly.

Many believers assume because they operate in Gifts they are guaranteed to enter into heaven, but the Bible doesn't teach us that Gifts are heavens entry, but according to the word of God we must be born-again. **John 3:5 Jesus answered, verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.**

One can operate in a Gift or Gifts and not be regenerated, because the Gifts and calling of God are of no repentance. There will be many that stand before the Lord that had Spiritual Gifts and will be sent to eternal torment because they didn't submit to the teaching of the Bible. **Matthew 7:22-23—Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord have we not prophesied in thy name, and in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you, depart from me, ye that work iniquity.**

Iniquity is wickedness and sinfulness. Although they had the Gift, they were practicing sin and directed away from what was right or good; and because they did it their way instead of God's way, they will

be in torment for eternity. Spiritual Gifts were given to minister supernatural intervention to God's people.

Spiritual Gifts should operate with the Fruit of the Spirit which will indicate a sure sign that the individual has been born-again.

Born-again in Greek is Gennao, meaning to procreate, to regenerate, bring forth.

Procreate—To beget (offspring), reproduce.

Regenerate is to reform spiritual or morally. To create a new. **(2nd Corinthians 5:27—Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.**

When Jesus went to the cross for our sins, he reformed us, if we accepted His invitation. Through Him we were reconciled back to the Father, there is no other name one can be saved by, but by the name of Jesus. We must do more than just believe there is a God, the devils believe and tremble according to the word of God, but we must be born-again of the Spirit of God. God demonstrates His power here on earth through men and women in order for the unbeliever to know that there is a God and He's reigning in His people. He's sitting on the throne of their hearts ruling.

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Every born-again child of God has received a Gift or Gifts from God to minister edification, direction, healing and deliverance. Each Gift operates differently, they operate through the Holy Spirit, they didn't cease with the last Apostle.

Three Revelation Gifts (gifts that reveal something)

Word of Wisdom
Word of Knowledge
Discerning of Spirits

Three Power Gifts (gifts that does something)

Gift of Faith
Gift of Miracles
Gifts of Healing

Three Gifts of Utterance (gifts that say something)

Prophecy
Divers Kinds of Tongues
Interpretation of Tongues

Let's take a look at how these gifts operate.

Wisdom (naturally) Accumulated philosophic or scientific learning. Scholarly learning.

Gift of Wisdom (spiritually)
The Gift of the Word of Wisdom is a supernatural revelation by the Spirit of God concerning the divine purpose and plan in the mind of God and will of God.

Pharaoh had a dream that he didn't understand. God gave Joseph the interpretation of the dream. God was informing Pharaoh of His plan for the next fourteen years; there was going to be seven years of prosperity and seven years of famine. Be-

cause Pharaoh didn't have a connection with the Spirit of God, God used Joseph to reveal the plan and will of God as well as give him the solution to maintain and prosper during the famine.

Knowledge (naturally) The state of fact of knowing, acquired by experiences or study.

Gift of Knowledge (Spiritual)

The Word of Wisdom and the Word of knowledge is sometimes confused with one another. The Word of Knowledge is always present or past tense whereas the Word of Wisdom always speaks of the future. Very often the two operates together.

When Ananias and Sapphira lied about the amount of money they received for the land they sold, the Gift of Knowledge was in operation. Paul told them they lied to the Holy Spirit and both of them died. The Holy Spirit is God, He sees and hears everything.

Gift of Discernment

First of all, I want you to know the Gift of Discernment is not always seeing demonic spirits, faults, failure and habits of others. The individual is gifted to see in the spirit realm as well as to perceive something hidden or deceitful. To discern is to know or judge thoroughly, distinguish, or interpret.

Apostle Paul and some of the other disciples were on their way for prayer, they met a young lady and she began to follow them and say "These men are the servants of the most high God, which show unto us

the way of salvation". Without the Gift of Discernment, Paul may have thought the young lady was encouraging them, but through the Gift, he was able to discern the spirit that was speaking was not of God, but Satan taunting them. Paul commanded the spirit to come out of her in the name of Jesus Christ, and it had to obey.

Gift of Faith

There are four kinds of faith:

- 1) Natural faith is when one has the confidence in one self or someone else.
- 2) Spiritual faith is when one believes and trust God into salvation.
- 3) Faith of doubt and unbelief. No matter how one pray they believe "Maybe God will answer the prayer".
- 4) The Gift of Faith is when one believes God for the impossible.

There was a Shunammite woman that loved God and God's people, but she could not have children. She and her husband were up in age, and having a child at their age according to the law of nature was over.

There was a prophet that would come to town and she wanted to make sure he had a place to stay when he came to town. She checked with her husband to see if this would be agreeable with him. Married couples should always check with each other prior to making a decision even when they are doing something spiritual. In order for it to operate effectively we must be

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in the bonds of peace with our spouse. They both agreed to make a space in their home for the prophet.

Elijah wanted to show his appreciation to the Shunammite woman, so he asked her what could he do for her. The prophet's servant, Gehazi informed the prophet, she didn't have a child. The man of God told her, that at the time he spoke with her, the following year she would have a child.

As time passed, the child and his father were in the field, the child had a sun-stroke and died. The father brought the child to his mother. The mother took the child upstairs and placed him on the prophet's bed and told her husband, she was going to look for the man of God. When she found him, he asked her if all was well, she replied "It is well." She wasn't believing what her eyes was showing her, but her faith was in God manifesting Himself through the prophet. The prophet prayed for the child, the child was restored to his mother. Both the prophet and the Shunnamite woman were believing for the manifestation of God's power. Gift of Faith is believing God for the impossible whereby natural laws can't accomplish.

Gift of Miracles

A miracle is the supernatural intervention in the ordinary course of nature, it's a temporary suspension of the custom order. An interruption of the system of nature as we know it, operated by the force of the Spirit.

Miracles are happening today, but not as much as it was in the Old and New Testament time. Some will say the prophetic gifts and operation of the Gift of the Spirit is no longer in operation, but Hebrews 13:8 says God is the same yesterday, today and forever. The gifts that operated in the Apostles and Prophets is the same Holy Spirit. Secondly, Ephesians 4:5 states when Jesus ascended up on high, he gave gifts unto men—Verse 11 states He gave apostles, prophets, evangelist, pastors and teachers, these are ministering gifts, and spiritual gifts are given for the ministering gifts to operate effectively.

An example of a miracle is when the Apostle Peter spoke to a lame man that was unable to walk since he was born. The lame man sat at the Gate Beautiful to ask alms of them that entered into the temple. When Peter saw him, he said "Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have, give I thee: in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk, and the man walked, this was a miracle.

When people have been diagnosed with an incurable disease and then be healed, that's a miracle. When a woman becomes pregnant after the doctors have tried everything, but failed; that's a miracle.

Gifts of Healing

Gifts of Healing is a supernatural healing of disease and infirmities without the natural means of any source. The Gifts of Healing have nothing to do with medical science or human learning. Gifts of Healing is

a manifestation of God's power working through an individual by anointing them with oil according to James 5:14, praying for them by laying on of hands or sometimes by speaking the word of God. The purpose of this gift is to deliver the sick and to destroy the works of the devil in the human body. Healing comes directly from God to the individual, but He channels His power through the person He has given the Gift.

Gift of Prophecy

The Hebrew word for prophecy is Neb-oo-aw, meaning to speak for another or to be God's spokesperson.

God will use someone in prophecy, but it doesn't mean the person is a prophet. There is a difference in prophesying and a prophet. Prophecy is to speak to men to edification, exhortation and comfort whereas a prophet walks in revelation, authorize to tear down, build up, root up, speak life and death to a situation.

Jeremiah 1:5

Before I formed thee in the belly, I knew thee. And before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. See I have this day set thee over the nations, and over kingdoms to root up, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build and to plant.

Prophecy is to exhort, encourage, instruct, its never to bring about confusion or have the saints looking at each other crazy. It's not to destroy homes and ministries. Relationships, marriage and homes have been

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destroyed because of false prophets and prophecy. True prophecy isn't about receiving spouses, cars, homes, There are times God will re-inform His covenant with an individual to encourage and build their faith. Prophecy is demonstrated when Elijah told the Shunnamite woman she would have a child a year after he spoke with her. **(2nd Peter 1:21—For the prophecy came not in old time (any) by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.**

Divers Kinds of Tongues

Divers Kinds of Tongues is a supernatural utterance by the Holy Spirit in a language never learned by the speaker. Its not understood by the mind of the speaker. Speaking in tongues has nothing to do with linguistic ability. It has nothing to do with the mind or the intellect of man, it's a vocal miracle.

The day of Pentecost, the apostles, Mary the mother of Jesus, and other women and men were in the upper room praying for the direction of selecting another apostle. In their waiting for God's will and waiting for the promise, they received direction and the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of God not only came upon the apostles, but the men and women that were with them praying and waiting for the promise. The bible states they begin to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. As Peter spoke there were thirteen other nations that heard him speak in their language. The bible states those that

spoke in other tongues normally spoke Galilean.

Gift of Interpretation of Tongues

The Gift of Interpretation of Tongues is the least gift of the utterance gifts because it depends upon tongues in order to operate. It doesn't operate unless tongues has been in operation. The purpose of the gift is to render the gift of tongues intelligible to the hearer so that the church or the person whom the message is given will know what has been said and be edified. Speaking in tongues should be done quietly while in church or else when tongues are spoken out loud, there should be an interpretation.

1 Corinthians 14:27-28

If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret.

But if there be no interpreter, let him speak to himself and God.

Speaking in tongues without interpretation can cause confusion, and God is not the author of confusion. The bible teaches us to do all things decently and in order. The Holy Spirit is not going to have one preaching, teaching or ministering to someone in tongues without interpretation. The Holy Spirit will not have one operating disorderly.

Everyone that has been born of the Spirit of God has a Spiritual Gift. Spiritual Gifts should be ministered in love and kindness. Gifts are to be used in operation of the Holy Spirit, in the Fruit of the Spirit.

Everyone that has been born-again, and have the filling of the Holy Spirit can speak in tongues. It's a gift from God, but some doesn't speak in tongues because they don't know they can by the Spirit; others don't because they have been taught in error. Apostle Paul stated that he would pray in the Spirit and he would pray with an understanding, he would sing in the Spirit and he would sing with an understanding **(1st Corinthians 14:15)** In other words he would pray and sing with his intellect so that he can understand; then when he wanted to sing and pray directly to God, he would do so by the Gift to tongues. Let's stop fighting and rejecting what we don't understand, pray and ask for understanding. If any man lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

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