

DOCTRINE

HOLY SPIRIT

LESSON #7

I. THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT - I COR. 12:8-11

The word "manifestations" is a better word than "gifts" to properly explain this chapter. Rather than the idea of one person being gifted with a certain gift for the rest of his/her life, I prefer the conclusion that the Holy Spirit manifests Himself in various ways through whom He chooses. See vs. 7. The purpose of these manifestations is for the profit and edification of the Church body. The Holy Spirit is responsible for these manifestations.

(1) The Word of Wisdom – This is a manifestation by the Spirit of the divine purpose, a declaration of the mind and will of God, the unfolding of His plans or purposes concerning persons, places, and things. Do not confuse this with natural development or learning, or even with deep spiritual insight because of study. This is the application of the principles of Scripture in things not specifically mentioned in Scripture. Matt. 1:20 and 2:20 - A word of wisdom to instruct Joseph in the needed action. Acts 10:9-16 - This word of wisdom instructed Peter and broke down the barrier between Jew and Gentile. Acts 13:2 - This word initiated the calling of Paul and Barnabas into the ministry. Acts 26:16 - A word for direction. Acts 27:22-26 - Direction and comfort in a difficult situation.

(2) The Word of Knowledge – One of the characteristics of God is that He knows all things. The word of knowledge is a revelation of small portions of God's knowledge through us for a specific purpose. This seems to deal with facts rather than with the use of these facts as in the word of wisdom. Do not confuse this gift with the learning of the Word of God or other accomplishments. John 4:18-19 and 29 - To convince the sinner of his need. Acts 9:10-11 - Knowledge of a man in need. Acts 5:3 - To reveal corruption in the Church. Mark 14:13 - Revelation of a fact.

(3) Discerning of Spirits – This manifestation gives supernatural insight into the secret realm of the spirit. This does not come from knowledge of the Word of God. By its operation, we may know the true source and nature of any supernatural manifestation, whether it be divine or satanic. Note: This is not discernment but "discerning of spirits."

- a. The purpose of this gift is to help in delivering the afflicted, tormented, and oppressed. Mark 5:1-15. Luke 9:38-43. Luke 13:11-16. Matt. 12:22. Acts 5:16.
- b. To discover the servant of the devil. Acts 13:6-10.
- c. To aid in checking the plans of the adversary. Acts. 16:16-19.

(4) Gifts of Healing – This is for the supernatural healing of diseases and infirmities without natural means of any sort. There are times when the Lord will choose not to heal when we ask – that only shows the divine choice of the Lord in the matter. This gift is often used in a new field of ministry to create interest and get attention. John 10:36 – To convince men and prove the Sonship of Jesus. Acts 4:29-31 – To authorize the gospel message. Acts 3:15-16 – To establish the resurrection of Jesus. John 6:2 –

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To draw people to the sound of the gospel. Acts 9:32-35 – To turn people to God. Mark 2:12 – To glorify God. Acts 10:38 – To deliver the sick and destroy the works of the devil on the human body.

(5) The Working of Miracles – This is a word used to denote a non-natural, or supernatural occasion or working of God in the world. This gift operates by the energy of God and is a sovereign act that only God can accomplish. Sometimes a special healing could be considered a miracle. Acts 8:6 confirms the word preached. Acts 9:18 – Used to help direct and confirm a person for the work of the Lord.

1. What is the meaning of the word "manifestation?"
2. Who is responsible for these manifestations?
3. Whom does He use?
4. What is the purpose of these?
5. Explain the working of the "word of wisdom."
6. Does the working of it depend on our learning?
7. Explain the working of the "word of knowledge."
8. What does this working accomplish?
9. Explain "discerning of spirits."
10. How does this differ from what we call discernment?
11. What results from this gift?
12. Explain "gifts of healing."
13. What is the purpose of this gift?
14. Explain the "working of miracles."
15. What are some of the results?