



# Bethel

## Discipleship Series

# THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

**SCRIPTURE TEXT:** 1 Corinthians 12 -14:33

**1 Corinthians 12:1-31** – “Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant. **2** Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led. **3** Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

**4** Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. **5** And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. **6** And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. **7** But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. **8** For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; **9** To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; **10** To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: **11** But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

**12** For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. **13** For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

**14** For the body is not one member, but many. **15** If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? **16** And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? **17** If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? **18** But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. **19** And if they were all one member, where were the body? **20** But now are they many members, yet but one body. **21** And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. **22** Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: **23** And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. **24** For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked. **25** That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. **26** And whether one

member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

**27** Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. **28** And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. **29** Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? **30** Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? **31** But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.”

**1 Corinthians 13:1-13** – “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. **2** And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. **3** And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

**4** Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, **5** Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; **6** Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; **7** Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

**8** Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. **9** For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. **10** But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. **11** When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. **12** For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. **13** And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.”

**1 Corinthians 14:1-33** – “Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy. **2** For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. **3** But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and

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comfort. **4** He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church. **5** I would that ye all spake with tongues but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.

**6** Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine? **7** And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped? **8** For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle? **9** So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air. **10** There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification. **11** Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me. **12** Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.

**13** Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret. **14** For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. **15** What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also. **16** Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest? **17** For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified. **18** I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all: **19** Yet

in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue.

**20** Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men. **21** In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord. **22** Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe. **23** If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad? **24** But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all: **25** And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.

**26** How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying. **27** 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. **28** But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God. **29** Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge. **30** If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace. **31** For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted. **32** And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. **33** For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.”

## I. INTRODUCTION

The Gifts of the Spirit are supernatural endowments given by God to bless and edify the Church. They are abilities that God bestows upon specifically chosen individuals. The gifts of the Spirit should not be confused with natural abilities and talents. Natural abilities are given to us by means of our genetic composition – gifts of the Spirit are given to us by a supernatural bequest of God. As with anything placed under human supervision, these gifts can sometimes be misused and abused. However, just because gifts of the Spirit have on occasion been used incorrectly does not mean that we should forbid them altogether. The Apostle Paul gives us clear instructions on how these gifts are to be properly operated and regulated so that the church can be blessed.

## II. BASICS OF THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

- A. The *gifts* of the Spirit discussed in 1 Corinthians 12-14 should not be confused with the *fruit* of the Spirit described in Galatians 5:22-23. Notice the differences:
  1. The *gifts* of the Spirit are divine abilities given to specific members in the church to provide knowledge, strength and encouragement *to the body*. They are actions, works, and deeds (external). These gifts are not to be used for self-aggrandizement, self-advancement or personal glory – they are designed to bless *others*.

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2. The *fruit* of the Spirit are the qualities and characteristics of the nature of Christ. They involve our attitude, disposition and character (internal). These fruit benefit us personally as they perfect and build up our relationship with Christ. Each member of the body should endeavor to cultivate *all* of the fruit of the Spirit in his or her life.
- B. It is not God's will for His people to be ignorant or unskillful in operating the gifts of the Spirit. These gifts are given by the Lord for the specific purpose that the church may be blessed, edified and built up.
  - *1 Corinthians 12:1* – “Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you *ignorant*.”
  - *1 Corinthians 12:7* – “But the manifestation (bestowment) of the Spirit is given to every man to *profit* withal.”
- C. Ignorance robs us of the value and profit of these gifts. When misused or abused, the gifts of the Spirit can cause confusion, division and destruction among God’s people – lives can be wrecked and faith can be destroyed.
- D. However, when used correctly, the gifts bless and build up the church, profiting and advancing the kingdom of God. This is the intended purpose for the gifts of the Spirit!
- E. The human body has many parts or members, such as hands, feet, ears, and eyes. Each body part performs a different, but vitally important function. In a similar manner, the spiritual body of Christ has many members – and each member in that body also has a significant purpose to fulfill.
- F. Similarly, there are different gifts of the Spirit, each one fulfilling a unique and specialized role, but all of them working together for the same purpose or goal.
  - *1 Corinthians 12:4-6* – “Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.”
- G. The nine gifts of the Spirit are listed in 1 Corinthians chapter 12 and can be organized into three categories:
  1. *The Gifts of Revelation* – the “To Know” gifts:
    - *Word of Wisdom*
    - *Word of Knowledge*
    - *Discerning of Spirits*

These gifts involve revelations from God – things that are supernaturally revealed by God.
  2. *The Gifts of Utterance* – the “To Speak” gifts:
    - *Prophecy*
    - *Divers kinds of Tongues*
    - *Interpretation of Tongues*

These gifts involve anointed utterances. They are vocal, conspicuous and very easily recognized.
  3. *The Gifts of Power* – the “To Do” gifts:
    - *Faith*
    - *Gifts of Healing*
    - *Working of Miracles*

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These gifts involve activating the divine power of God.

## III. THE GIFTS OF REVELATION – THE "TO KNOW" GIFTS

A. The Word of Wisdom – Natural wisdom is the ability to properly apply knowledge.

1. Wisdom is not mere knowledge; it is knowing how to use knowledge. Some individuals are by nature “wiser” and more insightful than other individuals. The Word of Wisdom, however, is not just natural wisdom – it is “divine wisdom” supernaturally imparted to meet a particular need.
  - **James 3:17** – “*But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.*”
  - a. The gift of the Word of Wisdom exists on a plane far above “natural” or “human” wisdom. In 1 Corinthians 1:17 – 2:13 and James 3:13-18, the scriptures clearly reveal the differences between natural and supernatural wisdom – between earthly wisdom and heavenly wisdom.
  - b. The Word of Wisdom is the supernatural ability to understand what God would have us to do with the facts of a given situation or circumstance.
  - c. This gift is one of the ways in which God reveals His mind to us; His way of doing things. It is a way in which He divulges His commands and His will.
2. It is important to note that both the Word of Wisdom and the Word of Knowledge begin with the phrase “the word.” This indicates that the people who receive these gifts do not possess all wisdom or all knowledge, but instead they receive a specific portion. They receive a “word” of wisdom or a “word” of knowledge as God imparts it to them in various situations.
3. While all of us will not receive the supernatural gift of the Word of Wisdom, all of us should sincerely seek God’s wisdom.
  - **James 1:5** – “*If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*”
  - **Colossians 3:16** – “*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom...*”
4. While each Christian should continually grow in the wisdom of the Lord, there will be specific individuals in the body to whom God will impart this unique gift to supernaturally provide counsel to His children in various situations.

B. The Word of Knowledge – This gift involves the supernatural revelation of specific knowledge to meet a particular need.

1. The Word of Wisdom and the Word of Knowledge are sometimes called “companion gifts” because they frequently work together to accomplish the same purposes.
2. Again, the title of this gift begins with the phrase, “the word.” Those who receive this gift do not possess all knowledge, but only a small portion of the mind of God.
3. The Word of Knowledge involves the revelation of facts from God about people, places, things, and events that an individual could not possibly know through natural means.
4. Through the gift of the Word of Knowledge Peter knew that Ananias and Sapphira had lied to the Holy Ghost (Acts 5:1-4) and Paul knew that no lives would be lost of those who sailed with Him. (Acts 27:21-25).

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5. We will not all possess this gift of the Word of Knowledge,” but all Christians should sincerely seek to grow in the knowledge of God.
  - **Colossians 1:9-10** – “For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.”
- C. The gift of Discerning of Spirits – This is the supernatural ability to know if a spirit or a spiritual work is of God, of Satan, or of human nature.
  - **1 John 4:1** – “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try (discern, examine) the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”
    1. First, it is important to note that this gift is called discerning of spirits – not the gift of discernment. The Bible does not list a gift called “the gift of discernment.”
    2. The purpose of this gift is to determine and distinguish what is true and what is false in the dimension of human activity and operation.
    3. Through the use of this supernatural gift, God allows us to ascertain and identify whether or not the spirit, actions, or motives of individuals are truly of God.
      - a. There are many self-serving, self-seeking people in the world today. Some of these profess to be ministers or religious leaders when in reality they are “grievous wolves,” desiring to profit personally by harming the flock of God.
      - b. There are also evil spirits of Satan in the world today. Some of these have attached themselves to individuals in an effort to harm or destroy other believers.
      - c. Of course, there are also many anointed and ordained ministries of God, genuinely fulfilling God’s will and proclaiming His gospel throughout the world.
      - d. But how are we to know which is which? There are so many voices calling out to us – how can we discern which are true and which are false? It is through the operation of the gift of Discernment of Spirits that the church is enabled to know the true voice of God.
        - **John 10:4-5** – “And when he (the Good Shepherd) putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.”
    4. It is through this supernatural gift that we are able to recognize, identify, and discern the voice of the Good Shepherd when He speaks through other people.
    5. Through the gift of Discerning of Spirits Paul knew the young girl in Acts 16 was possessed with an evil spirit and he cast it out of her. (Acts 16:16-18) Through this gift Paul also discerned the evil spirits in Elymas the sorcerer. (Acts 13:6-12)
    6. The purpose of this gift is to guard, protect and guide the church, keeping it safe from false prophets and “wolves.”

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## IV. THE GIFTS OF UTTERANCE – THE "TO SPEAK" GIFTS

- A. *The gift of prophecy* – An anointed utterance from God that can be either a foretelling or a forthtelling.
1. Forthtelling is to proclaim, exhort or announce a message under the inspiration of God. When we preach, teach, or witness and testify to others, we are in essence forthtelling or prophesying.
  2. Foretelling, on the other hand, is to proclaim or announce an event that has not yet occurred. This type of prophecy is to foretell and prognosticate future situations.
  3. In Acts 21:9-12, we read of a prophet in the church named Agabus who foretold by the power of the Holy Ghost what would happen to Paul if he journeyed to Jerusalem.
  4. The gift of prophecy, in both its foretelling and forthtelling manifestations, is spoken in the common language of the specific church to whom the prophecy is being directed.
  5. True prophecy is always consistent and harmonious with the Word of God. It never replaces, contradicts or diminishes the Bible. All prophecy is subject to and subordinate to the Word of God and never supersedes authentic doctrinal teaching or spiritual leadership.
  6. The gift of prophecy, when used properly, brings edification, exhortation, and comfort to the Church.
    - *1 Corinthians 14:3, 5* – “But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort. He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church. I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.”
  7. The gift of Prophecy edifies the church (1 Corinthians 14:4), teaches and comforts the church (1 Corinthians 14:31), and can be used to bestow spiritual gifts upon others (1 Timothy 4:14).
  8. Although the gift of prophecy has been misused and abused from time to time, it is a necessary ministry in the church, and we are exhorted to “despise not prophesyings” (1 Thessalonians 5:20-21).
- B. *Divers kinds of tongues* – Speaking in tongues is a supernatural utterance by the Holy Spirit through a human being in a language not learned or understood by the speaker. For the church to be edified, there must be an interpretation of the “tongue.”
1. We have already examined the Biblical evidence revealing that when an individual receives the Holy Ghost, he or she will speak with other tongues as the Spirit gives the utterance.
  2. We have also looked at the scriptural instructions for speaking in tongues in prayer and praise. The use of “tongues” in prayer and praise provides “personal edification” inasmuch as our spirit is edified although our knowledge is “unfruitful” because we do not understand what is being said.
    - *1 Corinthians 14:2* – “For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.”
    - *1 Corinthians 14:4* – “He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.”
  3. The gift of tongues is a separate endowment, distinct and apart from these previous uses of tongues. The gift of tongues is when a message in tongues is given to the church, to be followed later by an interpretation of the message. The apostle Paul taught extensively in 1 Corinthians chapter 14 on the proper use of the gift of tongues for church edification.

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4. On occasion, a person who has received this gift will feel an unction to deliver a message in tongues in a public worship service.
  - a. The recipient of this gift must operate the gift decently and in order (1 Corinthians 14:40).
  - b. The person must also know the difference in being inspired to speak in tongues during a service for personal prayer or praise and being anointed to speak a message in tongues to the entire congregation. Knowing the difference between these two functions is crucial.
  - c. Use of this gift should not hinder, interrupt or stop the flow of worship in a service, but should increase faith and worship.
- C. *The gift of interpretation of tongues* – By this gift a Holy Ghost-filled person interprets (not translates) a message that has been delivered in tongues to the Church.
  1. This gift is called the “interpretation” of tongues, not the “translation” of tongues. It is not a word-for-word transliteration, but instead it is a revealing of the idea, the thought or intent of the message.
  2. The interpretation is often filtered through the individual’s personality, education and speech patterns. God does not necessarily reveal the translation word by word, but more frequently He reveals it as a thought, a subject, or a theme, and the interpreter expresses the theme in his or her own words.
  3. The message revealed by the interpretation of tongues must always be consistent with the Word of God.

## V. THE POWER GIFTS - THE "TO ACT" GIFTS.

- A. *The gift of Faith* – This gift is a supernatural measure of faith above and beyond the faith that all of us normally possess as children of God.
  1. As Christians, we all must have faith, for without faith it is impossible to please God. (Hebrews 11:6) However, the gift of Faith is a gift that is “over and above” the faith of the average Christian.
  2. This gift is often put into operation when we face circumstances such as tragedy, danger, severe illness, accidents, fearful happenings, or other situations that seem impossible to overcome.
- B. The gift of faith is a supernatural portion of confidence and trust in God that surpasses all reason – this gift has the power to look absolute impossibilities in the face and still maintain complete confidence in God.
  1. The gift of faith is not used solely for miracles – it also provides strength and courage to help us “keep going on” when all hope is gone; to stand firm on God’s Word when things don’t go our way; to keep “fighting the good fight of faith” even when we don’t see the results we desire to see.
  2. This gift is given to individuals in the church to inspire us to trust God at all times, in all things. When we feel distraught and hopeless, God will often send someone to us to minister the “gift of faith” to us.
- C. *The gifts of Healing* – When the gifts of healing are in operation, God miraculously removes the cause of disease or affliction and healing takes place.
  1. It is important to note that this impartation is listed in the plural – “*gifts of healing*.” There are different kinds of gifts of healing, and each is manifested and operated in its own unique way.

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2. Healing can occur when believers lay hands on the sick.
    - **Mark 16:17-18** – “*And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.*”
  3. Healing can occur when the elders of the church anoint with oil.
    - **James 5:14-15** – “*Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.*”
  4. Scripture reveals that healing can occur in the body of Christ at any time and may be facilitated by anyone – however, just as with all other spiritual gifts, the gifts of healing are unique, “over and above” what normally occurs in the church.
  5. God imparts specific “gifts” of healing to various members of the church. These healing gifts differ from person to person, and are revealed in different manners. Healings may be spontaneous or gradual.
  6. Through the gifts of healing the lame man at the temple gate was healed when Peter prayed for him (Acts 3:1-10). Many were healed in the city of Samaria when Philip prayed for them (Acts 8:6-7). The father of Publius and many others on the island of Melita were healed when Paul prayed for them (Acts 28:8-9).
- D. The gift of Working of Miracles – This gift is an activation of God’s power to effect an immediate, supernatural event. Miracles are events that contradict the known laws of nature.
1. There are many different kinds of miracles. In fact, the gift of Working of Miracles is unlimited in its scope and variety.
  2. Through the gift of the working of miracles:
    - Bodies have been healed
    - Lives have been spared in accidents
    - Jobs have been acquired
    - Babies have been born
    - Marriages have been saved
    - Financial needs have been met
    - People have been brought back to life
    - The gospel has been preached
  3. Again, the gift of Working of Miracles is given to specific individuals in the body, not to everyone. However, at times, God can occasionally use each of us to perform various miracles.
    - **Mark 16:17-18** – “*And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.*”
  4. Through the gift of Working of Miracles Eutychus was raised from the dead (Acts 20:9-10); Dorcas was raised from the dead (Acts 9:39-40); Philip was transported to Azotus after ministering to the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26-39); Peter escaped from prison (Acts 12:5-11); and Paul and Silas escaped from prison (Acts 16:25-26).
  5. We must be careful not to fall into the trap of “*following after miracles*” or becoming “*sensation seekers*.” Signs and miracles are not verification or proof that someone or something is “of God.”
    - **Matthew 24:24** – “*For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.*”

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- **Matthew 7:22-23** – *(Jesus said) “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.”*
6. The true gift of Working of Miracles is always used to point people toward the gospel and salvation – it is never used to lead people into disobedience of God’s Word.
  7. We are instructed to follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness (1 Timothy 6:11) and those things that make for peace and edification (Romans 14:19). If we faithfully follow after these things, then signs, wonders and miracles will automatically follow after us (Mark 16:17).
  8. However, if we follow after signs and miracles, we will find ourselves deceived and deluded.
    - **Mark 8:11-12** – *“And the Pharisees came forth, and began to question with him (Jesus), seeking of him a sign from heaven, tempting him. And he sighed deeply in his spirit, and saith, Why doth this generation seek after a sign? verily I say unto you, There shall no sign be given unto this generation.”*
    - **Matthew 16:4** – *“A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed.”*
  9. The gift of Working of Miracles is very much in operation in the church. Miracles are happening every day. As we get closer to the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, the number and magnitude of these miracles will increase.
  10. However, as with all spiritual gifts, this gift must be kept in proper perspective and must be under the control and administration of the five-fold ministry of the church.

## VI. CONCLUSION

1. There are also other non-specific gifts of the Spirit, such as “gifts of helps” and “gifts of governments” that are listed in 1 Corinthians 12:28. These gifts are listed as plural and include a wide range of endowments and faculties.
2. Our desire to receive spiritual gifts must be motivated by a desire to bless and edify the body of Christ.
  - **1 Corinthians 14:12** – *“Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.”*
3. The Apostle Paul admonishes us to utilize whatever gifts we have been given to the best of our ability. We must not hide our gifts, use them ignorantly, or manipulate them for our own personal gain. We must use them to build up and edify the church.
  - **Romans 12:6-8** – *“Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.”*
4. After Paul’s lengthy discourse on the gifts of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12, he concludes by encouraging believers to covet the “best gifts.” However, he then points us to a “more excellent way” – the way of love.
  - **1 Corinthians 12:28-31** – *“And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of*

# THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

*healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.”*

5. The above verses are immediately followed by the famous “love (charity) chapter” of 1 Corinthians 13. Paul states conclusively that love supercedes all spiritual gifts and that all gifts of the Spirit should be operated in the spirit of love.

*The validity and authenticity of these wonderful Gifts of the Spirit are without question. The gifts of the Spirit, under proper direction, are vital ministries of the church. Paul’s teachings and admonitions serve to guide us in the proper operation of these supernatural gifts. The pastor and ministerial leadership of the church must always have the oversight and administration of the operation of these gifts, insuring that all things should be done decently and in order. We must be challenged by the Word to covet the best gifts and to allow God to use these gifts through us for His divine purpose.*

Additional resources (available through the Pentecostal Publishing House):

*The Gifts of the Spirit*, Lee Stoneking

*Unwrapping Your Spiritual Gifts (CD)*, Jason Sciscoe

**The Christian Family** – additional resources (available through the Pentecostal Publishing House):

*The Greater Cause (Studies on the Family from Matthew 19)*, Steve Pixler

*Creation & Fall of the Family (Studies on the Family from Genesis 1-5)*, Steve Pixler

*Spiritual Parenting*, Charles H. Spurgeon

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