

GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

by Jackson Morro

© 2007 by Christ's Chapel
Fall River, Massachusetts

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are from the New American Standard Version of the Bible.

Printed in the United States of America
All rights reserved

Christ's Chapel
PO Box 3182
Fall River, MA 02722

GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our special study on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. In Ephesians 4:8, we read that when Jesus ascended into heaven after His resurrection, He gave supernatural spiritual gifts to mankind. It's important for us to realize that in Jesus Christ, God became a man. God became one of us. John 1:14 states, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." That could also be translated, "God build His house in our neighborhood." Jesus' body was conceived miraculously, by the power of the Holy Spirit, in the womb of a young virgin. Although He was divinity, Jesus was also fully human. Jesus knows what it's like to be human. That should be comforting because we are human 24 hours a day. Jesus knows what we need. We really need the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We need the life of Jesus reproduced in us and through us. Jesus led the perfectly obedient, sinless and successful life.

His power and His gifts help us become like Him. We always remain human, but through the Holy Spirit we become God-gifted humans.

One of the most common problems people suffer from is an *inferiority complex* (the “I can’t do it...” syndrome). Our human tendency is to look down on ourselves as fragmented inferior people when God really wants to lift us up and make each of us count for something good.

God accomplishes this through the power of the Holy Spirit and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Some people don’t believe God wants to give people supernatural gifts today. They say, “Maybe He did in Bible times, but not today. Others believe God does do supernatural things today, but not for them. They say, “God’s too busy for me” or “I’m not important enough.”

On the Day of Pentecost we saw that Peter proclaimed that the power of the Holy Spirit was available to anyone who comes to God, repents of sin, and believes in the Lord Jesus as their Savior. Once a person becomes a Christian, they can then receive the experience of the Baptism with the Holy Spirit where they are “baptized” or “dunked” in the power of the Holy Spirit. Such a person is then in a position to be used by God in the church, in the Body of Christ, with one or more of the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit listed in 1 Corinthians 12.

The New Testament Greek word for gifts is *charis*. This is where we get the English word *charisma* or *charismatic*. Our modern understanding of the word is usually inaccurate. We think of *charisma* as a special ability arising from an individual’s own personal strength: a politician, actor, or athlete is said to have *charisma*. That, however, is actually the opposite of the Bible meaning. The Bible meaning of *charisma* is that God places a gift of His power upon an ordinary or even weak person so they may use supernatural power to be a blessing to other people. The gift comes from God, not from the person’s own strength or own holiness. It’s God smiling on an ordinary person so they can smile on someone else.

Before we discuss the Gift of the Holy Spirit, we must emphasize two things: 1. All Christians, whether baptized with the Holy Spirit or not, *have* the Holy Spirit within them if they truly believe in Jesus as their Lord. We are all “born again” through the life and power of the Holy Spirit. 2. The common meeting ground of all Christians is the *person* of Jesus Christ. Praying in tongues or praying for healing is not the most essential thing or what makes a Christian a Christian. A personal relationship with Christ is more important than *anything* else. Having the risen Christ in our heart is what makes a Christian a Christian. Christ within us is what makes us brothers and sisters in Christ and children of God the Father.

With that said, however, it must also be emphasized that the power that

comes through the Baptism with the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential for the fully victorious spiritual walk that God wants us to have. Spiritual warfare can be very wearisome and strenuous for the Christian who is not empowered through the Baptism with the Holy Spirit. God has given and has made available to His Church, supernatural gifts and supernatural power to help, build up and bring healing to the hurting people in the Church and in the world.

If we read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, we see listed nine special gifts:

1. Word of Wisdom
2. Word of Knowledge
3. Gift of Faith
4. Gifts of Healing
5. Working of Miracles
6. Prophecy
7. Discerning of Spirits
8. Speaking in Various Kinds of Tongues
9. Interpretation of Tongues

In this study, we will examine each of these Gifts separately.

These gifts are simply the risen Jesus Christ continuing His ministry on earth through His people. All these gifts are just Jesus doing again what He did when He walked the earth. He does it through you and me by the same power of the Holy Spirit which He operated in during His earthly ministry.

The Apostle Paul starts off 1 Corinthians 12 by reminding the Corinthian Christians that at one time they were held spiritually captive in spiritual darkness. Corinth was a rich commercial city, but it was also a morally wild and wooly city. Every kind of evil and degrading excess existed there. They were into idolatry and worshiping false gods. They had “temple prostitution.” Temple prostitutes would hang out at a big fountain in the center of the city where local and visiting businessmen would go and pay them to perform adulterous sex as part of their religious worship at the pagan temple in Corinth. There was substance abuse, alcohol abuse and drugs. They were into the strange and degrading world of psychic and occult phenomena. The city was morally rotten at its foundation. Human dignity was degraded in every possible way. Human dignity was being dragged through the mud.

In the middle of this, Paul came and preached about Jesus, the cross and the resurrection. The power of the Holy Spirit came upon many and set them free. As they were converted and believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, they were also baptized with the Holy Spirit and the supernatural gifts began working in their midst to build people up, heal them and set them free.

The spiritual gifts are for the common good of the Body of Christ. There are nine gifts, but there's only one purpose: the common good of all the people in the Body of Christ, to build them up, heal them and restore their human dignity.

Let's close this chapter by re-emphasizing that God wants all Christians to receive the Baptism with the Holy Spirit and to pray for the healing of the sick. God wants the Gifts of the Holy Spirit to operate in all churches and through all Christians. We live in a world that desperately needs the healing ministry of Jesus. It is through the Gifts of the Holy Spirit that Jesus brings His ministry to this world. The Church is the Body of Christ. It's imperative that the very life of Jesus Christ comes to this world through His Body.

We need Jesus now more than ever.

Some Guidelines

Before we enter the specific study of each of the nine Gifts of the Holy Spirit, four biblical guidelines for the proper use of spiritual gifts must be emphasized:

1) The purpose of any spiritual gift is to edify or build up others. Paul states that any manifestation of spiritual gifts through the power of the Holy Spirit is for the common good. It's not to make the instrument or person who uses the gift a "big deal," or rich, or famous. The purpose is to strengthen people, build them up, and bring healing and wholeness.

2) The Gifts of the Holy Spirit can operate in a person's life after they receive the experience of the Baptism with the Holy Spirit, the same experience the Apostles received in Acts, Chapter 2, on the Day of Pentecost. This same experience is available to all Christians. (See the booklet, *The Baptism With The Holy Spirit* available free through this ministry.)

3) Although we're going to look at each individual gift, we must remember that when the Gifts of the Holy Spirit are in operation, they seldom work in isolation, but more often work together in clusters. Several of the nine gifts may often work together.

4) The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are really the risen Jesus Christ continuing His ministry in this world through the people in His Church.

CHAPTER ONE WORD OF WISDOM

It's interesting that when the phrase "Gifts of the Holy Spirit" is used, most people probably react by mentioning such gifts as praying in tongues, or the gifts of healing, or the working of miracles. There is a tendency to focus on spiritual realities that seem more spectacular. In one sense, in our modern charismatic Christianity, a gift like the Word of Wisdom seems to be the orphan or the "runt of the litter." This is unfortunate, because it shows a certain spiritual immaturity among those who would seem to exalt what seems to be more spectacular at the expense of what builds a solid foundation. The whole purpose of any kind of wisdom is to build a life on a solid foundation by the proper use, or wise use, of correct knowledge. Our general definition of wisdom is: the proper use of correct knowledge.

The whole Book of Proverbs in the Old Testament is dedicated to helping people who read it acquire wisdom to apply in their lives. What, however, are we talking about when we specifically mention the gift of the Word of Wisdom? The Word of Wisdom is a *word spoken by an individual through the power of the Holy Spirit which reveals God's understanding of a situation*. The knowledge comes suddenly, supernaturally, and while giving God's understanding of a situation, it also reveals what should be done and how it should be done. It settles an issue and solves a problem and the critics have no comeback or dispute against this type of wisdom.

One can probably get a better perspective on the gift of the Word of Wisdom if it is compared to the other types of wisdom in the world.

1) *Natural Human Wisdom* - This is good, old-fashioned common sense (which, seemingly, is not all that "common"!). If you touch a hot stove, it will burn. If you jump off a high building, you are subject to the law of gravity. This is a basic type of simple human wisdom dealing with practical matters.

2) *The Fallen Sinful Wisdom of This World* - This is a value system which developed after Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden and ate the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This act meant that Adam had chosen to decide for himself what was right and wrong. This was the one thing God had commanded them not to do. God had previously given man complete dominion over the planet (Genesis 1, 2). Man was to rule and develop the earth. The one thing God commanded was that God, not man, would decide what was morally right and wrong. As a result of Adam's sin, a whole system of fragmented, faulty wisdom developed, which runs

contrary to God's system of wisdom. This faulty wisdom seems to be the proper way of acting to the fallen, sinful, unredeemed mind. This wisdom is generally accepted by the world at large, but it actually cuts moral corners, compromises true integrity, and is often a disguise for what is actually hate and exploitation. Some "catch phrase" examples of this wisdom are "might makes right" (when God says "right makes right"), "live life like there's no tomorrow," and "grab for all the gusto you can" (which leads people to take foolish risks which harms themselves and others, encourages selfish living, and ignores what is eternally important); and the classic, "I did it my way" (which usually amounts to open rebellion against God's will).

3) *True Godly Wisdom* - This is based on God's Word and especially on the life and teaching of Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 1:30 states that Christ is our wisdom. This is the wisdom that leads to true life, the abundant life that Jesus said God wants us to have. It is a wisdom that will bring about the fullest realization of the true humanity that God wants people to have. By seeking and applying this godly wisdom, our human potential will be maximized. Jesus' Sermon on the Mount is the classic example of godly wisdom. Just consider Jesus' sayings such as, "Blessed are the peacemakers..." and "If someone asks you to go one mile, offer to go the second mile with them..." (Matthew, Chapters 5, 6, 7). How many people have gotten promotions when starting in a lower position of employment because they were always willing to do "a little bit extra" and "go the second mile." How much better our human relations would be on this earth if we put into practice Jesus' statement of the "Golden Rule" that we treat others the way we would like to be treated!

It is within the framework of this third type of wisdom, true godly wisdom, that the Holy Spirit uses the special charismatic gift, the Word of Wisdom. As we stated before, the Word of Wisdom is a word spoken by an individual which reveals God's understanding of a situation. The knowledge is given suddenly and supernaturally and along with giving God's understanding of a situation, it also reveals what should be done and how it should be done. It settles an issue and solves a problem. The Word of Wisdom is especially aimed at meeting challenges to true faith. The Lord Jesus promised the Word of Wisdom would be available to His followers. In Matthew 10:19-20 and Mark 13:11 Jesus told His followers not to worry when their faith was challenged because God would give them the right words to say and the Holy Spirit would speak through them. Essentially, that's what the Word of Wisdom is: God giving you the right words to say in a difficult situation.

The Word of Wisdom can be illustrated by examples from the Bible and

life today.

In the Old Testament, in 1 Kings 3:16-28, the Word of Wisdom played an important role in the life of King Solomon. Two women were brought to Solomon. Both had given birth to a baby and both of the mothers lived together. One of the babies had been accidentally smothered. In the case before Solomon, one mother claimed that the other had switched her dead baby for her live one while she was asleep and now she wanted Solomon to decide in her favor and give her back the living child. There were no witnesses and no evidence to help Solomon decide the case. Solomon, however, got a Word of Wisdom from God. Since he could not justly decide who the mother was, he ruled that the baby should be cut in half and each woman be given half a child. One woman agreed and said that was just. The second woman, however, fell at Solomon's feet and begged him to let the baby live, and let the other woman have the child. Solomon then ruled that the crying, pleading woman was the real mother because her heart of love for the child had been revealed. The Word of Wisdom had helped resolve an issue that could not be settled by merely human wisdom.

In the New Testament, the Lord Jesus Himself used the Word of Wisdom many times, especially when the scribes and Pharisees would try to trap Him on points of God's Word and Law. In one sense, just about everything Jesus taught could be considered as a Word of Wisdom because Jesus Himself is the Wisdom of God, Wisdom personified (1 Corinthians 1:30). A classic, specific example of the Word of Wisdom in Jesus' ministry occurred in Matthew 22:35-40. One of the scribes, a lawyer of the religious law, tried to trap Jesus by asking Him which of the Ten Commandments was the greatest, or most important. His enemies anticipated they could trick Him and confuse Him with arguments and discredit Him by making Him look like a fool. Jesus, however, through the Word of Wisdom, stated that all the commandments could be summed up in two great ones: first, love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind, and secondly, love your neighbor as yourself. Anyone who does this will fulfill all of the Law perfectly. His critics had been answered and could make no reply in the face of God's own wisdom.

One of the most remarkable examples of the Word of Wisdom in our own day that I am aware of happened in the life of the healing evangelist Oral Roberts. In the late 1960's, he was attending a ministers' conference in Berlin, Germany sponsored by Billy Graham. A young minister from India came up to Roberts and related how a mother had brought her seriously ill son to the minister and asked him to pray for the child's healing. The minister's denomination did not believe in the gifts of Healing or prayer for

the sick, but to humor the mother, he prayed for the child. To the young minister's surprise, the mother's faith was rewarded and the boy recovered.

This perplexed young minister asked Roberts, "Even though my denomination doesn't believe in this kind of prayer, I prayed. Did I do the right thing?" Roberts stated his initial impulse was to get excited and say, "Of course you did" and start giving the young minister many reasons for praying for the sick. The Holy Spirit, however, checked Oral Roberts and instead gave him a Word of Wisdom: "Don't ask me if you did the right thing," stated Roberts. "Ask the little boy who got healed if you did the right thing." The young minister from India immediately came under a mighty conviction of the Holy Spirit and vowed he would go back to India and begin praying for the sick no matter what his denomination might say or do to him.

So, God has provided wisdom for His people. Wisdom is the proper use of correct knowledge. God gives us a great promise in James 1:5: "But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask if God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him." God wants us to have wisdom and He has even provided a supernatural gift to get that wisdom to us. Two Words of Wisdom we should always remember are Proverbs 11:30, "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who is wise wins souls," and "For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?"

CHAPTER TWO WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

The second gift listed in 1 Corinthians 12 is one of the most interesting of the Gifts, the Word of Knowledge. *The Word of Knowledge is a word spoken that reveals facts or knowledge about a past or present situation. The one who speaks the Word of Knowledge has those facts revealed to them supernaturally. They do not receive the knowledge through ordinary, natural means (the five senses), but the Holy Spirit bypasses the natural way of knowing and directly imparts the facts to the individual's spirit.*

Let's look at each element of the Word of Knowledge.

1) First, as the *Word* of Knowledge, it is a word to be spoken. The Holy Spirit gives a Word of Knowledge to someone so they will speak it forth to benefit another person. Among the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit, we see that three are designated as words - the Word of Wisdom, Word of Knowledge, and Word of Prophecy.

2) Second, the Word of *Knowledge* deals with facts or information that concern a past or present situation. Remember, the specific purpose of the Word of Knowledge is to deal with a fact that is in the past or in the present. In the Word of *Wisdom* we saw that God reveals His understanding of a situation in order to solve a problem. In the Word of *Prophecy*, God reveals information about the *future*. In the Word of Knowledge, God supernaturally reveals something about the past or present.

3) Third, the facts or information a person receives through the Word of Knowledge are given supernaturally by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit reveals the knowledge in such a way that He bypasses the natural human method of receiving knowledge and information. The ordinary human way of gaining knowledge is by our senses. We either see, hear, feel, smell or taste something and we gain knowledge, facts and information. In the Word of Knowledge, however, the Holy Spirit bypasses the senses and reveals facts or information directly to the person's spirit or inner man and the person's own spirit releases the information to the mind so the Word of Knowledge can be spoken. The information could be about something that is happening at the present moment at a distance. Or, it could be about a secret event that has happened in the past in another person's life that needs prayer or healing. In either case, the knowledge is revealed supernaturally to an individual by the Holy Spirit.

The Word of Knowledge can be illustrated by three examples of the Lord Jesus Christ using this gift in His own earthly ministry. There are many examples of the Word of Knowledge in both the Old and New Testaments, but these particular three give a clear idea of this gift, so we can know and understand how it functions in the Body of Christ.

First, we see an incident in Matthew 17:24-27 when someone asked the Apostle Peter if Jesus paid the Temple Tax. Peter spoke out of turn and said, "Yes." When Peter got back to the house, Jesus spoke first and started talking to Peter about who should pay taxes. Jesus had no natural way of knowing Peter had previously been talking about that topic; Jesus knew through a Word of Knowledge. Jesus then told Peter to go fishing at a certain spot and he'd catch a fish with a coin in its mouth. The coin would be enough to pay both their taxes. Again, Jesus had supernatural knowledge of what to do.

There was also a second time when Jesus was healing a paralyzed man in Mark 2:1-12. Before healing him, Jesus forgave the man's sins. Some of the religious leaders present were offended when Jesus exercised this authority. They didn't *say* anything, but were *thinking* thoughts against Jesus. Jesus had no natural way of knowing what they were thinking, but we read in

Mark 2:8, “And immediately Jesus, aware in His spirit that they were reasoning that way within themselves said, “Why are you reasoning about these things in your hearts?” Jesus then healed the man.

A third outstanding example of the Word of Knowledge in Jesus’ ministry is in the Gospel of John, Chapter 4. Jesus was sitting by a well in Samaria. His disciples had gone to buy food. Jesus began talking to a Samaritan woman who had come to draw water. As they conversed, she started getting “sassy” with Jesus. So, Jesus asked her about her husband. She said, “I don’t have a husband.” Jesus said, “You’re right, you don’t have one. You’ve actually had five husbands and you’re not married to the man you’re living with now.” Jesus told her facts about her past and present that He had no natural way of knowing, but it had been revealed to Him by the Holy Spirit through a Word of Knowledge. The woman was so astounded, she believed in Jesus as her Savior from that moment on and brought many townspeople to Jesus, and they believed in Him also.

The purposes of the Word of Knowledge are many. It can be used to comfort and encourage someone in their faith, reveal a danger so it can be avoided or spiritually rebuked, reveal a situation that needs prayer, or it can be manifestation of God’s power that will impress the listener and bring them to salvation. Of all the gifts, the Word of Knowledge is most likely to be used in conjunction with another gift (like the Gifts of Healing or Word of Wisdom) in order to increase the spiritual efficiency of the ministry of the Body of Christ.

ONE MORE THING I WANT TO EMPHASIZE ABOUT THE GIFT OF THE WORD OF KNOWLEDGE: IT IS NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH THE FALLEN SUPER-NATURAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE SINFUL WORLD SYSTEM. IT IS NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH ESP OR THE PSYCHIC PHENOMINON OF THE OCCULT. Both ESP and psychic knowledge are condemned by God in the Bible because God is not the source of such knowledge. Fallen, rebellious spiritual powers known as demons are the source of psychic knowledge and ESP. God clearly condemns all such activity as well as psychic knowledge that comes from such things as Ouija boards, tarot cards, horoscopes and astrology. These are clearly condemned by God in Deuteronomy 18:9-14.

We live in a world that is spiritual as well as material. We cannot deny the spiritual dimension of this world. Some scientists try to deny the spiritual dimension of reality, but people know better—there is a spiritual realm. We also know from the Word of God and from the teachings of Jesus that just because something is spiritual, it isn’t automatically good. There are two sources of spiritual activity in this world. One Source is God, Who works

through the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. The other source is Satan, a rebellious angel who is condemned and damned forever, but was given permission by fallen, sinful man to act in this world for a time. The gift of the Word of Knowledge is the Holy Spirit allowing us to taste the good powers of the world to come (Hebrews 6:5). The Word of Knowledge will lead to blessing and healing for you. Psychic power and ESP have their source in demonic activity and will lead to spiritual and emotional bondage, and ultimately, destruction. Always choose God, Who will give you life.

We are called to choose God and have His precious Son Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Jesus is the One who died on a cross to pay the price for our sins, so we could possess eternal life in heaven rather than eternal death in hell. And we can enjoy divine life now and taste the good powers of the world to come even now!

CHAPTER THREE GIFT OF FAITH

The third Gift of the Holy Spirit listed in 1 Corinthians 12 is the Gift of Faith. The Gift of Faith is the power of the Holy Spirit working through an individual who has been baptized with the Holy Spirit, using a special impartation of faith so that what a person believes and speaks forth comes to pass for the benefit of God's work, God's Kingdom, or the Church of Jesus Christ.

Faith itself is the ability to reach into the invisible, spiritual world and lay hold of God's promises so that they come to pass in the visible, material world. Faith is believing *before* seeing. Faith is the opposite of the motto of the state of Missouri which is "Show Me." Faith is when we believe something before we actually see it. Faith is also the God-given ability to cause things to come to pass.

All faith is a sharing in God's faith. The Book of Hebrews tells us that God created everything by faith. He spoke and things came to be. In the beginning God said, "Let there be light" and there was light. The same Book of Hebrews tells us that Jesus Christ is the author (beginner) and finisher (completer) of our faith.

Faith is the exercise of supernatural, creative power. The heart of faith is based on an inner knowing that God is almighty and that Jesus Christ is really Lord of this universe. In any kind of faith, the heart is emptied out of doubt. With faith, visible facts don't matter; rather what the heart believes about the truth of God's promises in His Word is what really matters.

Just as there are different manifestations of love and wisdom, there are also different manifestations of faith. Before we look at the Gift of Faith, we will examine other types of faith. In Ephesians 4:5, Paul tells us there is one Lord and one faith. *Faith is faith is faith*. We see in scripture that this one faith is manifested in different ways.

1) *Faith For Salvation* (Ephesians 2:8) – We are saved by grace through *faith*. Although man can know God as Creator through nature, no man can come to a saving knowledge of God on his own. He cannot earn salvation through good works. No one can “find God,” God has to find him. The *first* work of faith in our life is when we receive the faith to believe and be born again into the Kingdom of God. *This faith is not automatically in us*. Romans 10:17 states, “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” Faith for salvation is made available to us when the Gospel is preached. The preaching of the Gospel opens a window of opportunity for us to exercise an initial reading into the spirit world and take hold of salvation, appropriating it to ourselves. This is why the preaching and publishing of the Gospel is so *important*, because it creates this window of opportunity for receiving salvation.

2) *There Is The “Measure of Faith”* – In Romans 12:3, we read that God gives every person something called “the measure of faith.” At the moment a person receives salvation and Jesus Christ comes to live in their heart, God places a deposit of faith in the individual’s heart or spirit that is sufficient to meet every circumstance or need that will arise as they obediently walk in God’s will orphan for them. Technically, we don’t need any more faith *for our own personal life* than the faith we get at the moment of salvation. We just have to learn to use the faith we already have by learning and growing in God’s Word and walking obediently in His plan for us.

3) *In Galatians 5:22 we See Faith as a Fruit of The Holy Spirit* – This is a manifestation of faith that grows in to be used on behalf of others. The Fruit of the Holy Spirit is actually a nine-fold manifestation of the personality of Jesus Christ that the Holy Spirit develops within us as He forms a Christ-like character in us. One such characteristic is faith. It’s a different side of faith. The faith for salvation and the measure of faith affect our own personal lives. The fruit of faith is called “faith which works by love” (Galatians 5:6). The outcome of God’s love growing in us is that we become more like Jesus Christ and we want to use our faith to help others and bring about good things in their lives. This type of faith can develop into what Jesus called “great faith” like in the case of the Roman centurion in Matthew 8 who came to Jesus asking for his sick servant to be healed or the Syro-Phoenician woman in Matthew 15 who pestered Jesus to heal her sick daughter even

though Jesus tested her faith by saying “no” for a while.

4) *Finally, There Is The Specific Gift of the Holy Spirit, The Gift of Faith* – This is a special gift, or special allotment of the power of faith which is given supernaturally by the Holy Spirit to a Christian. Only Christians who have been baptized with the Holy Spirit can be used in the operation of this Gift of Faith. (For a study of the Baptism with the Holy Spirit, request the free booklet from this ministry entitled, *The Baptism With The Holy Spirit*). On the Day of Pentecost, in Acts, Chapter 2, we see that the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles and disciples (about 120 people) in the upper room where Jesus had held the Last Supper. We also see that after the resurrection and ascension of Jesus into heaven, the Holy Spirit came upon each individual in the upper room in the form of tongues of fire, and they received a special dimension of *power* to perform the effective ministry. They were baptized, or dunked, in the power of the Holy Spirit. At that point, they began to be used by the Holy Spirit in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Thus, the Gift of Faith is only manifested through someone baptized with the Holy Spirit.

The purpose of the Gift of Faith is to bring to pass a supernatural happening through a spoken word that will promote or further the work of God, the work of God’s kingdom, or the work of the Church of Jesus Christ on earth.

We also must continually remember that the Gifts of the Holy Spirit can often work together in “clusters,” as it were. The Gift of Faith can often operate in conjunction with other gifts, such as the Gifts of Healing and Working of Miracles.

The Gift of Faith brings to pass supernatural manifestations as the Holy Spirit wills.

There are many examples of the Gift of Faith in both the Old and New Testaments. Some examples are:

1) *1 Kings 17:1* – The nation of Israel had fallen away from the One True God and had begun worshiping idols. The prophet Elijah commanded that there would be a drought for 3 ½ years in Israel to cause Israel to repent. Elijah spoke the Word of the Lord and there was no rain for 3 ½ years. This was a Gift of Faith to promote God’s work.

2) *Mark 11:14* – The Lord Jesus Christ was hungry and went to a fig tree. He found no figs, so He cursed the tree. Later, when He and His disciples went by the tree again, the disciples noticed that the tree had withered from the roots up. Jesus exercised this Gift of Faith to promote God’s Kingdom and show the disciples that all things are possible through faith.

3) *Acts 9:37-43* – A kindly Christian woman named Tabitha, who made

clothing for poor widows, got sick and died. The Apostle Peter went to her and said, “Tabitha, arise!” The Holy Spirit gave Peter a special gift of faith to raise her from the dead. Because of this, she could continue to make clothes for the poor, and also many people in her city began believing in Jesus Christ as Lord because of this miraculous event.

4) *Acts 13:6-13* – When the Apostle Paul witnessed about Christianity to a government official named Sergius Paulus, a magician named Elymas came up and claimed his magic was more powerful than Paul’s Jesus. But at that moment, the power of the Holy Spirit came on Paul with a gift of faith, and Paul stated the Elymas would become blind for a season. Elymas was immediately struck with blindness and the government official believed in Jesus and became a Christian.

In conclusion, the Gift of Faith is the power of the Holy Spirit operating through an individual who has been baptized with the Holy Spirit by giving that person a special impartation of faith so that what the person believes and speaks forth comes to pass for the benefit of God’s work, God’s Kingdom, or the Church of Jesus Christ.

CHAPTER FOUR THE GIFTS OF HEALING

Any discussion of divine healing must include a study of one of the nine supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit that Jesus gave to His Church after His resurrection and ascension into heaven. We are referring to what is called the Gifts of Healing (1 Corinthians 12:9). To have a proper understanding of the gifts of healing, we must focus on three specific areas.

1) *The Healing Ministry of Jesus* – The most noticeable aspect of Jesus’ earthly ministry was the fact that He was constantly praying for people and healing them of their diseases. One preacher has said that Jesus was always healing someone, or He had just come from healing someone, or He was on His way to heal someone. The Apostle Peter, in Acts 10:38, stated that Jesus went around doing good, healing all who were oppressed by the devil. Dennis Bennett, an Episcopal priest who received the Baptism with the Holy Spirit, studied the gospels and stated that 90% of Jesus’ miracles, or “acts of power,” were healings. Another Bible scholar studied Jesus’ ministry and stated that Jesus spent 58% of His time teaching and 42% of His time healing. In Matthew 14:14, Jesus saw a crowd and was *moved with compassion*. Jesus was a person *constantly moved with compassion*, and

this made Him pray for the sick and heal them. Jesus was always moved to go *toward* sick people, never away from them as is so often the case in our society today. Our world tries to hide the sick, or ignore them, or put them away somewhere. Christianity that is true to the heart of Jesus, and churches that are true to their Lord, are moved with compassion toward the sick, just as Jesus was. The result of this compassion is to bring God's power into the life of the sick so they will be made well, they will be made whole. Christianity is, and should be, a continuation of the compassionate ministry of Jesus Christ to save the lost and heal the sick.

2) *Healing in General and What It Means to Your Christian Life* – Divine healing is most noticeable in the earthly ministry of Jesus in the New Testament. But even in the Old Testament we see God the Father reveal Himself as the God Who desires to heal His people. Exodus 15:26 states that he is the Lord, our healer. Psalm 103:2 reveals Him as the God Who heals all our diseases. Throughout the whole Bible, the whole of Christian revelation, we see the basic truth that God is a God Who is against sickness and disease and Who is *for healing*. As Christians, we must never stray from this basic truth. All too often, we hear the false teaching that God strikes people with sickness to punish them. This is contrary to God's nature; God is Love (1 John 4:16). *Not once* did Jesus Christ ever strike anyone down with sickness. Instead, He came to remove sickness.

Where does sickness come from? Why do we have sickness in this world? The Apostle Paul tells us in Romans 5:12 that because Adam, the first man, sinned and walked out of God's protective blessings, a force of corruption known as the law of sin and death began operating in this world. Not only did the world begin experiencing the results of sin through crime and violence, but the law of sin and death also brought a disharmony in the elements of nature, bringing about sickness and suffering that God never intended. We can have sickness in our body because we abuse it through sin, or we can be attacked by sickness simply because the law of sin and death operates in this world. Jesus never saw sickness as a positive good, but always as an oppressive force from the devil and his forces of evil. The Bible always speaks of God's positive will to heal. The Greek biblical word for "salvation," *sozo*, is also the same word for "healing" and actually means "wholeness." God's will is positive to bring completeness to humans in their body, mind and spirit. Often, Jesus said, "Be made whole" when He healed someone. In Revelation 21:4, we read there is no pain or sickness in heaven. We also know that Jesus prayed in the Lord's Prayer, "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." As Christians, we can be assured it is God's will 100% of the time to heal people and set them free from all manner of

physical, emotional and spiritual sickness. Our healing prayers should never say, "If it be Thy will..." It *is* God's will to heal.

In my own life and ministry, I've visited many patients in hospitals. I've seen doctors and health professionals dealing with people. I admire the positive attitude that many have toward healing. I've heard doctors say, "We're going to get you better," "We're going to get you back on your feet," "We're going to make you as good as new." I wish every Christian minister and priest was just as aggressive about the healing ministry.

It is the mission of every Christian to let the compassion of Jesus Christ flow through them and pray for the sick. All Christians, whether they are baptized with the Holy Spirit or not, are commanded by Christ to pray for the sick. In Matthew 10:8, He gave a simple command to His disciples: "Heal the sick." He didn't say "Try" or "It would be nice if..." Jesus said, "If you are My disciple, heal the sick." In Mark 16:18, Jesus stated that one of the signs following those who believed in Him was that they would lay hands on the sick and they would recover. Healing prayer should be a regular part of every Christian church and every Christian life (read James 5:16).

3) *The Ministry of the Gifts of Healing* – In 1 Corinthians 12:9, we read that among the spiritual gifts that God has given to the Church is a ministry known as the "Gifts of Healing." As always, the basis for any spiritual gift is for the common good, for building up the body of Christ. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are really the risen Jesus Christ continuing His ministry on earth through the Church, His people. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are used through people who have received the experience of the Baptism with the Holy Spirit, the same experience the apostles and disciples had on the Day of Pentecost in Acts, Chapter 2.

The ministry of the gifts of healing occur when the Holy Spirit selects certain individuals in the Body of Christ to be set apart in a special way to pray for the sick. The Holy Spirit acts through these people in such a way that the supernatural curing of injuries, handicaps or diseases takes place without the help of natural means or human skills. We see God acting upon humans in a supernatural way to cure illness. The healing does not come through human diagnosis and medical treatment, but through an act of God.

People with the ministry of the gifts of healing often become quite noticeable. Sometimes, unfortunately, people turn them into heroes or celebrities. We must always remember that any spiritual gift is never given to exalt or glorify the individual through whom it works. Jesus Christ is the giver of all gifts and He alone is to be exalted.

Why is there such a gift as the ministry of the gifts of healing anyway,

when all Christians and all churches should already be regularly praying for the sick? Why does this special gift exist?

The answer lies in the great healing compassion of Jesus and God the Father. There may be times in our own Christian life when we are praying for healing, and even though we know we should have enough faith, we may still be overwhelmed by what we face. Although we even bring it to the church for prayer, there may be times when even the church may feel overwhelmed by what might seem to be the seriousness of the illness. At these times, a loving, healing God provides certain people who have been set apart in a special way and provided with a special anointing of the resurrected Jesus' love and healing compassion. These people will come into the seemingly overwhelming situation with special provision from God to help take up beyond where we thought we could go by ourselves. Romans 8:26 states that the work of the Holy Spirit always helps us in our weaknesses. The Holy Spirit helps us in our prayer when we don't know how to pray. He also helps us in the moments of weakness when our efforts to receive healing seem just beyond our grasp. So great is God's love, so great is Jesus' compassion, so great is their desire for people to be healed, that the Holy Spirit has established a ministry through people to assist those who for one reason or another have difficulty getting healed.

One final point: Why is this particular gift designated in the plural "gifts" in 1 Corinthians 12? Some teach that because there are different types of illnesses, God gives different gifts to different people to heal different diseases. While I have no problem with that explanation, my own view is that every supernatural healing is an individual gift from God. When God calls someone into the ministry of the gifts of healing, He has, in a sense, given that person a bag of gifts, a bag of individual healings to bring to people. Every healing is a special, unique gift from God, a gift from the compassionate heart of Jesus Christ Who still works in our world today. Every supernatural healing is Jesus Christ looking at an individual and saying, "This healing is just for you, because I love *you*." Jesus ministered that way in His earthly ministry and He continues the same way today (Hebrews 13:8).

CHAPTER FIVE WORKING OF MIRACLES

The fifth Gift of the Holy Spirit listed in 1 Corinthians 12 is the Working of Miracles. What is a miracle? In our common usage of language today, we

use the word “miracle” in many ways. We talk about “miracle fabrics” that can remain stain-free and wrinkle-free. We talk about “miracle drugs” that can help treat disease that just a few years ago would end in certain death. We talk about the “miracles of modern technology.” In our own everyday usage of language, we commonly use the word “miracle” to mean something out of the ordinary, usually something very extraordinary, something marvelous or wonderful.

But what does the word “miracle” actually mean in the bible sense of the word? First of all, miracles do contain aspects of what we commonly think about them—they are out of the ordinary, marvelous, and wonderful. Miracles, however, are more than that. In a strict biblical sense, a miracle is where God supernaturally intervenes in the ordinary course of nature—a miracle is God temporarily suspending the customary order of things with the Holy Spirit’s power interrupting the natural system as we know it.

In fact, miracles are events that seem to override or even contradict the so-called Laws of Nature. We must realize that when we encounter a miracle, Almighty God is the One Who created the Laws of Nature. The Laws of Nature were put into place by God for man’s convenience, not God’s convenience. God set the Laws of Nature in place so man could live in a world where he could count on regularity—sunrise, sunset, the seasons, the laws of gravity and centrifugal force, etc. As such, God Who is Almighty, has the power and the authority to bypass, suspend, speed up or delay any Law of Nature that He has put in place. When God acts in this manner, the result is called a “miracle.” In reality, what we call a miracle is simply Almighty God revealing an aspect of His power and authority in the universe which we don’t ordinarily see or consider. One author has described a miracle as an “explosion of God’s Almightyness.” When we see a miracle occur, we see that God really is in control of everything. No situation is ever too far gone for God to intervene and do something about it. That’s what a miracle is.

God will primarily perform a miracle out of love and compassion for those who believe in Him and trust Him in a moment of deep need. God can and will change His ordinary way of doing things to intervene and meet a serious need in the life of His children (those who believe in Him) and for the benefit of the Church of Jesus Christ. When Jesus performed miracles, it was mostly out of compassion to meet a human need.

Although a miracle is usually an act of God’s compassion to meet a human need, a miracle will also usually make a higher spiritual statement about God’s nature and God’s power and it will astonish and even confuse those who don’t believe in God. Of all the nine Gifts of the Holy Spirit, the

Working of Miracles is probably the most sovereign and most powerful because it reveals God acting in an almighty way.

The specific Gift of the Working of Miracles occurs when the Holy Spirit produces a miracle for the benefit of a believer or for the benefit of the Body of Christ. The Holy Spirit exercises His miracle power by using a person as the human agent or the human instrument for bringing the miracle to pass. Remember, God always works through people in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. The person through which the Gift of Working Miracles takes place will either speak a word or perform an action which serves as the “release point” for God’s almighty power to intervene in a situation.

We see a prime example of this in the Old Testament. In the Book of Exodus, God used the Gift of Working Miracles through Moses on several occasions so that Pharaoh, who had held the Israelites captive in Egypt, finally let the people go. As the Israelites approached the Red Sea, however, Pharaoh changed his mind and sent the Egyptian army to recapture the Israelites. It looked like the Israelites had no way out - mountains on their side, the Red Sea in front, and the Egyptian army coming up from behind. But God had previously given Moses a staff, or a stick, that he could use to release God’s miracles. God told Moses to raise the staff over the Red Sea - and when he did a miracle happened - the Red Sea divided and the Israelites crossed over on dry land. When the Egyptian army tried to follow, God told Moses to stretch his hand over the Red Sea, and the waters came back together, drowning the entire Egyptian army.

We find many miracles in the Old Testament. Someone counted and found 60 miracles in the Old Testament. In the New Testament there are 40 miracles recorded that were performed by the Lord Jesus Christ. He may have done many more, but 40 are recorded.

We can illustrate this gift by a few examples. In John’s Gospel, Chapter 2, we see the first miracle Jesus ever performed. It was at a wedding at Cana in Galilee. A young couple ran out of wine at their wedding reception. This was a great embarrassment. To save this young couple from embarrassment, Jesus had the servants fill six large pots with water. Jesus then performed the miracles of turning water into wine. This was the power of God suspending the ordinary course of nature to meet a need. Wine comes naturally from grapes, but here Jesus caused wine to come from water.

Another time, in the Gospel of Mark, Chapter 4, Jesus and His disciples were in a boat on the Sea of Galilee and a great storm arose. It looked like the boat would sink. Jesus was asleep in the back of the boat. The fearful disciples woke Him up and Jesus spoke to the storm and said, “Peace, be still!” The storm immediately stopped. God’s miracle power had intervened

to change the natural course of the weather.

Still another time, in Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 14, the disciples were alone in a boat on the Sea of Galilee during the middle of the night and another storm arose. This time Jesus, who was on a mountainside praying, saw their danger, went to the shore and then walked on the water to get to the boat. When He got into the boat, the storm stopped. Here again, the Gift of Working Miracles operated through Jesus as He did something contrary to the Laws of Nature by walking on water to get to the disciples and stop the storm.

Jesus also did many other miracles such as raising Lazarus from the dead (John 12) and feeding 5,000 people by multiplying five loaves of bread and two fish (John 6).

In closing this chapter, one difference between healings and miracles should be pointed out. Sometimes, when someone is supernaturally healed of a disease, we call it a miracle when in fact, it is the Gifts of Healing. A healing cures or restores the body to its proper function. A miracle, on the other hand, is a creative act upon the body. A healing occurs when a disease disappears or a body part that was not functioning properly is restored to proper functioning. A miracle occurs when a new part is restored to the body, such as a new heart valve, or a new eyeball, or an amputated limb regrows. A miracle in a human body has a creative aspect, a healing has a restorative aspect.

Always remember - miracles are basically God showing His love to people through an almighty act. God can do anything, anywhere, anytime. He's God. He can change the weather; He can suspend the Laws of Nature; He can create new body parts. He's God; He can do anything.

God is very careful about performing miracles so that people don't misunderstand Him. He doesn't want people to disregard or ignore the natural order - He set it up for a purpose. But He wants us to know He can go beyond that order in a time of crisis or need.

God doesn't want people to get pride or arrogance when a miracle occurs, but to stay humble. The Holy Spirit is very careful about the human instruments He uses to work miracles.

Above all, God wants us to know that the new birth, the new creation, is the greatest miracle of all. 2 Corinthians 5:17 states that if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation; old things have passed away, all things become new. The greatest miracle is when we repent of sin and ask Jesus into our heart as Lord and His Spirit joins with ours and imparts glory and divine life to our spirit.

CHAPTER SIX GIFT OF PROPHECY

The Gift of Prophecy is the sixth gift listed in 1 Corinthians 12. The Gift of Prophecy is a wide-ranging gift with several aspects to it. It's one of the most interesting and fascinating gifts, and the Word of God tells us its' available to all Christians.

What is prophecy and what does a prophet do? The strict meaning of "prophecy" in the original Greek is "to speak forth like a fountain," literally to speak for another, to be another's messenger and deliver a message on their behalf.

A prophet is a messenger, and in the Bible sense, a messenger who speaks on behalf of Almighty God or the Lord Jesus Christ. The prophet does not speak his own words but he speaks words given to him by God. So, a good definition of the Gift of Prophecy is when a Christian who has been baptized with the Holy Spirit speaks forth words from the mind of God through the power and inspiration of the Holy Spirit. These words do not express the prophet's own thoughts, rather what has been given to him supernaturally by the Holy Spirit.

I. THE OFFICE OF PROPHET IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

God originated prophecy and His call upon the lives of prophets (people he chooses to speak on His behalf) in the very beginning of the Bible when He established the office of prophet in the Old Testament. In order to understand the New Testament Gift of Prophecy, we must first look at the Old Testament office of prophet.

Throughout the Old Testament, when God chose someone to do mighty deeds on His behalf through the power of the Holy Spirit, He would often, but not always, establish them in the role of prophet. Abraham, the human father of the Jewish nation was a prophet. Moses, who led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt, was a prophet. In the early history of Israel, we see that women were also called to be prophets. Miriam, Moses' and Aaron's sister, was a prophetess. Deborah, one of Israel's leaders during the time of the Judges, was a prophetess. All these people called by God to be leaders were also authorized as prophets – to be His spokesperson, to deliver messages He

would give them for the people.

As time went on, the people of Israel became a kingdom. Sometimes the kings were holy, godly men. Sometimes they were immoral and unjust and led the nation into evil paths. It was during this time of the kingdom that God established the Office of Prophet. God empowered certain men as prophets to be His spokesmen as a Divine check against evil kings. The prophet would also be God's person to encourage good kings and to give words of exhortation or promises of God's protection and deliverance when His obedient people were under attack by enemies. These prophets were given Divine commission to speak forth three types of messages that God would give them.

1. *They would warn the king and the nation to repent and turn away from personal immorality and sin when it started to become part of the national character.* Personal immorality always brings spiritual death and saps the vitality of the individual and the nation. This is especially true of idolatry and sexual immorality.

2. *They would warn the nation to repent and correct social injustice.* God would always bring punishment when certain groups in Israel were exploited, discriminated against, or abused – such as the widows, the orphans and the poor.

3. *The prophet was empowered by the Holy Spirit to foretell the future.* Often, this foretelling of the future involved trouble and calamity that would result from unrepentant sin. Other times, however, when a good king was ruling and Israel was coming under attack, the prophet would give good news foretelling God's way to trap and defeat the enemy.

God would specifically empower and support His spokesmen, the prophets. God often empowered the prophets to work miracles as a sign of their calling. God gave His prophets 100% accuracy in foretelling the future as He revealed it. God held His prophets to a high standard. If anyone prophesied and it didn't come to pass, they were executed because they had delivered their own words, not God's word.

Thus, in the Old Testament, God used the Office of the Prophet and the Gift of Prophecy to guide and encourage or to warn and correct His people. At the end of the Old Testament, one of the prophets named Joel foretold of a day when God would pour out the Holy Spirit on all who desired the Spirit and all human flesh, that is, all people who would believe in the Lord would be able to move in God's Spirit. "And it will come about after this that I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; and your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. And even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit

in these days.” (Joel 2:28-29)

In a future generation, all men and women would be able to prophesy. Of course, this era began on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2 when the Holy Spirit was poured out. From that moment on, all people who came to God through Jesus Christ and received the Baptism with the Holy Spirit could partake of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, especially the Gifts of Praying in Tongues and Prophecy. In fact, Peter’s sermon on the Day of Pentecost stated that Pentecost was the fulfillment of Joel’s prophecy.

II. IT’S IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT GOD HAS KEPT THE SPECIAL OFFICE OR MINISTRY OF PROPHET ACTIVE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

This office or ministry of prophet is still a special calling that God calls only certain individuals into. This special calling still performs the same functions toward the world at large and toward the Body of Christ. Prophets are called to:

1. *Confront both the societies of the world and the churches to repent and turn away from personal immorality and sin when it gets ingrained in society and begins getting a foothold in the church.*
2. *They are to warn the nations of this earth to repent and correct social injustice.*
3. *They are empowered by the Holy Spirit to foretell the future.*

John the Baptist was an example of such a prophet. Also, in the Book of Acts there was a prophet named Agabus who predicted when a famine would hit the Roman Empire and later prophesied to Paul how Paul would suffer and be arrested in Jerusalem. And of course, the Apostle John wrote the prophecy of the Book of Revelation telling the future history of the world just before Jesus Christ returns.

Despite the fact that God still chooses to select certain individuals to exercise the Office of Prophet, he nevertheless now permits all Christians who have been baptized with the Holy Spirit to share in the exercise of the Gift of Prophecy and the Holy Spirit uses this power as one of the nine gifts He has chosen.

The Gift of Prophecy works in the life of a Christian when he or she speaks forth words from the mind of God through the power and inspiration of the Holy Spirit. These words are not the speaker’s own thoughts, but they have been supernaturally given to them by the Holy Spirit.

The Apostle Paul writes in detail in 1 Corinthians 14 about the Gift of Prophecy and what the Holy Spirit wants to accomplish in the Body of

Christ.

1. Paul tells us we should want to be used in the Gift of Prophecy (1 Corinthians 14:1).

2. Paul tells us that all may prophesy (1 Corinthians 14:31).

3. Paul tells us that the primary or most important purpose of the Gift of Prophecy is to give a word from the mind of God through the power of the Holy Spirit to someone or to a group in order to edify or build them up, to comfort them in time of trouble, or to exhort or urge them on when they are fainthearted (1 Corinthians 14:3-4).

4. Although everyone can also pray in tongues, prophecy is more important because it communicates in a known language (1 Corinthians 14:5).

5. Prophecy is not an emotional outburst, but an orderly speaking forth of a word from the mind of God (1 Corinthians 14:32-33).

So, we see that most prophecy is going to comfort or strengthen people by giving a word from God that encourages them or solves a problem. This encouragement will often come in the form of a verse from scripture. Any prophecy will always be in harmony with the Bible, the Word of God.

There is still the element that this Gift of Prophecy can be used to warn a Christian to repent or change their behavior in a certain matter. It can reveal the secrets of the heart for the purpose of correction (1 Corinthians 14:24-25). Also, the Gift of Prophecy can be used by the Holy Spirit at times to reveal the future. Again, any Christian baptized with the Holy Spirit can be used in the Gift of Prophecy in this way.

The Word of God gives us certain guidelines or standards we are to use in evaluating prophecies that are given in the Body of Christ. Anyone can say they are speaking for God; how do we evaluate what is real?

1. All true prophecy is in perfect harmony with the Bible and reflects the teaching and the spirit of Jesus and point to and exalt Jesus (Revelation 19:10).

2. Those who are spiritual and mature in the Holy Spirit in a church or prayer group have the right to judge or evaluate any word of prophecy to make sure it lines up with the letter and spirit of the Word of God. One who has given a true prophecy won't mind being evaluated in this way (1 Corinthians 14:29).

3. When a word of prophecy foretells the future, especially to an individual, it is only valid if it confirms something that God has already spoken to an individual's heart. True prophecy of the future never gives *direction* from out of the blue; it always *confirms* something God has already spoken to the individual's heart (2 Corinthians 31:1; see also

however, when prophecy can warn someone they will encounter trouble by not being in God's perfect will, as in Paul's case in Acts 21:1-14).

4. We are to highly value the Gift of Prophecy and make room for it in our church services (1 Thessalonians 5:19-21).

When the Church of Jesus Christ once again realizes that it is supposed to be a charismatic, power-filled Church, it will once again turn this world upside down as it did in the Book of Acts. God has given gifts to His Church so that the same words He spoke to Ezekiel should be fulfilled in every generation: "And I am sending you to them who are stubborn and obstinate children; and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God.' As for them, whether they listen or not – for they are a rebellious house – they will know that a prophet has been among them." (Ezekiel 2:4-5)

CHAPTER SEVEN DISCERNING OF SPIRITS

The seventh Gift of the Holy Spirit listed in 1 Corinthians 12 is the Discerning or Distinguishing of Spirits. *The Gift of the Discerning of Spirits, or as it is also known, the Distinguishing of Spirits, is a God-given ability through the power of the Holy Spirit either to actually see into the invisible spirit world or else to accurately understand what is going on in the invisible spirit world.* As with the other Gifts of the Holy Spirit, the knowledge we gain through this gift does not come through natural means but the knowledge comes by revelation to our spirit by the Holy Spirit. We've seen this before in other Gifts – *the word of wisdom* is God's understanding and God's solution to a problem; *the word of knowledge* is God's revelation about an event in the past or present that we have no natural way of knowing; *the word of prophecy* is a revelation about a matter in the future. Here, in *the discerning of spirits* we have God revealing what is going on in the real but invisible spiritual world around us.

Some people mistakenly feel that the gift of Discerning of Spirits only enables a person to see or understand the presence of evil spirits or demonic power for the purpose of casting them out of a possessed individual. That's part of the gift, but it's not totally accurate. The true gift of Discerning of Spirits enables a person to see into or understand the entire invisible spirit realm both good and evil, both angels and demons. This gift is only exercised when the Holy Spirit empowers a person to have this

understanding in a particular situation. The insight is usually not a constant, ongoing vision.

As always, one of the best ways to understand the Gifts of the Holy Spirit is by illustrating each Gift from examples in the Bible. Remember, the word “discern” means to see, or understand, or comprehend, or to be able to distinguish.

1) In the Old Testament, a classic example is 2 Kings 6. Israel and Syria were at war with each other, and the Syrians decided to capture the Israelite prophet Elisha because God was always giving Elisha a Word of Knowledge or Prophetic word to tell the Israelite king about what the Syrian army would do next. The Syrians figured if they captured Elisha, he wouldn't be able to inform Israel's king. So a Syrian army surrounded the house where Elisha was living. Elisha's servant got very worried and expressed his fear to Elisha. We read 2 Kings 6:17 – “Then Elisha prayed and said, ‘O Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.’ And the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.” Both Elisha and his servant exercised the Gift of Discerning of Spirits as they were empowered to see into the invisible world of the spirit that God had surrounded the Syrian army with warrior angels and chariots of fire to stop them from harming Elisha and his servant. And it turned out well for Elisha and not so well for the Syrians.

2) The Lord Jesus Himself fully exercised the Gift of Discerning of Spirits many, many times, when He would cast demons out of possessed people and set them free. As Anointed Messiah, He had a perfect understanding at all times of what was going on in the spirit world. We see one example in Luke 13:11-12. A woman had been bent over with difficulty walking for 18 years. In this case, it wasn't a physical ailment, it was caused by an evil spirit. Jesus understood this, so He commanded the spirit causing the infirmity to leave, and she was immediately healed (Luke 13:16).

3) A third example of the Gift of Discerning of Spirits is in the Book of Revelation. Several times, the Apostle John, who wrote the Book of Revelation as the Risen Lord Jesus revealed it to him, was enabled by the Holy Spirit to see into the spirit world in order to understand the invisible battle between good and evil that would lead to the return of Jesus Christ to earth at the end of human history.

4) We see another example in the Book of Acts, Chapter 16. The Apostle Paul is preaching the Gospel at the city of Philippi. For several days he was followed around by a young woman who would interrupt his preaching by shouting out that Paul was a servant of the Most High God and was preaching the way of salvation. Paul was aggravated and distracted by the

interruptions. After several days, the Holy Spirit used the gift of Discerning of Spirits through Paul so that he saw (understood) the young girl was actually possessed by a spirit of fortune-telling. Paul then commanded the evil spirit to come out of the young girl in the Name of Jesus Christ. The spirit immediately left and the young girl didn't interrupt Paul anymore and she lost her ability to tell fortunes. Many other examples of the Gift of Discerning of Spirits could be given.

At this point, we must consider the role the gift of Discerning of Spirits plays in the Church, the Body of Christ. The Discerning of Spirits is an important spiritual weapon to help Christians fight effectively in the invisible spiritual battle between good and evil that is constantly going on in our world. The Discerning of Spirits is a great help in understanding the real cause of trouble and conflict in many situations in life.

1) PROTECTION OF THE BELIEVER – The understanding of the invisible spiritual world is a source of protection to keep those walking in the Body of Christ from going down some path that would lead them to harm or distract them or mislead them from what God really wants them to do.

2) DELIVERANCE FOR THE BELIEVER – The Discerning of Spirits is also an important gift in understanding the root cause of some peoples' problems. Sometimes a physical illness, or an addiction, or some self-destructive behavior can be caused because a demonic power is attacking or possessing an individual, instead of the problem being physiological and rooted in the flesh through the Law of sin and death. The word "demon" means "tormentor" and in some cases a person's torment is caused by an attack by an evil, fallen spirit. All Christians have the power and authority to command any demon or tormentor to leave another human being. That authority comes by commanding it to leave in the Name of Jesus Christ, just as Paul did (Mark 16:17; Acts 16:18). Discerning of Spirits is a priceless gift in determining if demon possession or oppression is the cause of a person's torment or suffering so they can be set free by the power in the Name of Jesus Christ.

Finally, the Discerning of Spirits is never to be confused with the fallen supernatural knowledge of the sinful world system. It is never to be mistaken for ESP or the psychic phenomenon of the occult. As mentioned in the chapter on the Word of Knowledge, both ESP and psychic knowledge are condemned by God in the Bible because God is not the source of this knowledge – the fallen, rebellious, spiritual powers known as demons are the source of psychic knowledge and ESP. God clearly condemns this in the Book of Deuteronomy 18:9-14 and throughout the Bible.

We live in a world that is spiritual as well as material. We cannot deny the spiritual dimension of this world. Some scientists may try, but real people know there is a spiritual dimension to this world. We know from the Word of God and from Jesus' teachings that just because something is spiritual doesn't necessarily mean that it is good. There are two sources of this world's spiritual activity: one is God Who works through the Holy Spirit; the other is Satan, a rebellious angel who is condemned and damned forever, but who has been given permission by fallen, sinful man to act in this world for a time. The Discerning of Spirits is the Holy Spirit allowing us to taste the powers of the world to come (Hebrews 6:5). This power will bless and heal. Psychic power and ESP have their source in demonic power and ultimately, in the long run, destroy people. We must choose God, Who will give true life.

CHAPTER EIGHT

SPEAKING IN VARIOUS KINDS OF TONGUES

This lesson deals with the eighth gift listed in 1 Corinthians 12, "Speaking in Tongues," also at times called "Praying in Tongues," or also "Praying in the Spirit." For a proper understanding of this gift we must give a careful study to Acts, Chapter 2 where we see THE FIRST OUTPOURING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT which took place on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1), the official birthday of the Christian Church. Pentecost means "50th" – seven weeks and one day after Passover. Back in the Book of Exodus, on the night before God led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt, God commanded each Israelite family to kill a lamb and place the blood on the doorpost. They were then to cook and eat the lamb and get ready to leave. The blood would protect the families when the angel of death came to kill the firstborn in each Egyptian family. Fifty days after Passover, God gave Moses the Law, summed up in the Ten Commandments.

On Good Friday, Our Lord Jesus Christ was sacrificed on the cross to save us from eternal spiritual death. (He is called the Lamb of God [John 1:29] and Christ our Passover [1 Corinthians 5:7]). Fifty days after Jesus' sacrifice we have the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost which opened up a new way of living through Jesus Christ. We read in Acts 1:13-14 there were 120 people together in the Upper Room at Jerusalem. These included the twelve disciples of Jesus and Mary the mother of Jesus.

Suddenly (Acts 2:2), while they were waiting and praying as Jesus had commanded them to do, the Holy Spirit began manifesting Himself. First,

He manifested Himself as the *sound* of a mighty rushing wind. (As an aside, we should note that the 120 were sitting and praying. Our physical position – kneeling, standing, sitting – is not as important as the “inner position” of our heart.)

Next (Acts 2:3), the Holy Spirit manifested Himself as tongues of fire that rested on the head of each one. In Exodus, when God gave the Law and the Commandments to Moses, there were lightning bolts and earthquakes. On Pentecost, God, through these power manifestations, is now showing that His approved way is now through His Son Jesus, and no longer through the Law of Moses (John 1:17). As a result, we see the outpouring in Acts 2:4. At Mount Sinai, the earthquake and the lightning were of secondary importance to the Law given to Moses. On the Day of Pentecost, the wind and the fire were of secondary importance (but pointed to) to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the power the disciples received. In effect, Jesus was saying, “Look, I’ve arrived in Heaven and now I’ve sent the Holy Spirit, just as I promised. Two things happened: 1) they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, with a new kind of power, and 2) they all (including Mary, the mother of Jesus) began speaking or praying in tongues, in a brand new language their mind did not understand, but which the Holy Spirit led them to speak from their innermost being.

It’s at this point we first see the PHENOMENON OF SPEAKING IN TONGUES. The importance of this moment is they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, or baptized with, or “dunked in,” the power of the Holy Spirit. What is most important? The Baptism with the Holy Spirit or Speaking in Tongues? Of course, the Baptism with the Holy Spirit, which brings the power to operate the Gifts, is most important. What comes first? Of course, the Baptism which enables us to pray or speak in tongues. The key result of speaking or praying in tongues is that we can speak to God, spirit to Spirit, bypassing the limits of our mind.

In Acts 2:5-8 we begin to see something exciting happen. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit began almost as a private event among the 120, but its effects start spreading instantly throughout Jerusalem. There were at the time many devout Jewish people from all over the known world who had come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. When they heard the noise, they apparently gathered at the location and now they see 120 Galileans in spiritual joy and ecstasy praising God. Galileans came from the north of Israel and were considered uncouth, uneducated, uncultured, and ready to fight at the drop of a hat. They were being led by Simon Peter, the roughest of the lot.

In Acts 2:12, these onlookers are trying to figure them out.

In Acts 2:13, some said the disciples must be drunk (on cheap wine). But what was really happening? A group of Jesus' followers had been deeply hurt and scarred. They were hurt and scarred by their own sense of failure. They had seen their beloved Master executed in a most sudden, violent, and shameful way on the cross. Everything He had tried to accomplish had seemingly been turned into failure. Adding to their trauma of seeing Jesus so horribly treated was their own deep sense of personal failure, that they had somehow failed Him terribly at a critical moment by deserting Him. Even after the resurrection they must have carried the effects of this trauma and sense of failure around with them.

When they were baptized with the Holy Spirit and began praying in tongues, something very special began happening on the inside. The Holy Spirit began performing Divine therapy to heal them of the traumatic scars and the sense of failure. The infilling of Divine power exploded in a powerful experience of the joy of the Lord, which overrode the trauma and sense of failure and resulted in the speaking forth of a language that the mind could not contain because it was so powerful and expressive of what was being experienced. The result was the first manifestation of speaking in tongues. The Holy Spirit was reaching into all the bad areas and scars and removing them, and Jesus, as it were, was whispering to them, "It's OK. I AM the Lord and I love you."

In Acts 2:14-16, Peter addresses the crowd. He assures them not to worry; it's too early to get drunk (9 a.m.). The crowd had assembled, heard the noise, and heard the 120 praying in tongues. Now everything has become quiet. Simon Peter begins the first sermon ever preached in the Christian Church and he begins to tell the crowd, here on the Day of Pentecost, what it all means.

This so-called uncouth peasant Simon Peter has the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit come upon him and he quotes the prophecy in Joel, Chapter 2 (Acts 2:17-21). The Old Testament prophet Joel had foretold a great day in the future when after the Redeemer and Messiah came, God would pour out the Holy Spirit and give His power to whoever sincerely asked for it. Peter announces this day, the Day of Pentecost, is that day. "This is that..." Peter says. It begins the time when anyone, male, female, young, old, any race, would have access to God's power through faith in His Son Jesus Christ, *not* on the basis of following religious rules and regulations. Peter goes on to say that Jesus had been crucified but He had risen. His physical body had actually risen from the dead and He had now poured out the Holy Spirit. This sermon deeply moved the crowd (Acts 2:37) and they asked, "What must we do to be saved?"

Peter responds in Acts 2:38. Peter's first word was, "Repent." This shows how important repentance is in God's thinking. Repent means to have a change of heart, turn from our old ways, and start going in a new way toward God. It means to be sorry for the wrong we've done and to now desire to please God. It means we ask God for forgiveness of sins.

Second, Peter told the crowd to start putting their faith and trust, to even entrust their very lives to a PERSON named Jesus Christ. True salvation is in a person – JESUS. At the moment of our commitment, the resurrected, unlimited Christ enters our spirit with His eternal new life. Our spirit is reborn, BORN AGAIN. We literally become a brand new person, a *new creation* in our inner person (2 Corinthians 5:17). We may look the same on the outside, but on the inside, we've been restored to the image and likeness of God.

Upon receiving the new birth we become candidates for the Baptism with the Holy Spirit where two things happen:

1) We receive a spiritual immersion in the *power of the Holy Spirit*. This Baptism with the Holy Spirit enables us to *Pray in Tongues* or *Pray in the Spirit* from our spirit. Our spirit can directly communicate with God in a language we did not learn with our mind, but which comes out of our inner being by the leading of the Holy Spirit. We bypass the limitations of our mind and human understanding which has become so cluttered with things that hinder our walk with God; we can pray from our heart to God's heart. It's really the Holy Spirit praying in us and through us.

2) With the Baptism with the Holy Spirit will come God's help and God's power to become a disciple, a daily follower of Jesus as He commands us in Luke 9:23. We receive our salvation in a moment of time. But the rest of life is spent becoming a follower or disciple of Jesus, and this can only be accomplished with the help and power of the Holy Spirit. We come to the cross and John 3:16 begins the wonderful gift of eternal life through our new birth. We come to the Day of Pentecost and Luke 3:16 empowers us to grow into conformity to the image of the One Who loves us and gave Himself for us (Galatians 2:20; Romans 8:29).

CHAPTER NINE INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

The ninth gift listed in 1 Corinthians 12 is the Gift of the Interpretation of Tongues. The Gift of the Interpretation of Tongues operates when the Holy Spirit enables a person who has been baptized with the Holy Spirit to speak

forth in an understandable, intelligible way the meaning of what the Holy Spirit has previously spoken forth in a prayer or message in Tongues through a believer. The Holy Spirit Himself is responsible for both the message or prayer in an unknown tongue *and* the understandable interpretation of that message. Perhaps the best way to understand the Gift of Interpretation of Tongues is to study it in relationship to the operation of Speaking or Praying in Tongues. To do this, we will first list several general observations about Tongues and their Interpretation and then examine the three basic situations where the Gifts of Tongues and Interpretation can occur.

A. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

1) Every manifestation of speaking or praying in tongues has an interpretation or meaning. Sometimes in our corporate worship and praise or our private devotions we may just get swept up into a spirit of praise and not really need to have an exact interpretation because our spirit will intuitively understand the Holy Spirit's ministry to us (Romans 8:26-27). Nevertheless, we must never forget, there is an interpretation for every manifestation of tongues whether we seek it or not.

2) The Gift of Interpretation of Tongues is, in a sense, the least of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit because it cannot operate independently as the other eight Gifts can. The Gifts of Interpretation can only operate if the Gift of Speaking in Tongues has previously been manifested.

3) We must remember that the Interpretation of Tongues is an *interpretation*, not a *translation* or word for word rendering of what was spoken in Tongues. Remember, Prayer in Tongues occurs by the action of the Holy Spirit in our born again *human spirit* where the limitations of our *mind* are bypassed. Interpretation of Tongues brings an unlimited experience back into a limited faculty. So, the Holy Spirit can bring the true, accurate essence of what He has perfectly prayed through us, but He's working through the human limitations again. Thus, we receive interpretation, not translation. A short manifestation of tongues might result in a long interpretation; a long tongues message, likewise, might yield a short interpretation.

4) Both tongues and interpretation can be manifested in either speaking *or* singing (1 Corinthians 14:15).

5) In the manifestation of tongues the Holy Spirit can use either tongues of men or tongues of angels (1 Corinthians 13:1), that is, He may speak through a Spirit-filled believer in a human language foreign to the speaker (which the speaker did not learn through study and does not understand what he is saying, although others present may know the language) or through a heavenly language totally unknown on this earth.

6) All interpretation of tongues must be in agreement with biblical truth. God never operates any of His Gifts out of harmony with what He has revealed in His Word. The Word and the Spirit *always* agree.

7) In tongues and interpretation, as in *all* the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, love and the building up of the body of Christ are as important as the Gift itself (1 Corinthians 14:26).

8) Nothing can replace good, anointed teaching of the Word of God. Tongues and interpretation, as all the Gifts, can only supplement or confirm anointed teaching of the Word of God.

9) In scripture there are two basic occasions when “tongues” are manifest and these are distinguished by the use of two different Greek words. One refers to a devotional prayer mode of tongues (which may be private) when the Greek word *PROSEUCHOMAI* is used and this is translated “praying in tongues” and is synonymous with the phrase “praying in the spirit.” This refers to devotional use of tongues. A second mode uses the Greek word *LALEO* which means to boldly speak forth or proclaim in an assembly. These references deal more specifically with the Gift of Speaking in Tongues as a ministry in the Body of Christ and is translated “speaking in tongues.” Keeping these distinctions in mind is *very* important for a proper understanding of the whole phenomenon of tongues and interpretation.

B. THE BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, TONGUES AND INTERPRETATION

The earliest moment a person can speak or pray in tongues is the moment they are baptized with the Holy Spirit. Certainly this happened on the Day of Pentecost when the 120 who had been in the Upper Room spoke with other tongues as the Holy Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:4). Here, the Greek word *LALEO* is used, meaning they were all boldly speaking forth and were undoubtedly exercising the Gift of Speaking in Tongues.

Very often the first manifestation of tongues in the life of the Spirit-filled believer will be at the moment they are baptized with the Holy Spirit. Some Pentecostal denominations believe anyone who is truly baptized with the Holy Spirit MUST speak in tongues at the moment of this Spirit-baptism or they have not had a genuine baptism. Others, especially in the charismatic movement believe someone can be baptized with the Holy Spirit and yet not necessarily speak in tongues at that moment, although the power and potential to do so resides in them from that moment. For these people, the key evidence of the Baptism with the Holy Spirit is not necessarily the manifestation of tongues, but the genuine enduement with power, with speaking in tongues being released later.

At any rate, when Speaking in Tongues is mentioned specifically alongside the Baptism with the Holy Spirit in the Book of Acts (see Acts 2:4; Acts 10:45-48; Acts 19:1-7), the Greek word *LALEO* is used, meaning they boldly spoke forth in tongues. On each of these occasions, there was also an interpretation in a known language. On the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit Himself acted as the interpreter by enabling the Jews from diverse lands to understand the tongues each in their own dialect and the 120 were actually praising God and speaking of the mighty deeds of God (Acts 2:11). At the house of Cornelius (Acts 10) and the believers at Ephesus (Acts 19) the Speaking in Tongues was accompanied at both times by prophesying. It therefore seems that when a person is baptized with the Holy Spirit and the manifestation of Speaking in Tongues occurs, there should also be a manifestation of the Interpretation of Tongues, either by another Spirit-filled believer who is present or by the person himself who is being Spirit-baptized, or the Holy Spirit Himself will sovereignly make the interpretation known.

C. DEVOTIONAL AND PRAISE USE OF TONGUES AND INTERPRETATION

The Apostle Paul makes mention in 1 Corinthians 14 of a use of tongues that is separate and apart from the ministry Gift of Speaking in Tongues. He specifically refers to an individual praying in tongues for personal edification of the inner man apart from any ministry to the Body of Christ. Here, he uses the word *PROSEUCHOMAI*, or “praying” (not “speaking”) in tongues. (See 1 Corinthians 14:14-15.) In these two verses, Paul equates “praying in tongues” with “praying in the spirit.” There is a personal, vertical (to God), perhaps at times private, lifting of prayer in tongues to God for one’s own *personal edification*. Both Paul and Jude mention this

mode of prayer elsewhere in scripture as “praying in the Spirit” (Ephesians 6:18; Jude 1:20). This devotional use of tongues, apart from the Gift, is available to all Spirit-filled, Spirit-baptized believers. In Ephesians 6, Paul is speaking to all members of the church at Ephesus, as does Jude, who exhorts all believers who read his letter to edify or *build themselves* up by praying (*PROSEUCHOMAI*) in the Holy Spirit.

Should such use of tongues in personal devotions be interpreted? It is not absolutely necessary in this case because the Holy Spirit is ministering to the deepest part of the individual, the human spirit, and a person can intuitively be edified without a necessary interpretation. For example, in praise and worship time, if assembly members are swept into a spirit of praise (*PROSEUCHOMAI*), it would be difficult to stop and interpret each song or praise in tongues, nor would this be absolutely necessary, even though we must remember, every manifestation of tongues has an interpretation.

In the private, devotional use of tongues, however, Paul does recommend in 1 Corinthians 14:14-15 that we move beyond internal edification and actually ask the Holy Spirit for the interpretation of our private devotion. As always, any such private interpretation we may receive **MUST** agree with the Word of God (2 Peter 1:20-21). It is always wise to ask a mature, fellow Spirit-filled believer to evaluate such private interpretations with you.

D. THE GIFT OF SPEAKING IN TONGUES AND INTERPRETATION

Finally, we come to the actual last two gifts listed in 1 Corinthians 12. The Gift of Speaking (*LALEO*) IN Tongues is clearly designated as a *public, ministry* gift which aims at edifying or building up the Body of Christ as a result of its manifestation. The Gifts of Speaking in Tongues and Interpretation come under very exact biblical guidelines:

1) It is scripturally mandated and *required* that *every* manifestation of the ministry Gift of Speaking in Tongues be followed by an interpretation, so that the Body of Christ may be edified (1 Corinthians 14:5).

2) While all Spirit-filled Christians can pray (*PROSEUCHOMAI*) in a devotional tongue and most may speak in tongues at the moment of their Baptism with the Holy Spirit, **NOT EVERY CHRISTIAN** will be used in the ministry Gift of Speaking in Tongues, but only certain people chosen by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:28-31).

3) The proper use of the Gift of Speaking in Tongues and Interpretation will

have the same basic effect upon the Body of Christ as the Word of Prophecy (exhort, console, edify – 1 Corinthians 14:5).

4) When Speaking in Tongues is manifested, Spirit-filled believers *must* seek the interpretation of the utterance. Someone present who has been used in the Gift of Interpretation must seek to bring the meaning forth. If no interpreter is present, then the one who spoke in tongues must pray to receive the interpretation (1 Corinthians 14:13). If no interpreter is present and the speaker feels unsure or inadequate to perform the function of interpretation, the Word of God then commands the one who would speak in tongues to remain silent and pray to himself and God (1 Corinthians 14:28). In that case, if God really wants something important said, He can bring forth a word of prophecy! (1 Corinthians 14:31 – all may prophesy).

5) The Interpretation of Tongues is especially important so that the ungifted Christian (not baptized with the Holy Spirit) or the unbeliever will be able to understand what God is trying to communicate to His Body in the experience of Speaking in Tongues (1 Corinthians 14:16, 22-25).

6) Speaking in Tongues has its place in worship services, but it's also to be kept within biblical guidelines and never be overemphasized. In any given meeting, only two or three people at most should speak in tongues and then there should always be interpretation (1 Corinthians 14:27).

7) Leaders who are mature in the Holy Spirit and the Word of God have the right to evaluate and judge interpretations and prophecies to be sure they are compatible with the Word of God (1 Corinthians 14:29).

8) The Interpretation of Tongues will usually (but not exclusively) be manifested in one of four forms:

a) *revelation* – a word uncovering or making hearers aware of something present, but not previously noticed or seemingly hidden.

b) *knowledge* – same as a word of knowledge about some event of the past or present but delivered through tongues and interpretation.

c) *prophecy* – again, basically the same as the word of prophecy about the future, but delivered through tongues and interpretation.

d) *teaching* – the clarification of what we would call a “doctrine” or basic principle of the Word of God. This *does not add* to the Word of God, but *clarifies* it for better understanding.

9) The anointed preaching of the Word of God is always more important than Speaking in Tongues and Interpretation.

10) Nevertheless, the Word of God warns us that no denomination, church or assembly has the right to forbid Speaking in Tongues when it is done in the proper biblical way (1 Corinthians 14:39). To do so would be to attempt to quench the Holy Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19-22), a very serious sin.

In closing, the Gifts of the Holy Spirit are just that, Gifts from the Giver, the Lord Jesus Christ, Who loves His Church and wants to pour His very own life and ministry into her. Our responsibility is to take the Apostle Paul's words seriously: "Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have not ignorant." (1 Corinthians 12:1, KJV)