



Rice Memorial MBC

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Gifts of the Spirit

Definitions in **bold** letters are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 Edition
or Roget's Thesaurus – **May 10, 2015**

***Worship with us at 3201 Mary St until we rebuild our sanctuary at 802 W. 15th,
... We're just behind Kaufman's Lumber Company in Little Rock Arkansas...***

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Introduction: This and the following two chapters were written to **correct disorders** which had arisen in the Corinthian church over the question of spiritual gifts, especially with regard to envy and strife over the relative importance of various gifts. The great test of **all spirituality** is its relation to Christ and his spiritual body the church. So-called "GIFTS" that led to the denunciation of Christ or any conduct that contravened the will of Christ were not of God, but of the **devil**. "Gifts" that take people away from the church are not of God's Spirit at all, but are derived from the evil one (1 Corinthians 12:1-3). There is **diversity** in the **unity** of the church, since the Lord has not given the same gifts to all Christians (1 Cor. 12:4-11). The great metaphor of "**the body**" is developed as a figure of Christ's **spiritual body**, the **church** (1 Cor. 12:12-31). (Source: Coffman Commentaries on the Old & New Testament classic.studylight.org/com/bcc/)

1 Corinthians 12:1, Now concerning **SPIRITUAL GIFTS**, brethren, I would **NOT** have you **ignorant (not understand)**.

Spiritual defined 4152, (divinely [of God]) **supernatural.**
Gifts, this word was added by the translators.

Thought 1. So, this verse actually reads, "Now concerning God's supernatural, brethren, I would not have you not understanding."

1 Corinthians 12:2-3, Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these **dumb (voiceless)** IDOLS, even as ye were led.

Wherefore I give you to UNDERSTAND, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus **accursed**: and that no **man (not even one man or woman)** can **SAY** that Jesus is the **Lord** (one who has power and authority, 1913 Webs.), **BUT** by the Holy Ghost.

Say defined 880, 2036, to speak or SAY (by word or writing).

Speak, to communicate THOUGHTS, opinions, or FEELINGS by uttering with the voice

Say, to utter something as a matter of FACT or **BELIEF**

Thought 1. This verse can also help us better discern whether or not a person is born again, or not. The question is do we really believe that we should live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God? The last part of the verse says

that we should understand that not one man or woman can SAY as a matter of thoughts, opinions, or BELIEF that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

And we know that when the Spirit CONVINCED them of this truth, their BELIEF caused them to be born again! They are of Jehovah's (Yahweh's) family! But, they are babes in Christ that need to have their MINDS renewed as did the babies at Corinth, and as do those all over this world, and even today!

So, we SEE that the word of God says people are to be judged by what they BELIEVE in regard to Jesus, to know whether or not they are of his body!

Romans 10:8-9, But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, And in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt **confess (covenant, acknowledge** [to recognize, admit is true]) with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt **believe** in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

1 John 2:22-23, Who is a liar but he that **denieth (reject** [to refuse to accept, agree to, BELIEVE]) that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever **denieth** the **Son**, the same hath **not** the Father: [but] he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.

1 John 5:1, Whosoever **believeth** that Jesus is the Christ **IS** born of God...

Thought 2. The problem is some Christians in certain denominations don't accept other members of Christ unless they're in a denomination that they accept in their minds. To do so is because of wrong thinking; produced by PRIDE! It's the form of pride known as presumption. God's WORD gives us the evidence to look for!

Presumption, 1. something BELIEVED without actual evidence: a belief based on the fact that something is considered to be extremely reasonable or likely 2. behavior that is inconsiderate, disrespectful, or overconfident

1 Corinthians 12:4, Now there are **DIVERSITIES** of **GIFTS**, but the same Spirit.

Diversities defined 1243, a variety.

Gifts defined 5486, a (divine [of Jehovah God]) gratuity (something given freely), a **spiritual endowment** (ability to do something), or **MIRACULOUS FACULTY**.

Miraculous, caused by a supernatural power

Faculty, 1. ability to ACT or DO 2. power, AUTHORITY, or prerogative (a right attached to an OFFICE to exercise a privilege) given or granted

Thought 1. The first type of "gift" we'll look at is IN the body of Christ for work in what's called the "Professional Gifts" or the "Five-fold Ministry."

Ephesians 4:11-14 ...he **GAVE** some, **apostles**; and some, **prophets**; and some, **evangelists**; and some, **pastors** and **teachers**; For the **perfecting (complete furnishing)** of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the **edifying** (building up in Christian knowledge; improving the mind) of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the **stature (maturity)** of the **fullness (completion)** of Christ: That we henceforth be no more **children (immature Christian:-- BABE)**, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine ...

Thought 2. Next, we need to know there're "nine" manifestations of the Holy Spirit, mentioned later in this chapter, that the "Five-fold Ministry have as "tools" for work to do the job to which they've been called by God. The minister does not

have “direct control” of them “like a car” to use whenever the desire is there. But, their job is to cooperate with the Holy Spirit as God moves to work through them. And even though they are ministers in five-fold ministry, they may be used of God in certain manifestations only once in their lifetime, if at all.

Now, in regard to ALL of the GIFTS, there is belief among us as Christians that the gifts WILL or HAVE already “passed away.” This belief has its bases in only **ONE verse** of scripture, 1 Corinthians 13:8.

As most Christians know, scripture tells us we should have at least two or three witnesses to confirm a teaching before we accept it as TRUE. And when we look at the verse in 1 Corinthians 13:8, and define key words, as well as reason properly with Ephesians 4:11, and other verses, we see really what the truth is. The “GIFTS” are still IN Christ’s body, especially pastors, teachers and evangelist. Actually, all gifts and tools are still working to make BABES and grow up BABES.

1 Corinthians 13:8, Charity never **FAILETH**: but whether there be prophecies, they shall **FAIL**; whether there be tongues, they shall **CEASE**....

Failleth defined 1601, become inefficient [unproductive, USELESS].

Fail defined 2673, be entirely idle [1. not called into active service; not turned to appropriate use; unprofitable. 2. USELESS].

Cease defined 3973, "PAUSE" [1. temporary stop or rest. 2. Temporary Inaction. 1913 Webster’s].

Thought 3. Whether it’s the gift of tongues or praying in tongues, there’s a “PAUSE” in speaking, which means doing so is not USEFUL at ALL times! That being true, it’s agreed in our lives, there’s a pause in their use. But, we’re to love at all times since love is never useless.

1 Corinthians 13:8-9 ...whether there be **knowledge**, it shall **VANISH AWAY**. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

Vanish away (both words) defined 2673, to be entirely IDLE [1. not called into active service; unprofitable. 2. USELESS].

1 Corinthians 12:5-6 ...there are **differences (varieties)** of **administrations (official service)** [action that furthers some purpose], but the same Lord. And there are **diversities (variety)** of **operations (working)**...

Thought 1. Whether we’re speaking of the ‘five-fold’ gifts or the “nine” manifestations of the Holy Spirit, there are a variety of services to be done and there are a variety of ways in which a particular gift can work when in operation.

1 Corinthians 12:6 ...but it is the same God which **WORKETH** ALL IN all.

Worketh defined 1754, to be active, work (effectually in), DO, be mighty in.

John 14:10... the **Father** that **delleth** IN me, **he doeth** the works.

Acts 10:38, How God **anointed** Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with **power**: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for **God** was **with him**.

1 Corinthians 12:7, But the **manifestation (exhibition)** of the Spirit is **given (grant)** to **EVERY man (man, woman)** to **PROFIT** *withal* (added by the translators).

NOTE: To profit withal ... "This means that they were for the common good; the spiritual gifts were to benefit others" **Charismatic gifts** were being utilized by the

Corinthians for **self-promotion**, especially the more spectacular and showy gifts like **tongue** speakings. This, of course, was totally wrong and contrary to God's purpose. (Source: Coffman Commentaries on the Old & New Testament classic.studylight.org/com/bcc/)

1 Corinthians 12:8-9, For to ONE is GIVEN by the Spirit the **word of wisdom**; to another the **word of knowledge (knowing)** by the same Spirit; To another **faith (assurance [certainty, confidence], belief)**, by the same Spirit...

Wisdom defined 4678, wisdom (knowledge of the best ends and the best means; discernment and judgment; discretion; SAGACITY; skill; dexterity). Sagacity, keenness of discernment or penetration with soundness of judgment; shrewdness. Syn. Sagacity, Penetration. *Penetration* enables us to enter into the depths of an abstruse subject, to detect motives, plans, etc. *Sagacity* adds to penetration a keen, practical judgment, which enables one to guard against the designs of others, and to turn everything to the best possible advantage.

Thought 1. The word of wisdom is a word from the Lord by his Spirit that gives direction as to what should be done: best way to bring to pass God's will: the good he DESIRES to see happen, in a given situation in somebody's life.

A word of knowledge is a word from God giving knowledge in regard to the past or present concerning people, places or things.

This gift of FAITH is not "the measure of FAITH" that every person received when they understood the gospel and by faith got saved: Romans 12:3. This is a **special manifestation** of FAITH to believe God for something apart from hearing the word or a testimony and thereby getting an UNDERSTANDING, and then faith according to Romans 10:17. By the way, at times, more than one gift will be at work, simultaneously accomplishing God's desire for his people.

1 Corinthians 12:9-10 ...to another the gifts of **HEALING** by the same Spirit; To another the working of **MIRACLES**; to another **PROPHECY**...

Healing defined 2386, a cure (heal: to restore to health). (Normally, this takes time.)

Miracles defined 1411, mighty deed, a miracle (an event in the physical world deviating from the laws of nature).

Thought 1. A miracle of healing is often instant: Acts 3:7, 4:22. When miracles take place, often the gift of faith and a word of wisdom work in conjunction with it. God's voice may, or may not be heard, but the person has a "certainty" to cooperate with him for a miracle! And he still works them today!

John 2:1-11 ...there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage. And when they **wanted** wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine. ...His mother saith unto the servants, **Whatever he saith** unto you, **do it**. And there were set there six waterpots of stone... Jesus saith unto them, Fill the **waterpots** with **water**. And they filled them up to the brim. And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it. (Because of their faith, they obeyed what he said!) When the ruler of the feast had tasted the **water** that was **made wine**...

Wine defined 3631, of Hebrew origin [3196]); "wine" (literally). 3196 (OT), wine (as fermented) (undergo fermentation: the creation of ALCOHOL by the action of yeast on sugar); **intoxication: -banqueting**.

...and knew not whence it was: (but the **servants** which drew the water **knew**);

the governor of the feast called the bridegroom, And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth **good wine**; and when men have **well drunk (to drink to intoxication)**, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the GOOD wine until now. This **beginning** of **MIRACLES** did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

Prophecy defined 4394, prophesying(Prophecy, **1.** To utter predictions; to make declaration of events to come. *Matt. xv. 7.* **2.** To give instruction in religious matters; to interpret or EXPLAIN Scripture or religious subjects; to preach; to exhort; to expound. *Ezek. xxxvii. 7.*).

Thought 2. To help further clarify what happens when a person prophesies, I'll share a definition I learned from Dr. Ken Hagin. Prophesying takes place when a speaks under inspiration (to speak from an immediate revelation, immediate divine guidance and influence of the Holy Spirit concerning the MIND of the Spirit in general).

In the preaching of God's word, prophesying is commonly known as "whooping". What happens is, the Holy Spirit moves on the person, putting them into "ecstasy", and their mental state changes; affecting their speech and emotions!

Ecstasy, a mental state, usually caused by an intense religious experience; of exaltation (brief duration of a sense of UNITY with God) or domination by an EMOTION such as extreme happiness, LOVE, etc. [*to include WEEPING and/or laughing*] or rapturous delight manifested either openly unrestrained or in a very deep CALM, during which self-control and sometimes consciousness are lost or inattention of the MIND to present objects or surroundings

During ecstasy, the person will speak either in an intense or low key manner; and their speech will often take on a sing-song pattern. Being in ecstasy will cause the speaker to even stagger, as if drunk, and have to hold on to something to keep from falling; or they will fall to the knees, or fall lying on the floor; and eventually able to stand. Jeremiah 23:9, "...I am like a drunken man... because of the Lord..."

However, during a worship service, like most things that are genuine, there is sometimes the imitation of being in ecstasy. This happens because some ministers, due to insecurity and a lack of knowledge, give in to pressure to either please the people and/or be accepted by them. Remember, the Holy Spirit controls this manifestation, and he does not move on the ministers like this every time they speak. The good is they do mean well and they're speaking of Jesus.

1 Corinthians 12:10 ...to another **DISCERNING** of **spirits**; to another *divers* (translators added) **kinds (diversity)** of **TONGUES**; to another the **INTERPRETATION** of **TONGUES**...

Discerning defined 1253, discerning (a. to SEE with the EYES: detect b. to DETECT or discover with other SENSES).

Thought 1. As defined, this gift causes us to see, detect, or **sense** spirits. When Father causes this gift to manifest, it may be him, Jesus, angels, demons, or even people that we SEE in night, or open visions, or just sense, or detect while awake. In visions, what we see is often symbolic representations of spirits. Their **meaning** will be taught to us by the Holy Spirit through God's word; or just using truth.

Tongues defined 1100, a LANGUAGE (specially, one naturally unacquired).
(...which is to say this language is SUPERNATURALLY acquired)

Interpretation defined 2058, translation (the expressing of something spoken in one language in words of a different language).

Thought 2. When this manifestation takes place, Father, or Jesus, is speaking TO someone through us. The language can be of men or of angels: 1 Corinthians 13:1.

Now, let's see how this supernatural of God works. Being sensitive to his Spirit, we will first sense, with a knowing, either a slight prompting that God wants to speak through us, or a tremendous PUSH in our belly. If we go with this, we'll then speak whatever sounds, syllables, or words that's easiest to speak that's not our native tongue; or naturally acquired by learning a language.

What God says is either to be interpreted by us, or somebody else. If there is no one to interpret, we should remain quiet, and speak to ourselves, and to God. And now, we should pray that we may be able to interpret: 1 Corinthians 14:13, 28. You do know, he will answer prayer! Now, in Acts 2:1-11, the people TO whom God was speaking concerning his works were hearing the words in their own language.

Now, when it comes to praying, or singing in the spirit (tongues), this is TO God, and is not the gift of tongues! It's our language as a spirit to Father as his child! And we can speak because we've been filled by the Spirit, which gives articulation for this too. But, interpretation is not needed. Not understanding this truth is why so many Christians think prayer in tongues is to be interpreted. God can; but our talk TO him is a secret and it BUILDS up us: 1 Cor. 14:2, 4. This, and our regular prayer to him are the same. We can pray, or sing TO God, whenever WE desire

1 Corinthians 14:15, 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.

1 Corinthians 14:2-4 ...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. 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.

Jude 1:20, But ye, beloved, **building up yourselves** on your most holy **faith**, praying **in the Holy Ghost**...

Building up defined 2026, **build** (to increase and strengthen; to increase the power and stability of; to settle, or establish, and preserve) **upon**.

Thought 3. Yes, we do pray with our understanding in faith as the Holy Ghost teaches. But, this is not "praying in Holy Ghost." Praying in the Holy Ghost, means to talk with tongues: language of our spirit, not naturally acquired, but supernaturally acquired, where we speak child to Father, as the Spirit gives the utterance (articulation).

1 Corinthians 12:11, *But all these worketh (be active) that ONE and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally (separate) as he will (minded, of own will).*

NOTE: *But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, &c.]* Though these gifts, ministrations, and operations, are so different in themselves, and are bestowed upon different persons, yet they are all wrought by one and the same Spirit of God... (Source: biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/)

NOTE: Paul's evident purpose in this was to discourage the inordinate over-valuation of some gifts above others, the humble teacher of the word of God being no less honorable than the holder of some more spectacular gift. He at once presented the marvelous metaphor of "the body" to prove that there are **no unimportant members**; because the Spirit of God has created, endowed and maintains them all. (Source: Coffman Commentaries on the Old & New Testament classic.studylight.org/com/bcc/)