



The
GIFTS
of the
HOLY SPIRIT

Dr. Lester Sumrall

STUDY GUIDE

INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

**THE GIFTS OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT**

by

Dr. Lester Sumrall

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This special study guide is a college workbook. Space is prepared for your personal notes so the text can grow into your own material.

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D E D I C A T I O N

This book of special studies on the gifts of the Holy Spirit is dedicated to the late Howard Carter of London, England.

During World War I, Howard Carter was in prison as a conscientious objector. While there, through prayer and study of the Word of God, the glorious truth regarding the gifts was born into his heart.

I lived with Reverend Carter for a number of years and knew personally how he was persecuted by religious leaders because of these truths. Yet, today, his interpretation of the gifts of the Spirit is accepted and enjoyed by millions of people of all denominations all over the world.

I was highly honored to hear Howard Carter lecture and answer questions on the gifts and ministries of the Holy Spirit many times in many countries.

Our present charismatic world owes much of the treasure of this teaching to that dedicated man. God revealed to him the identity, definition, and operation of the gifts and ministries of the Holy Spirit.

May these lessons bless you,

Lester Sumrall

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**THE GIFTS OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT**

Lesson 1

INTRODUCTION

READING:

1 Corinthians 12:1-12, *Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.*

v. 2, *Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led.*

v. 3, *Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.*

v. 4, *Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.*

v. 5, *And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.*

v. 6, *And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.*

v. 7, *But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.*

v. 8, *For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;*

v. 9, *To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;*

v. 10, *To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:*

v. 11, *But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.*

v. 12, *For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.*

1. BIBLICAL REVELATION

The works of the Holy Spirit are revealed in pristine grandeur.

Introduction
Lesson 1

A. In His creation world:

Genesis 1:2, And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

The Holy Spirit is omnipotent. He is all powerful.

B. In His universality:

Psalm 139:7, Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?

The Holy Spirit is shown as being omnipresent.

C. In His conviction of sin:

Genesis 6:3, And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

Here the Holy Spirit is striving to bring man to a place of reconciliation with God.

D. Prophetically:

Joel 2:28, And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

During this present Dispensation of Grace, God promised to pour out His Spirit upon all flesh.

E. By revelation or prophecy:

John 16:13, Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.

2. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE GUIDE INTO ALL TRUTH

The Holy Spirit is the revealer of things to come. This is the Dispensation of the Holy Spirit, separate from the Dispensations of Innocence, Conscience, Human Government, Promise, and Law.

In these lessons, we shall study His gifts to the Church.

Introduction
Lesson 1

These lessons are teachings related to the sign gifts of the Spirit.

The sign gifts are special and supernatural gifts from the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, given to the New Testament Church.

Matthew 16:18, *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

These gifts are special weapons of warfare against the devil, the world, and the flesh.

We must learn of their existence, of their availability to us and of their proper usage, and we must understand their limitations as well as their potential.

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Lesson 2

THE CHARISMA

INTRODUCTION:

The Christian world is excited about charisma. Charismatic meetings are the “in” thing worldwide.

READING:

1 Peter 4:10, *As every man hath received the gift . . . minister the same one to another. . . .*

2 Corinthians 3:5-6, . . . *our sufficiency is of God;*

v. 6, Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

1. WHAT IS CHARISMA?

The Greek word for “spiritual gift” is *charisma*. It means, “something freely given.”

In its characteristic usage, it denotes an extraordinary ability bestowed by the Holy Spirit for special service. That is the reason I call these gifts “the weapons of our warfare.” They are the gifts from the Holy Spirit which enable the Church to defeat any enemy that comes against it.

The plural Greek word, *charismata*, is found in 1 Corinthians 12:4, 9, 28, 30-31. The spiritual gifts of *charismata* are operations of supernatural revelation, power, and inspiration to secure the Church against the devil, the world, and the flesh. These gifts show an encounter with God. The gifts represent the human personality and divine powers of God working together. It is a divine-human interworking.

2. CHARISMA IS PROPHETIC

The only way the fulfillment of Joel 2:28 could possibly happen is for diversification to take place in the Body of Christ, the Church. To retail the move of the Spirit in one denominational group would be to eliminate the largest portion of the Church.

Therefore, God sent the Holy Spirit into every major denomination on the face of the earth. The work of the Holy Spirit can be seen in Catholics, Episcopalians, Lutherans, Baptists, Methodists, etc. This was the only means to ensure that the blessing would reach the total world population.

3. THE GLOBAL CHARISMA

This charismatic move of God is the hope of the modern Church. While one group of Christians is handing out propaganda that God is dead, that miracles are not for today, and that speaking in tongues ended with the first century church; another army of Spirit-filled believers from every denominational background marches toward the glorious return of the Lord Jesus Christ. The charismatic move of God is global.

4. THE CHURCH FACES THE CHALLENGE

One of the great dangers facing the modern Church is that it will become one great referral service.

- A. It can refer the alcoholic to Alcoholics Anonymous.
- B. It can refer the emotionally distraught to psychiatrists.
- C. It can refer domestic problems between husbands and wives to psychologists, consulting clinics, and attorneys.
- D. It can refer the incorrigible teenager to a house of correction.
- E. It can refer the mentally unbalanced to an asylum.

The Holy Spirit move of God teaches that Christ is the answer right now. The key to this truth is the operation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. They are the weapons of our warfare. (Ephesians 6:10-18; 2 Corinthians 10:4-5)

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**THE GIFTS OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT**

Lesson 3

**HISTORIC AND GLOBAL
COMMUNICATION**

INTRODUCTION:

God speaks and communicates to His people. The gifts of the Spirit are the powerful tools and means for this divine communication.

READING:

Zechariah 4:6, . . . Not by might, not by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

1. COMMUNICATION

- A. The gifts of the Spirit are primarily divine communications transmitted from the Holy Trinity through the channel of the Holy Spirit into the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- B. The gifts of the Spirit primarily function in three vast areas. They are in the area of revelation, power or energy, and inspiration. These are the three areas in which the Church of Jesus Christ is an invincible force, stronger than any power known on the face of this earth.

2. A CONQUERING CHRIST

Jesus Christ came to this earth to redeem and to conquer it. His amazing ministry functioned in the framework of the gifts of the Spirit. If Jesus did what He did because He was God, this leaves us out because we are not gods. If the ministry of Jesus was directed, guided, and energized by the Holy Spirit, and if we have the same Holy Spirit, then we can do as He said.

Historic and Global Communication
Lesson 3

John 14:12, *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.*

3. OLD TESTAMENT EXAMPLES

If the remarkable men of the Old Testament (such as Moses, David, and Daniel) performed their ministries in the framework of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, then our generation can do the works of those men by the same Spirit that motivated them.

If they did their works because they were select individuals that no ordinary Christian could hope to follow, then their story is just a divine record. However, if the same power that was in them is available today, then the works they did, we can do.

4. THE VICTORIOUS CHURCH

A. The infant Church emerged from Jerusalem ready to defy pagan Rome with its military might, and pagan Athens with its philosophical might. It emerged to convert the untutored barbarians who were living in primitive huts and held in the awful clutches of witchcraft. The early Church knew that a battle must ensue, and it used the gifts of the Spirit to win victories. The modern church of today can do the same works as the first Church in Jerusalem and win the same victories.

B. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are called “gifts” to reveal that there is only one way to obtain them. This does not minimize their importance. The gifts of the Spirit cannot be earned or merited.

James 1:17, *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*

Although the gifts of the Spirit are called gifts, they are not optional. They are not placed at the disposal of the Church on a “take it or leave it” basis. They are a necessary part of our fighting gear. They are the weapons of our defense and offense. Without the gifts of the Spirit, the Church is helpless before the onslaught of the world, the flesh, and the devil.

C. The Church is either properly equipped for battle or not. Without adequate armor and the knowledge of its use, the church will suffer one defeat after another from the enemy. The church must use the gifts of the Spirit.

5. THE BATTLE OF THE SPIRIT

- A. The warfare of the Church transcends the carnal and the natural. (Ephesians 6:10-12; 2 Corinthians 10:4-5)

The gifts of the Spirit to the believer are what the stone was to David when he slew Goliath. They are what the jawbone of the ass was to Samson when he slew a thousand men.

The modern Church seeking to win the world from the slavery and bondage of the devil without these instruments of God's power is like trying to defeat a modern army barehanded, without weapons.

- B. Jesus said in Matthew 12:29, . . . *How can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man?*

Seeking to reach pagan nations like India, Tibet, China, etc., without using the weapons of our warfare will cause us to suffer humiliating defeat at the hands of witchcraft, superstition, and heathen religions. Wherever pagan darkness is pushed back (whether overseas in what we consider heathen countries or in our own country), it is done according to Zechariah 4:6, *Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.*

6. UNTAPPED POWER

The greatest untapped power on the face of this earth is in the Church. The greatest unused strength in the world lies dormant in the Church. If there is a sleeping giant that can change this world it is the Church of Jesus Christ. It must awake to the challenge of the Great Commission clothed in the armor of God's revelation power and inspiration. It can then march to unprecedented victories and glories for our Lord Jesus Christ.

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**THE GIFTS OF THE
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Lesson 4

**WHAT ARE THE SPIRITUAL
GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?**

INTRODUCTION:

Although spiritual gifts are discernible through the entire Bible, the Holy Spirit, through the Apostle Paul, gives names and explanations concerning the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the Church of Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 12)

READING:

1 Corinthians 12:1, 4-11, *Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.*

v. 4, *Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.*

v. 5, *And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.*

v. 6, *And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.*

v. 7, *But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.*

v. 8, *For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;*

v. 9, *To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;*

v. 10, *To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:*

v. 11, *But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.*

What are the Spiritual Gifts of the Holy Spirit?
Lesson 4

1. THE GIFTS ARE FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT

I was born and reared in the Full Gospel movement when its world impact was phenomenal. Not only did I see its impact cover the nation of America, but I visited it in over one hundred nations of the world.

The gifts operating in you do not prove your spirituality. In many minds a generation ago, the baptism of the Holy Spirit and gifts of the Spirit were something like the “frosting on the cake.” It proved to them that Pentecostal people were better than the Baptists, Methodists, or Catholics. They felt that the Holy Spirit baptism made them more holy than the Presbyterians, more sanctified than the Methodists, and--above all--God’s favorites.

This is where traditional Pentecostal people missed the true meaning of the baptism in the Holy Ghost and the gifts of the Spirit. They are the weapons of our warfare, not a superfluity given to some and not to others.

2. THE GIFTS ARE ALL SUPERNATURAL

They signified a breakthrough of the omnipotence, omnipresence, and omniscience of the third person of the Trinity; they are the same today.

3. THE GIFTS ARE FOR THE TOTAL CHURCH BODY

They flow in the Church as part of the Church. Gifts of the Spirit do not prove spirituality or dedication. People with the gifts are not necessarily better than others.

4. THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT ARE THE WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE

A. If an army went out to battle without training or weapons, it would lose. If soldiers went out to battle without understanding their equipment, they would lose.

Any defeat the Church suffers is because it either does not have the necessary weapons for warfare or it does not understand the equipment with which it has to fight in battle.

B. These weapons include:

- 1) the blood of Jesus
- 2) the Word of God
- 3) the name of Jesus

What are the Spiritual Gifts of the Holy Spirit?

Lesson 4

- C. Our battle is in the spiritual world. The Word of God specifically says in Ephesians 6:12, *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

Immediately we realize that the more weapons that we possess and the better we know how to utilize them, the more successful we will be in battle.

- D. These weapons have never left the Church.

5. THE CONFIRMATION OF HISTORY

- A. If a person studies the great revivals of history and analyzes them, he will discover these tremendous weapons of our warfare were in action at the time of those great victories.

- B. Personally, I have seen the entire nation of the Philippines move toward God.

It began and was perpetuated by the gifts of the Spirit—especially the gifts of healing—being in operation.

Therefore, the hope of great revival is the moving and the functioning of the gifts of the Holy Spirit which, beyond doubt, are the weapons of our warfare.

6. BE NOT IGNORANT

- A. 1 Corinthians 12:1, *Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.*

Notice the words are directed to brethren. The gifts of the Spirit are only for believers in Jesus Christ.

When Jesus was talking to His disciples, knowing that He would soon face crucifixion and would later ascend into heaven to be with the Father, He spoke solemn words to them. He promised that He would pray to the Father to give them another Comforter.

John 14:16-17, . . . *another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; v. 17, Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*

What are the Spiritual Gifts of the Holy Spirit?

Lesson 4

- B. The Holy Spirit commanded the Church not to be ignorant concerning spiritual gifts. It is most amazing that when God says do not be ignorant, we proceed to be more ignorant about that subject than any other. To overcome this ignorance we must study all available information and, in prayer, seek to comprehend the total truth regarding the gifts of the Spirit.

- C. The world is dying of ignorance.
 - 1) The medical world is ignorant of how to cure cancer, heart attacks, and AIDS.
 - 2) The Third World may be ignorant of the importance of cleanliness and sanitation.
 - 3) Today, much of the Christian world is ignorant of truth and the need to use their spiritual gifts.

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Lesson 5

EXPOSITION ON 1 CORINTHIANS 12

INTRODUCTION:

The gifts of the Spirit stand on two great foundations: unity and love.

READING:

1 Corinthians 12:1, *Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.*

1. THE UNITY OF THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

A. v. 4, *Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.*

The gifts vary from divine revelation to resplendent and amazing power to the glorious inspiration of prophecy. The Bible says though there are diversities of gifts, they flow from the same Spirit. There is no difference in the Spirit that proceeds from the gift of the word of wisdom or that proceeds from the gift of interpretation of tongues. This is very important.

B. v. 5, *And there are differences of administration, but the same Lord.*

In administration we have degrees of leadership. The gift of the word of wisdom is the functioning of an apostle or prophet. The gift of prophecy may function in any lay member of the church. It takes the same Lord Jesus Christ in command, whether it is to change a nation or bless one person. Whether it be a great work with thousands being born again, or a small work with one person converted, it is the same Lord administering His power.

Exposition on 1 Corinthians 12
Lesson 5

- C. v. 6, *And there are diversities of operation, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.*

Diversities of operations means working to accomplish things.

In the powerful functioning of the Church of Christ, there are operations which cost millions of dollars and there are other operations that cost little or nothing, but it is the same God who is working. This teaches us the unity of the Body of Christ and respect that we must have one for another. Whatever the operation with which God charges us, whether it be house-to-house visitation, passing out tracts, or moving an entire nation by preaching on television, it is His work and it is the same God Who works all in all. We are not to be jealous one of the other. We are all to perform together in Christ.

- D. v. 7, *But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.*

We have three key words in this sentence. One is “manifestation”; then “every man”; and the third is “profit”. These are three tremendous truths.

- 1) “Manifestation” means for one or more of the nine gifts to be apparent in your life. It is the demonstration of a gift of the Spirit.
- 2) They are given to “every man.” This must be accentuated because so many of us eliminate ourselves from the truly great things of God. I maintain that “every man” means every person. Each person in any congregation can look to God for the manifestation of the gifts of the Spirit in his life. We cannot say this too strongly. We must look at our weaknesses and difficulties and say the gifts of the Spirit are not for us. The Bible says every man.
- 3) The third term is “profit.” There is spiritual profit or benefit to every individual who manifests the gifts of the Spirit. If one is poor in spirit and leans on the good things of God, then a move into the gifts of the Spirit will bring him the tremendous profits which belong to those who manifest the gifts of the Spirit.

2. INVOLVING EVERY MAN

- A. v. 11, *But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.*

We have here “the selfsame Spirit,” or the Holy Spirit, working in all the divine aspects of the gifts of the Spirit. The great truth is that He apportions to each person individually exactly as He chooses.

Exposition on 1 Corinthians 12
Lesson 5

The passage concludes by saying, “as He will.” The Holy Spirit is the one who makes the ultimate decisions about our lives. The nearer we get to Him and to His divine directions, the more the gifts of the Spirit will function in our lives and in the Church.

- B. v. 12, *For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.*

We are bound together by the blood of Jesus, not by denominations or doctrines.

- C. v. 13, *For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.*

The Body of Christ is made up of people of varied backgrounds and nationalities. The Holy Spirit is the uniting force creating a colossal body through which the power of God flows throughout the whole world.

3. GOD MAKES YOU WHAT YOU ARE; ALL PARTS OF THE BODY ARE IMPORTANT

vv. 14-20, *For the body is not one member, but many.*

v. 15, *If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?*

v. 16, *And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?*

v. 17, *If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling?*

v. 18, *But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.*

v. 19, *And if they were all one member, where were the body?*

v. 20, *But now are they many members, yet but one body.*

The Lord chooses your place in the Body of Christ. If you are a businessman, support those around you. If you are a homemaker, touch and bless your family. If you are a minister, be strong and effective in your calling.

4. TAKE CARE OF THE BODY

vv. 21-27, *And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.*

Exposition on 1 Corinthians 12
Lesson 5

- v. 22, *Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:*
- v. 23, *And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.*
- v. 24, *For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked:*
- v. 25, *That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.*
- v. 26, *And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.*
- v. 27, *Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.*

The power of God will operate when the members of the body really care for one another creating a spiritual relationship among God's people.

5. GOD GIVES GIFTS TO THE CHURCH

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

Even as the Church is made up of many members with varied gifts and from various backgrounds, the ministry, as well, is divided among several people with different ministries. They must also work together to edify and instruct the Body of Christ.

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**THE GIFTS OF THE
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Lesson 6

**THE CHURCH OPERATING
IN UNITY AND LOVE**

INTRODUCTION:

The gifts of the Spirit will not function long without unity. The Church was born in unity and it can only be great when in unity. God always deals with us through our spirit, then our spirit communicates with our mind, emotions, and will.

READING:

1 Corinthians 12:12, *For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.*

1. THERE IS POWER IN UNITY

- A. Even a small group of people can build a cathedral if their unity is strong.
- B. 1 Corinthians 12:13, *For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.*

Being a member of a denomination does not necessarily make us a part of the Body of Christ. We are in the Body because God put us into the Body.

2. GOD NEEDS ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE

- A. v. 14, *For the body is not one member, but many.*

A body has eyes, a nose, and ears. In the Body of Christ, God needs the Salvation Army as well as the Episcopalians, etc.

The Church Operating in Unity and Love
Lesson 6

- B. 1 Corinthians 12:21, *And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.*

To God we are all important.

- C. Be careful not to judge or quarrel with other sections of the Body.

3. THE CHURCH PERFECTED IN SUFFERING

v. 26, *And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it;*

I remember meeting a pastor in Rome right after World War II. He had been in jail seventeen times for preaching on the street. His secretary had been in jail ten times for the same thing. Their church went underground and suffered great persecution during the reign of Mussolini. Now they have a wonderful church and own a radio station—but they suffered. Others in the body suffered with them even though they were not imprisoned.

4. COVET THE GIFTS

v. 31, *But covet earnestly the best gifts:*

Previous verses speak of the diversity of the Body of Christ, emphasizing that not all have the same gifts. To receive spiritual gifts you must earnestly desire them and seek after them.

5. THE MORE EXCELLENT WAY—1 CORINTHIANS 13

- A. The first great footing upon which the gifts of the Spirit must be based is unity. The second footing is love.
- B. Power without love can be disastrous.
- C. Gifts without love are simply noise.

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

The Church Operating in Unity and Love
Lesson 6

D. Description of love

- v. 4-13, *Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,*
v. 5, *Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;*
v. 6, *Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;*
v. 7, *Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.*
v. 8, *Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.*
v. 9, *For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.*
v. 10, *But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.*
v. 11, *When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.*
v. 12, *For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.*
v. 13, *And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.*

E. Love—

- 1) Is patient and kind; is not jealous;
- 2) Is not boastful (does not brag); is not arrogant;
- 3) Is not rude (unmannerly); does not insist on its own way; is not self-seeking; is not touchy or resentful;
- 4) Rejoices when right and truth prevail;
- 5) Is hopeful;
- 6) Endures without weakening; believes the best;
- 7) Never fails;
- 8) Matures; and
- 9) Is greater than faith and hope.

STUDY GUIDE
INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

**THE GIFTS OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT**

Lesson 7

**A DEFINITION OF THE
NINE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

INTRODUCTION:

You will notice that nine gifts of the Spirit are listed in three categories with three gifts each. This is 3 x 3. Three is the number of divine perfection. When three is multiplied by three, it becomes perfection times perfection. This is a tremendous display of completeness, finality, and unity.

READING:

1 Corinthians 12:8-11, *For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;*
v. 9, *To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;*
v. 10, *To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:*
v. 11, *But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.*

1. THE GIFTS ARE SUPERNATURAL

- A. Each of these gifts is supernatural. Paul shows clearly in verse 11 that these gifts are miraculously bestowed. These gifts cannot be acquired by the human mind or emotions nor can they be attained by labor or holiness.

We must emphasize the word “gift” and believe that it is bestowed by the wisdom and power of the Holy Ghost.

A Definition of the Nine Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Lesson 7

- B. For example, King Solomon did not possess the gift of the word of wisdom. He requested of God an enlarged brain in order to govern a nation and God gave it to him. He did not use it in a spiritual capacity as the gifts of the Spirit are used, but used it to build up his nation (see II Chronicles 1:10-12).

2. THREE CATEGORIES OF GIFTS

In defining the gifts, we first place them in their proper categories. They naturally and spiritually divide themselves into three primary categories:

- A. Gifts of revelation: the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, and the discerning of spirits.
- B. Gifts of power: faith, the gifts of healing, and the working of miracles.
- C. Gifts of inspiration: prophecy, divers kinds of tongues, and the interpretation of tongues.

3. A DEFINITION OF CATEGORIES

These groups are distinguished by what God does in each classification of gifts.

- A. In the gifts of revelation, God reveals something from heaven to man—something man cannot know any other way.

Matthew 16:17, . . . for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

- B. In the gifts of power, God does something for man. He imparts His own divine energy and abilities.
- C. In the gifts of inspiration, God brings blessings to others by edification, exhortation, and comfort (1 Corinthians 14:3).

Thus we have three natural groupings of gifts. This total of nine gifts is given to the Church by the Holy Spirit for a supernatural work.

4. DEFINING THE GIFTS

The word of wisdom is the revealing of the prophetic future under the anointing of God.

A Definition of the Nine Gifts of the Holy Spirit
Lesson 7

- A. The word of knowledge is the revealing of a fact in existence which cannot be seen, heard, or revealed naturally. It is in existence; it is a fact; it is knowledge; it is supernaturally revealed by God.
- B. The discerning of spirits has to do with the comprehension of the human spirit as supernaturally revealed by the Holy Spirit.
- C. The gift of faith is when, without any human effort, God brings to pass a supernatural thing. The Bible defines faith for us:

Hebrews 11:1, *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

- D. The gift of working of miracles is when, through the human instrument of hands, eyes, mouth, or feet, a person supernaturally does something by the divine energy of the Holy Spirit. An Old Testament example would be the incident when Samson killed a lion barehanded (Judges 14:6). A New Testament example is found in Acts 3 (Peter and the lame man).
- E. The gifts of healing (the only plural gift) is when God supernaturally heals the sick under the assigned gift ministry.
- F. The gift of tongues is the ministry of proclaiming in a public meeting a message from God which is not understood by the person giving it.
- G. The gift of interpretation of tongues is when, without any mental facilities operating, the message that has been given in another language is interpreted supernaturally by the Spirit.
- H. The gift of prophecy is the anointed speaking forth of words of edification, exhortation, or comfort to the Church, supernaturally given from God without human thinking.

These are brief definitions of the gifts of the Spirit.

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**THE GIFTS OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT**

Lesson 8

THE GIFT OF PROPHECY

INTRODUCTION:

God is all powerful. It is an awesome thought that He chooses to use us as channels of His power. One of the ways He does that is through the gift of prophecy.

Words are power. In these lessons on the vocal and inspirational gifts, we witness the remarkable power of words. Words that are anointed and inspired by the Holy Ghost are especially powerful.

Prophecy involves the human will and faith, but does not involve the human intellect.

READING:

1 Corinthians 12:10, . . . *to another prophecy* . . .

1. THE GIFT OF PROPHECY, ONE OF THE GIFTS OF INSPIRATION

In this group of studies, we have now come to the ecstatic gifts of utterance or the gifts of inspiration. They are completely different from the gifts of revelation where God reveals the future, the present, or the human personality. They are very different from the gifts of power where God does a miracle for you by faith or God remarkably heals a person.

The gift of prophecy is mentioned twenty-two times in chapters 11–14 of 1 Corinthians.

The Gift of Prophecy
Lesson 8

There is much importance and urgency concerning this gift; it is entirely supernatural in a natural tongue. 1 Corinthians 12:7 calls the gift a manifestation of the Spirit of God. Prophecy is speaking unto men supernaturally.

1 Corinthians 14:3, *But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.*

2. DEFINITION OF THE GIFT OF PROPHECY

The “word prophecy” originates from the Hebrew word *naba*, meaning “to flow forth, to spring forth, or to tumble.”

- A. 1 Corinthians 14:3, *But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.*
- B. We see another of those amazing sets of three.
- C. This gift has three divine purposes. Please note that in this gift there is no foretelling of the future; it is the simple gift of prophecy. It does not reach into the gifts of power. Revelation is not the office of a prophet.

3. WHAT THE GIFT OF PROPHECY IS NOT

- A. It is not the office of a prophet. A prophet is a man and not a spiritual gift (Ephesians 4:11). Philip’s four daughters prophesied, but were not prophetesses (Acts 21:9).
- B. The prophetic office always predicts the future. The gift of prophecy never predicts the future (1 Corinthians 14:3). The William Smith Bible Dictionary states, “It is certain that neither prescience or prediction are implied by the term in the Hebrew, Greek, or English language.”
- C. Prophecy is not intended for guidance. No gift can take the place of common sense. No ministry is to foretell.
- D. Prophecy is not regular preaching.

To preach means to proclaim or announce the good news of the gospel. It is the natural mind speaking by the Spirit. Prophecy is the mind of the Holy Spirit speaking. Preaching is inspired, but not supernatural.

Prophecy is a supernatural utterance.

The Gift of Prophecy
Lesson 8

E. The possessor of the gift controls prophecy.

- 1) 1 Corinthians 14:32, *And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.*
- 2) The gift is to be regulated. Only three prophecies are allowed in one meeting (v. 27).
- 3) There are safeguards concerning the use of the gift. Prophecy is not to be despised. We should covet to prophesy (1 Thessalonians 5:20).

We must prophesy according to our proportion of faith. If a person prophesies things that do not come to pass, he is speaking beyond his faith.

Romans 12:6, *Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;*

4. EDIFICATION

This gift is primarily to edify the church. It is not directed to unbelievers.

A. Edification, in its root meaning, signifies to erect, to build up, and to strengthen.

1 Corinthians 14:4, *He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.*

B. The gifts of inspiration were given to the Church by the Holy Spirit to build it up and strengthen it. Certainly this is one of the greatest needs of the present hour.

C. Multitudes of Christians are in great need of having their spiritual lives built up and strengthened. This is no doubt the reason why Paul spoke in tongues more than an entire church. He desired to be “Built up” and this is one of the secrets of his amazing strength.

5. EXHORTATION

This is the call to encouragement.

A. The Holy Spirit places the word “exhortation” as the second outreach of the gift of prophecy.

The Gift of Prophecy
Lesson 8

- B. Many times I have heard this gift as it exhorts the Church to holiness, consecration, and separation from the world. This is a spiritual ministry greatly needed in our modern Church.
- C. There is no element of revelation in New Testament prophecy. It is divided into three areas: edification, exhortation, and comfort. In the New Testament, correction comes from preaching the Word and doctrine--not from prophecy--Paul dealt with excess as a teacher, pastor, and apostle.
- D. Remember that it is not a ministry of criticism. It is not one person's opinion against another. It is a divine operation, under the anointing of God, to warn men and women of sin and shortcomings so they might be ready when Christ returns. This gift can lift a Christian out of depression or his lukewarmness and back into the mainstream of the move of God.

6. COMFORT

- A. The third and last ministry of the gift of prophecy is comfort. The Greek word means "consolation in distress, sorrow, persecution, or suffering."
- B. It does not take much observation to realize that we live in a world of brokenness—broken lives and broken ambitions.
- C. Many churches fail the people who need comfort. We must understand that they do not necessarily need sympathy or pity.
- D. The Church needs divine comfort where the Holy Spirit brings the healing forces of heaven to people's hearts. As the coming of the Lord nears, this ministry must come forth and comfort the people.
- E. Some teachers have intimated that these inspirational gifts are so small that they are almost unnecessary. Even to think such a thing is a reproach against God because He set these spiritual gifts in the church. It is our duty to accept them.

7. HOW DOES THE GIFT OF PROPHECY FUNCTION?

- A. When a Christian, in church or before other Christians, speaks under a Holy Spirit anointing in the common language of the people, he is said to be prophesying.
- B. The speaker, a man or woman, is anointed, directed, and energized by the Holy Spirit. An example of this is the exhortation Peter gave on the day of Pentecost. His words were without preparation. His message flowed from his spirit rather than from his mind. If he had sought to prepare such a message, no doubt it would have been impossible.

The Gift of Prophecy
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- C. Most often prophecy is used in the church after the delivery of a sermon and the Holy Spirit directly speaks to the people for edifying, exhorting, or comforting.

8. LIMITATIONS TO THE GIFT OF PROPHECY

- A. It is partial and not complete.

1 Corinthians 13:9, *For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.*

- B. It is exercised in proportion to faith.

Romans 12:6, *Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;*

- C. Its use is limited by its definition.

1 Corinthians 14:3, *But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.*

1) Building up (edification)

2) Stirring up (exhortation)

3) Cheering up (comfort)

- D. Prophecy is a ministry to the Church and is inspirational in character.

9. PROPHECY IS TO BE JUDGED BY OTHERS WHO ARE PRESENT

- A. 1 Corinthians 14:29, *Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.*

- B. It can be judged by the Bible.

- C. 2 Peter 1:19, *We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:*

- D. Prophecy can be judged by the character of the person speaking.

James 3:8-12, *But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.*

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v. 9, *Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.*

v. 10, *Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.*

v. 11, *Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?*

v. 12, *Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.*

E. It can be judged by the gift of discerning of spirits.

1 Corinthians 12:10, *To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:*

F. In the ministry of the gift of prophecy, one is living the broad blessings of the gift, yet within the fixed boundaries of the gifts.

10. THE GIFT OF PROPHECY AND YOUR PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP TO IT

A. 1 Corinthians 14:39, . . . *covet to prophesy* . . .

B. 1 Corinthians 14:1, . . . *desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.* . .

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**THE GIFTS OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT**

Lesson 9

**THE GIFT OF TONGUES
FOR PUBLIC MINISTRY**

INTRODUCTION:

The gift of speaking in tongues is perhaps the most misunderstood of all the gifts of the Spirit. This is because of its supernatural operation.

READING:

1 Corinthians 14:2, *For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.*

1. WHAT IS THE SIGN GIFT OF DIVERS KINDS OF TONGUES?

This second gift in the category of inspiration is the gift of divers kinds of tongues.

- A. Speaking with tongues as the Holy Spirit gives utterance is the unique ministry identified only with the Church age. Seven of the other gifts, such as the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, the gifts of healing, and the gifts of the working of miracles, existed in the Old Testament and during the ministry of Jesus. Speaking in tongues began on the Day of Pentecost. It has been identified with the Church since its inception (1 Corinthians 12:28; 1 Corinthians 14:21; Isaiah 28:11).
- B. The “sign gift” of divers kinds of tongues is a supernatural utterance from God. The “sign gift” of divers kinds of tongues is when God speaks directly to man through man such as on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:4-8). The gift is a divine and spiritual communication.

2. THIS SIGN GIFT IS NOT THE SAME AS THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Acts 2:4, And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

This is a ministry gift, a sign gift, from the Holy Spirit.

3. THE GIFT IS NOT LEARNING A LANGUAGE

The gift of tongues is not the learning of languages. The person who speaks does not know or understand what he has said. His spirit is speaking to God. This gift is a special challenge and sign to those who are uninformed.

Acts 2:5-7, 11, And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

v. 6, Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.

v. 7, And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans?

v. 11, . . . we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

4. WHO CAN HAVE THIS SIGN GIFT?

Only Spirit-filled and Spirit-baptized Christians are candidates for this gift. One has to first experience Acts 2:4 and speak in tongues before this Church gift can operate.

In 1 Corinthians 14:5 Paul said that he wished for everyone to have the gift.

5. THE SPEECH IS TO GOD

1 Corinthians 14:2, For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God:

It is a verbal or vocal miracle. What a joy it is to speak to God personally and directly.

6. THIS GIFT WAS PROPHESED BY JESUS

Mark 16:17, And these signs shall follow them that believe; . . . they shall speak with new tongues;

There is no doubt or ambiguity with Jesus.

7. WHERE DOES THIS GIFT OPERATE?

1 Corinthians 14:23, 26, 33, *If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, . . .*

v. 26, *How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, . . .*

v. 33, . . . *in all churches of the saints.*

God specifically says that the vocal gifts of inspiration are designed to edify or build up the church of Jesus Christ.

8. THE GIFT BUILDS UP THE SPEAKER

1 Corinthians 14:4, *He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself. . .*

A. By word

B. By song

1) Where to sing: Everywhere

Psalm 96:1-5, *O sing unto the LORD a new song: sing unto the LORD, all the earth.*

v. 2, *Sing unto the LORD, bless his name; show forth his salvation from day to day.*

v. 3, *Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people.*

v. 4, *For the LORD is great, and greatly to be praised: he is to be feared above all gods.*

v. 5, *For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the LORD made the heavens.*

2) The new song:

Revelation 5:9-10, *And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;*

v. 10, *And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.*

3) When to sing:

Ephesians 5:19-20, *Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;*

v. 20, *Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;*

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- 4) Sing to your problems:

Colossians 3:16, Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

- 5) Spiritual songs:

Ephesians 5:19, Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

- 6) The song of the Lord:

Psalms 137:4, How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?

9. THOSE WHO SPEAK IN TONGUES SHOULD SEEK THE GIFT OF INTERPRETATION

The person who speaks in an unknown tongue may also be granted the second gift of interpretation.

1 Corinthians 14:13, Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret.

10. IT IS A GIFT FROM THE SPIRIT AND NOT FROM THE SOUL

1 Corinthians 14:14, For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.

This gift flows from the spirit and not the mind.

11. TONGUES ARE A SIGN TO THE SINNER

1 Corinthians 14:22, Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.

12. TONGUES WITHOUT INTERPRETATION ARE FORBIDDEN IN CHURCH SERVICES

1 Corinthians 14:28, But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.

13. CAN THIS GIFT BE REGULATED?

It must be kept decent and in order by leadership.

1 Corinthians 14:29-32, *Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.*
v. 30, *If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace.*
v. 31, *For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted.*
v. 32, *And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.*

14. THIS GIFT IS LIMITED IN USE

1 Corinthians 14:27, *If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret.*

The Holy Spirit is showing that He can get His message across in two or three messages in tongues. There is a reason for this:

1 Corinthians 14:33, *For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.*

15. CHURCH LEADERS MUST NOT FORBID THIS GIFT

1 Corinthians 14:39, *Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues.*

Paul said in 1 Corinthians 14:5, *I would that ye all spake with tongues . . .*

Is it not normal for the supernatural to overrule the natural when operating in the gifts of the Holy Spirit? God is in control.

16. THIS GIFT CAN BE NEGLECTED

It can be stiffened to death. It can lie dormant and lifeless. God does not compel the use of any gift from heaven.

1 Timothy 4:14, *Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.*

17. WHEN WILL TONGUES CEASE?

1 Corinthians 13:8-10, *. . . whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.*
v. 9, *For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.*
v. 10, *But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.*

The Gift of Tongues for Public Ministry
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The Holy Spirit is particularly identified with the Church. Has the Church age ended?

There is no biblical intimation of a change from the day the Church was born until the Rapture.

Tongues will cease at the end of this age, at the same time when knowledge shall vanish and the Church will be in heaven with our Lord.

18. WHY WILL TONGUES CEASE?

- A. In heaven, we will no longer need the Holy Spirit to guide us into truth. We will speak the same language as Jesus.

1 Corinthians 13:12, *For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.*

- B. We will no longer need tongues as a sign to the unbelievers. There will be no unbelievers.

1 Corinthians 14:22, *Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not:*

- C. We will no longer need unknown tongues to glorify God in Heaven.

Revelation 19:1-2a, 6b, *And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God:
v. 2, For true and righteous are his judgments . . .*

v. 6b, *Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.*

- D. We will no longer need tongues to edify ourselves.

1 Corinthians 14:4, *He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself . . .*

19. WHY YOU SHOULD CONSISTENTLY SPEAK IN TONGUES

- A. It is the evidence of the in-filling of the Holy Spirit.

1) Acts 2:4, *And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

2) Acts 10:44-46a, *While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.*

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v. 45, *And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

v. 46, *For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God.*

- 3) Acts 19:1-6, *And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,*
v. 2, *He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.*
v. 3, *And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.*
v. 4, *Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.*
v. 5, *When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.*
v. 6, *And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.*

- B. It is a prayer language for speaking supernaturally to God.

1 Corinthians 14:2, *For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God . . .*

- C. It is to magnify God.

Acts 10:46, *For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God . . .*

- D. It is to build up spiritual strength in yourself. We edify ourselves.

1 Corinthians 14:4, *He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.*

- E. It helps us possess gladness in singing.

1 Corinthians 14:15, *. . . I will sing with the spirit . . .*

- F. It is a source of intercessory prayer.

Romans 8:26, *. . . the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings . . .*

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G. It is a source of spiritual refreshing.

Isaiah 28:12, . . . *this is the refreshing* . . .

H. It is a repository of profit.

1 Corinthians 12:7, *But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.*

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**THE GIFTS OF THE
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Lesson 10

INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

INTRODUCTION:

The gift of the interpretation of tongues is the supernatural showing forth by the Holy Spirit the meaning of an utterance spoken by a person in a language that he does not understand.

READING:

1 Corinthians 12:10b, . . . *to another the interpretation of tongues.*

1. THE PURPOSE OF THE GIFT OF INTERPRETATION

The purpose of this gift is to render the message from Christ, which has been given in an unintelligible language to those present.

2. THE BODY MINISTRY OF THIS GIFT

The interpretation of tongues is to edify the Church. We know this because this gift functions with its sister gift of speaking in tongues.

1 Corinthians 14:4-5, *He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.*

v. 5, I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.

3. THIS GIFT EXALTS THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

It is the functioning of the miracle that can be seen easily by the unbeliever and causes amazement to him as witnessed on the Day of Pentecost when the Church was born.

Acts 2:1-4, And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

v. 2, And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

v. 3, And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

v. 4, And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

4. NOT A TRANSLATION

The message in tongues might be long and the interpretation of tongues might be short, or it can be *vice versa*.

5. NOT AN OPERATION OF THE HUMAN MIND

It is not a functioning of the Holy Spirit through the mind. The interpreter does not understand the language of the tongue he is interpreting. His mental faculties are not part of the message.

6. WHEN THERE IS NO INTERPRETATION

- A. It is because there is no one present with the gift of interpretation.
- B. The person is simply magnifying God and there is no public interpretation of the message necessary.
- C. I have heard a foreign person speak in tongues. The message was in English and the interpretation was in the native tongue of those present.

7. TWO KINDS OF INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

- A. In words spoken inspirationally.
- B. In the form of a vision where a person sees the thing about which he is speaking.

8. HOW THE INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES COMES

The interpreter normally receives only one or two words and as he speaks these the remaining part of the message opens up a few words at a time. The interpreter has no thought in mind as to what the Spirit has to say. It comes forth from his spirit and not from his mind.

- A. A tremendous illustration of the fruit of this gift took place when I preached in Washington, D. C. After my sermon, one man gave a message in tongues and another brother interpreted. When they had finished, a young man from the back of the building walked to the front and spoke a foreign language to the one who gave the message. The brother answered, "I'm sorry sir, I do not understand any other language. I am a car salesman here in Washington."

The man replied, "But you spoke my language beautifully. I am a Persian and I am here selling Persian carpets, and you spoke my language and told me that I must get right with God and that I must find God now."

The brother answered, "No, that was the Spirit who spoke to you; it was God; it was not me." To his surprise, neither of the two men spoke or understood his language.

I stood there while this young man knelt at the altar and gave his heart to the Lord Jesus Christ.

- B. Illustration: How I received this gift.

I was asked to pastor the South Bend Tabernacle. I felt led of God to accept the pastorate. However, I reminded God that I did not have the gift of interpreting tongues and that I believed that every pastor must have this spiritual gift operative in his ministry. Otherwise, how could he pastor a charismatic church? Almost reluctantly, I went to the church. On the first Sunday, a lady gave a message in tongues. Instantly the gift was born in my heart. I had the interpretation.

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**THE GIFTS OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT**

Lesson 11

THE GIFT OF THE WORD OF WISDOM

INTRODUCTION:

In the category of revelation gifts, God supernaturally reveals through a man or woman that which his mind cannot conceive, his ears have not heard, his eyes have not seen. The first of these is the gift of the word of wisdom.

READING:

1 Corinthians 12:8, *For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom . . .*

1. WHAT THE GIFT IS NOT

The gift of the word of wisdom is not that a person is brilliant or that he has academic success in any given subject. In fact, the gift has nothing to do with worldly wisdom.

2. IT IS A SUPERNATURAL REVELATION

The gift of the word of wisdom is supernatural revelation of the divine purposes of God in Christ, communicated by the Holy Spirit to the Church through a believer. This gift unveils in part the purposes of God on the earth.

Paul explained it this way in 1 Corinthians 2:7, *But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:*

3. IT IS A FRAGMENT OF GOD'S WISDOM

- A. The student must remember that the name of this gift is “word of wisdom.” It is a fragment of the total wisdom of God, as a word is a fragment of a sentence. We receive a fragment of His wisdom. This means the word of wisdom is a part and portion of the great omniscience of God.
- B. God is all wise. He knows the total future. When He conveys to the Church through one of His servants something He is going to do, He has made that person wise in that one matter. However, that individual is not wise concerning all things.

4. MEN WHO HAD THIS GIFT OF REVELATION

Who in the Bible possessed this gift? All the prophets of the Bible were endowed with this spiritual gift, in that they were seers of the future. They made known God's wisdom of what would come to pass.

- A. God revealed to Noah the coming of the Flood.

*Genesis 6:12-13, And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.
v. 13, And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.*

Over one hundred years before God actually did it, Noah knew that God would destroy the earth. This is the gift of the word of God's wisdom.

- B. When Daniel saw empires leap into existence and perform on the stage of human history before they were born and named the very nature of these unborn empires, it was the gift of the word of wisdom in operation (Daniel 7:2-28). Next to the fifty-third chapter of Isaiah and perhaps the ninth chapter also, we have here the most precious and prominent portion of the sure word of prophecy concerning the coming of the Messiah. The chapter is worthy of the most careful prayer and study. The seventh chapter of Daniel is referred to directly or indirectly by Christ and His apostles perhaps more than any other portions of the Old Testament of similar extent. It appears to have been regarded by the Old Testament saints, in the centuries preceding the Messiah's first advent, as preeminently the “word of prophecy” (Holiletic Commentary, adapted).

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- C. The prophet Ezekiel dramatically foretold the future. Some passages such as Ezekiel 38, 39, and 40 have not yet come to pass. This shows how God reveals the future.
- D. David revealed through the Psalms how the Messiah would come and how he would die. This was a revelation of the future (Psalm 2 and Psalm 22).
- E. Joel prophesied that in the last days God's Spirit would be poured out upon all flesh. He was revealing the future which is the word of God's wisdom.

Joel 2:28, And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

- F. In Isaiah 53, the great prophet described the very nature of the Messiah. This was the word of God's wisdom functioning.

5. THE WORD OF WISDOM IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

The New Testament is replete with instances of the gift of the word of wisdom.

- A. Foremost among those demonstrating the word of wisdom in the New Testament was the Lord Jesus. In Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21, Christ foretold the destruction of the temple which came a few years later, the signs which would accompany His return to earth for His church, and the end of the world. Many of these things are coming to pass in our generation. Some of them are yet to come to pass.
- B. The Apostle Paul, in 1 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, and other epistles, revealed things that would come to pass in the last days. This was the word of wisdom.
- C. The Apostle Peter was very emphatic about signs that would come to pass before the Lord Jesus returned. This was the functioning of the word of wisdom.
- D. The gift functioned for the Apostle Paul when it looked as if he would die. The Lord spoke to him the word of wisdom:

Acts 23:11, . . . Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.

Paul had no way of knowing that he would ever speak for God in Rome, but God revealed the future of his life.

6. THE WORD OF WISDOM MANIFESTED IN VARIOUS WAYS

The Holy Spirit can convey the word of wisdom in many ways.

- A. To Joseph, it was the interpreting of a dream (Genesis 41).
- B. To Daniel, it was a vision by night (Daniel 7).
- C. Ezekiel was caught away in the Spirit for a revelation (Ezekiel 37).
- D. The Apostle John was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day and the total book of Revelation flashed before him (Revelation 1:10).

This reveals that God has no set way of dealing with the problems of this world. He unveils the hidden mysteries of God and the wisdom of God to execute His counsels in the way He sees best at that time.

7. A PERSONAL FUNCTION OF THE WORD OF WISDOM

A number of years ago in a simple wooden building in Tennessee, God showed me a vision that I was called to minister to the entire world. I saw the millions of the world marching past me into eternity. At the same time in London, England, God communicated a message to Reverend Howard Carter saying that he must travel the world to minister. God told him that He had prepared a companion for him who lived in a distant place. He would be a stranger when he came, and would make himself known by saying certain words. Reverend Carter was so impressed with this message from God that he wrote it down and disclosed it to his teaching staff and students in his Bible school in London.

Less than three years later, not knowing that God had spoken to Reverend Carter, I approached him at a camp meeting in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. God completely fulfilled the words spoken to him in London, England. In his hotel room, Reverend Carter, Reverend Stanley Fordsham, and I lifted up our hearts and thanked God that He could so speak in these days. That moment began one of the most remarkable friendships of our time as an Englishman and an American traveled throughout the world to minister and bless multitudes of people.

8. THE WORD OF WISDOM AND THE GIFT OF PROPHECY

A clear distinction must be formed in our minds regarding the simple inspirational gift of prophecy and the word of wisdom in the New Testament. 1 Corinthians 14:3 gives the full measure of the blessings of prophecy. There is no revelation associated with it. Any person who speaks in church and foretells the future has left the simplest and least of the gifts and has moved into the greatest and foremost.

The prophets of the Old Testament or the New Testament were called seers. They viewed the future and possessed the gift of the word of God's wisdom.

9. WE MUST COVET THIS GIFT

Most cults are born because the Church does not utilize the gifts of God. For example, if the total Church had prayed for the sick, Christian Science would have no place in the world. If the Church moved in the spiritual gifts of revelation, such as the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, and the discerning of spirits, then there would be no need for fortune tellers using crystal balls, ouija boards, tea-leaves, and all the paraphernalia that the devil has devised to deceive the people of our generation.

The world is now engulfed in the greatest wave of black magic and witchcraft it has ever known. One reason is that the Church is not operating in the gifts of the Spirit. These gifts are the weapons of our warfare. If they were in operation, they would completely stop the devil's counterfeits. Therefore, I challenge you to seek God for these major gifts of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:31, *But covet earnestly the best gifts . . .*

1 Corinthians 14:1, *. . . desire spiritual gifts . . .*

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**THE GIFTS OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT**

Lesson 12

THE WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

INTRODUCTION:

The second gift in the category of revelation gifts is the gift of the word of knowledge.

Knowledge deals with things as they now exist. Therefore, the gift of the word of knowledge is when God reveals to one of His servants something that now exists or did exist on the earth. Knowledge is a fact—a reality.

This would be something you could not know naturally. It would be something your eyes had not seen and your ears had not heard. Normally, it would have to do with the meeting of a need.

READING:

1 Corinthians 12:8, . . . *to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit.*

1. GOD IS OMNISCIENT

He knows all. He has all knowledge. God knows of every person and every place. God shares miraculous knowledge with you.

2. A WORD OF KNOWLEDGE TO ELIJAH

1 Kings 19:14, 18, *And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.*

v. 18, *Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him.*

3. ELISHA AND GEHAZI

2 Kings 5:20, 27, But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, Behold, my master hath spared Naaman this Syrian, in not receiving at his hands that which he brought: but, as the LORD liveth, I will run after him, and take somewhat of him.

v. 27, The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed for ever. And he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow.

He pursued Naaman and took silver and raiment. Elisha knew it by the Spirit.

4. SAMUEL AND SAUL

When Saul, a Benjamite, was called to be a king, he hid himself. However, the prophet knew where to find him.

1 Samuel 10:22, Therefore they inquired of the LORD further, if the man should yet come thither. And the LORD answered, Behold, he hath hid himself among the stuff.

5. ELISHA KNEW THE ENEMY'S WAR PLANS

In the Old Testament, the prophet Elisha used this gift in a remarkable way. In 2 Kings 6, he revealed the alien armies of Syria coming against the king of Israel. While sitting in his own house, he told the king how the armies would attack and how he could confront them. The Syrian king accused some of his intimates of treachery, but they assured him it was only the prophet of God.

6. JESUS OPERATED IN THE WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

A. In the New Testament, the Lord Jesus exercised this gift with great authority.

*John 1:47-48, . . . Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!
v. 48, Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.*

Supernaturally, the Lord Jesus Christ saw this man the day before sitting under a fig tree. This was the word of God's knowledge.

B. Jesus tells the Samaritan woman about herself.

John 4:18, For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.

7. THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES DESCRIBES THIS GIFT IN THE EARLY CHURCH

Peter knew that the three messengers from Cornelius were on their way and would inquire for him at the gate of the house of Simon the tanner (Acts 10:19-21).

He greeted them with the words, "Behold, I am he whom you seek." This is a communication of God's knowledge.

8. WOMAN IN TULSA, OKLAHOMA

God told a Christian lady that her son and daughter-in-law were going fishing. She was told at which lake they were fishing. She was told that the son, his wife and two children had drowned. She even knew the place where they had drowned. When she called the fire and police departments, they hesitated to go to the site because of the way in which she received her knowledge of tragedy. Through her persistence they did go and found exactly what she had told them.

9. REVEREND HOWARD CARTER OF LONDON

After I had met Reverend Howard Carter in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, and we had agreed to travel together, he traveled to the West Coast and I traveled south to take my sister home. It took me three months to sell my car, receive my passport from Washington, and get ready for the world mission. During this time, I did not know where Reverend Carter was. I was told by some that he was in Japan, by others that he was in China, and by still others that he was in Indonesia. Not knowing where to find him, I purchased a ticket to Australia and decided to start looking for him at the bottom of the world.

After three weeks at sea, my ship pulled into Wellington, New Zealand. Reverend Carter had been in a ministers' conference at a retreat. While praying, he asked the Lord where I was. The Lord replied, "He is at this time on a ship coming into Wellington Harbor. Tomorrow he will come to a certain pastor's home. Send him a message there."

The pastor from the church in Wellington was in the same conference. Reverend Carter said, "Tomorrow a young American will come to your home. Will you be so kind as to go and give him my card and tell him I will join him in Australia?" The minister asked, "But where did you get this information, seeing we have no telephone at this place?" Reverend Carter responded, "The Lord just spoke to me about it." The pastor actually went back to Wellington unbelieving.

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The next morning after my ship docked, not knowing any of this had transpired, I went into the city and looked for a Pentecostal church. After three hours I found as Assembly of God and knocked on the door. When the pastor opened the door, I said, "Sir, you do not know me; I am Lester Sumrall from America." The pastor stopped me and turned pale saying, "Yes, I know you. You are looking for Reverend Carter and I have a message from him for you."

This is the word of knowledge from God. God, knowing where I was, told Reverend Carter in order that we could labor together throughout the world.

10. THE PURPOSE OF THIS GIFT TODAY

Any time God conveys information supernaturally which has to do with that which is now in existence, it is the word of God's knowledge in operation. This gift could resolve many problems in churches. It could even resolve many national problems if the leaders of the nation had confidence and faith in God.

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**THE GIFTS OF THE
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Lesson 13

THE DISCERNING OF SPIRITS

INTRODUCTION:

The world seeks divination from old times. The divine purpose and ministry of this gift is to discern the spirit that motivates a person, whether it be a good spirit from God or an evil spirit of the devil.

READING:

1 Corinthians 12:10, . . . *to another discerning of spirits* . . .

1. **THERE ARE THREE AREAS OF OPERATION IN DISCERNMENT**

- A. Divine
- B. Demonic
- C. Human

2. **NOT DISCERNING OF DEVILS**

Primarily, I must state emphatically that this gift is not just the discerning of devils. It is not a clash of human personalities. It is not when a husband becomes angry with his wife and says that she has a devil. It is by no means the gift of suspicion to try to see what spirit is in the people we meet.

It certainly is not a study in psychoanalysis, and it is not the projection of ESP (extrasensory perception) which functions through the human mind. The mind is a part of the soul, and the soul functions separately from the spirit if you are born again.

3. INSIGHT INTO THE INNER SPIRIT OF A HUMAN

This divine gift is the ability to see the presence or activity of a spirit whether good or bad. This revelation comes to the Church through the Holy Spirit. The discerning of spirits gives the members of the Body of Christ an insight into the spirit world where their five senses of feeling, hearing, seeing, smelling, and tasting cannot enter.

The telescope can reveal the movement of stars in space. The microscope can bring to light the intricate mysteries of microscopic life. In the realm of human affairs, the gift of the discerning of spirits can penetrate to the soul and spirit of a person.

4. DISCERNMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

- A. In John 1:47, Jesus saw Nathanael coming and immediately, without any introduction, He said, . . . *Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!*
- B. In John 4:7-30, we have a Samaritan woman. Jesus asked her for some water. Being a harlot, she would have done anything if He paid her. Jesus simply said, "Bring your husband." She answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said, "You have had five husbands; and the one you now have is not your husband: in this you have spoken the truth." He discerned her adultery.
- C. Jesus called the religious people hypocrites.

5. DISCERNMENT AND THE LAST DAYS

Discerning of spirits is, therefore, a gift that enables one to appraise motives. More than this, it gives a believer power to see what others do not see. As Howard Carter pointed out, "The discerning of spirits is a gift of the Holy Spirit by which the possessor is enabled to see into the spirit world. By this insight he can discern the similitude of God, the risen Christ, the Holy Spirit, cherubim, seraphim, archangels, or the host of angels, or Satan and his legions."

The discerning of spirits can bring great inspiration to the Church. It can produce a sense of security against false doctrines, lies, etc., and enables the Church to choose the proper men and women for ministry.

6. THE HARLOT DISCERNED IN TENNESSEE

A number of years ago, I was present in a meeting when a strange woman came into the service. She stood to her feet and said, "God has told me to conduct a special revival campaign in this church and no one is to resist me because I am God's servant and the revival must begin tonight."

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The people were dumbfounded. A strange feeling swept over them. There was a moment of murmuring, then quietness. An elderly godly lady to one side of the auditorium had sat all this time with bowed head. Finally, she stood up, and with her face raised toward heaven said, "You are a harlot. You are from St. Louis, Missouri. You are in this city living with a man to whom you are not married. You have boasted that you could deceive this church, preach to them, collect an offering, and they would never know that you are a harlot. If you do not repent, you will die before you leave this building."

God's power fell heavily on the church and everyone went to his knees in prayer. When we lifted our heads, the strange woman was gone, never to put in an appearance again. This was an operation of the discerning of spirits.

Some churches today would not want this gift in operation because sometimes pastors are living in sin; sometimes deacons are living in sin; sometimes musicians and singers are living in sin; and if this gift were in operation, secret sins would be revealed.

7. DISCERNMENT IN THE EARLY CHURCH

Acts 5:1-3, *But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession,*
v. 2, *And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it, at the apostles' feet.*
v. 3, *But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?*

8. WHAT THE GIFTS OF REVELATION ARE NOT

These three gifts (the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, and the discerning of spirits) make up the gifts of revelation wherein God reveals something by His Spirit to the Church.

- A. It is not the reading of thoughts.
- B. It is not metaphysical (abilities of the human mind or brain).
- C. It is not extrasensory perception (ESP).

9. PETER HAD DISCERNMENT

An example of the use of this gift is found in Acts 8:18. Simon the sorcerer looked on with wonder as Peter and John laid their hands on people and they received the Holy Ghost. He thought in his heart, "If only I had such power it would make me a big man among people. Every man has his price. I will persuade these men to sell this power to me." So he offered the apostles money.

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In Acts 8:20-23, we are shown Peter's response to this: *But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.*

v. 21, *Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.*

v. 22, *Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.*

v. 23, *For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.*

10. PAUL DISCERNS A SORCERER

Another example is found in Acts 13:9-10. Here, Paul discerns the evil tendencies of Elymas, the sorcerer.

Acts 13:9-10, *Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him,*

v. 10, *And said, O full of all subtlety and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?*

11. HOW TO GET THIS GIFT TO OPERATE

A. Talk about it.

B. Pray about it.

C. Reach for it.

Matthew 5:6, *Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.*

D. Read everything you can about it, especially the Bible.

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**THE GIFTS OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT**

Lesson 14

**THE GIFT OF FAITH
A GIFT OF POWER**

INTRODUCTION:

We observe the gift of faith in operation when God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, performs supernatural exploits for a human when there is no human strength or intelligence involved. In this gift, God does something supernaturally for you.

READING:

1 Corinthians 12:9, *To another faith by the same Spirit . . .*

1. THE GIFTS ARE LIKE A CHAIN

We have now studied 1 Corinthians 12 about the divine unity of the gifts. There are diversities of gifts but the same Lord; these flow from the same Spirit. The gifts are closely associated, like links in a chain—this often makes definition very difficult. We will observe this closeness in the gifts of power now under consideration. The gifts are separate, yet they are one in the Holy Spirit, connected like the links of a chain.

2. MANY KINDS OF FAITH

- A. Sometimes the gift of faith is mistaken for faith in general.
- B. We recognize many kinds of faith. Every person has a measure of faith.

Romans 12:3, *For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.*

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- C. Each human has a natural faith. The farmer has faith when he sows his seed, the fisherman has faith when he casts his hook.
- D. There is also a saving faith. The thief on the cross had such faith. The Philippian jailer had such faith. We need faith to become converted and we need faith to walk with God, but the gift of faith is a special faith which achieves supernaturally what is impossible by human instruments. It is a sign gift from the Holy Spirit.

3. DANIEL POSSESSED THE GIFT OF FAITH

When Daniel was placed in the den of lions he immediately became the master of the situation. He did not hurt the beasts. He did not ask God for power to tear them to pieces. The prophet simply radiated a force that caused the lions to lie down in perfect rest as Daniel slept among them. He personally did nothing; it was God who performed the amazing miracle.

4. THE THREE HEBREW CHILDREN DEMONSTRATED THE GIFT OF FAITH

When the three Hebrew children were placed in the fiery furnace, they did not fight the flames. They did not resist the flames. They did not put out the fire. God supernaturally preserved them.

5. GEORGE MUELLER OF BRISTOL, ENGLAND

Mr. George Mueller of Bristol, England, demonstrated the gift of faith with amazing results. Without any human effort to raise funds, such as letter writing or lecturing, he fed thousands of orphans through the gift that God had given him to believe for the impossible. Many times he was tested, but every time at the moment of need the provision was present.

6. REVEREND HOWARD CARTER OF LONDON, ENGLAND

- A. Reverend Howard Carter often demonstrated this gift of faith in his life and ministry. Once he purchased a church in London by faith. He simply committed himself to do it but had no funds. He was president of Hampstead Bible School and the faculty and students were greatly concerned because he had made the commitment but possessed no funds to fulfill it. The time came for the final payment to be made and he did not have one cent. The students and teachers were greatly troubled and spent much time in prayer, but Brother Carter said, "God has assured me that I will have this full payment on schedule."

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The night before the final day of closure on the property, the teachers and the students were worried and upset. They thought that the next day would be a day of great embarrassment and that they would lose the church. Reverend Carter, on the other hand, was anything but ill at ease. He said, "We do not need money until tomorrow morning."

The last mail delivery in London was at 9:00 p.m. As Reverend Carter picked up the mail from the box at the Hampstead Bible School, there was a large brown envelope. When he opened it, there--in cash--was the total amount necessary to pay off the church. At breakfast the following morning he revealed the good news to the great relief of those who were concerned. There was neither name nor address of the donor.

- B. The gift of faith was used remarkably in the ministry of Howard Carter on one occasion during World War I. As a conscientious objector, Reverend Carter was placed in a work camp. His cell was small, uncomfortable, and damp. Water dripped on him incessantly, almost driving him mad. After suffering this torture for some time, he prayed and said in the Spirit, "I command you, water, to flow the other way." Reverend Carter testifies that immediately the water ceased to fall from that crack in the ceiling. It was dynamic faith in action.

7. THE GIFT OF FAITH IS UNLIMITED

The gift of faith has been manifested by many of God's people. It is evidenced when a supernatural event occurs without human effort. Faith permits God to perform. This gift is unlimited because God is the source of its energy.

8. FAITH HAS TO DO WITH BEING "MORE THAN CONQUERORS"

The battle is won. God has won it for you.

Romans 8:37, Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

9. JESUS SPOKE TO THE FIG TREE

Matthew 21:19, And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away.

The next day, Jesus did not pay any attention to the fig tree. He had finished His work. His disciples wondered if it really happened and went over to have a look. The fig tree had died from the roots up, not from the leaves down. We often ask why the Lord did this. That particular tree always had fruit before it had leaves. When it had

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leaves but no fruit, it was a hypocrite. Jesus said, “Because you are parading as having something you do not, you will die.” This only reveals that Jesus does not like hypocrisy.

10. JESUS AND THE STORM

Mark 4:37, *And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.*

Luke 8:23, *But as they sailed he fell asleep: and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were filled with water, and were in jeopardy.*

Jesus spoke one word . . . “peace!” The disciples were amazed and said, “What manner of man is this?” It was the force and the potency of a gift called faith where no human strength of any kind is used. God does it through His mighty power. The gift of faith is God’s doing something for you Himself, and you have nothing to do with it.

11. TWELVE LEGIONS OF ANGELS

A. Matthew 26:53, *Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?*

A legion is a minimum of 2,000! Jesus is talking about 24,000 plus! Faith is commanding the legions of heaven to perform on our behalf.

B. Acts 16:25, *And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.*

Paul and Silas had irons on and had been beaten with stripes. They could not help themselves because their hands and feet were in bondage. In a dirty dungeon, with blood running down their backs from the lashes of a whip, they began singing praises to God. The jail began to shake. Their bonds dropped off and the doors flew open. The jailer came in wanting to know what he could do to be saved.

12. THE GIFT OF FAITH CAN OPERATE IN THE AREA OF DIVINE PROTECTION

1 Kings 17:3-6, *Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan.*

v. 4, *And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.*

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v. 5, *So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan.*
v. 6, *And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook.*

Elijah had to supernaturally believe.

13. MOSES THREW DOWN HIS ROD

Exodus 4:2-4, *And the LORD said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod.*
v.3, *And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it.*
v. 4, *And the LORD said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand:*

Moses had faith that it would happen.

14. ELISHA AND THE IRON AXE HEAD

2 Kings 6:5-6, *But as one was felling a beam, the ax head fell into the water: and he cried, and said, Alas, master! for it was borrowed.*
v. 6, *And the man of God said, Where fell it? And he showed him the place. And he cut down a stick, and cast it in thither; and the iron did swim.*

Elisha spoke; God did the rest.

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**THE GIFTS OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT**

Lesson 15

**THE GIFT OF
THE WORKING OF MIRACLES**

INTRODUCTION:

In the category of power, we now deal with the gift of the working of miracles. A supernatural happening is only a miracle as far as man is concerned. God, having all power, does not recognize miracles. What is a miracle to man is only an act with God. It is a miracle with man because he would not be able to perform this in his own natural strength.

The Greek words for “working of miracles” are *energemata dunameon*. From the first word, we derive our word “energy.” From the second word, we derive our word “dynamite.” The second word for miracles, or *dunameon*, is the same word that is translated “power” in Acts 1:8. Thus we could say this is the gift of “energy of dynamite,” or “explosion of almightiness.”

The gift of the working of miracles denotes a supernatural intervention by God in the ordinary course of nature. In this gift, God works through a man or through some instrument.

READING:

1 Corinthians 12:10, *To another the working of miracles; . . .*

1. THE DONKEY SPOKE

Numbers 22:28 relates how the dumb beast spoke human words. This was a supernatural intervention. The working of miracles differs from the gift of faith in that God uses an earthly instrument to carry out His plan.

2. DAVID AND THE WORKING OF MIRACLES

When David slew a lion and a bear with his bare hands, it was the working of miracles. As anyone knows, you cannot kill a lion or a bear with your hands (1 Samuel 17:34-35).

3. SAMSON AND MIRACLES

Samson, a judge of Israel, slew a lion with his naked hands. He slew a thousand men with the jawbone of an ass, and dislocated the pillars of a great temple where thousands of people were worshipping. It was the force of miracles that did it.

Judges 14:6, And the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done.

Judges 15:15, And he found a new jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it, and slew a thousand men therewith.

Judges 16:29-30, And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood, and on which it was borne up, of the one with his right hand, and of the other with his left.

v. 30, And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein. So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life.

4. THE GIFT OF FAITH OR THE WORKING OF MIRACLES

It is the same spirit working within us regardless of the specific gift. The difference between the gift of faith and the gift of working of miracles is that with the gift of faith, God does everything for you, while with the gift of working of miracles, God uses man to bring about the phenomenon.

STUDY GUIDE
INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

**THE GIFTS OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT**

Lesson 16

THE GIFTS OF HEALING

INTRODUCTION:

One of the most exciting gifts from heaven, the gifts of healing, have to do with the supernatural imparting of God's healing power to human beings.

READING:

1 Corinthians 12:28, . . . *thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings . . .*

1. THE ONLY PLURAL GIFT

The student will notice "gifts." It is in the plural and indicates that actually there are a series of gifts within this gift.

2. HOW MANY GIFTS OF HEALING?

One may ask, "How many gifts of healing are there?" It has been suggested that there are possibly as many categories of disease as there were stripes placed upon the back of Jesus.

Isaiah 53:5, . . . *with His stripes we are healed.*

It was evidently Roman law that the prisoner should only suffer 40 stripes less one, or 39. There may be 39 different areas of sickness, such as congenital sickness, organic ailments, sickness by neglect of the body, sickness which comes from germs, sickness as a result of a spirit of infirmity, and sickness which is actually oppression and possession of the devil.

One might ask, "Why doesn't one person have the total gifts of healing?"

The Gifts of Healing

Lesson 16

The only person who ever had the total gifts of healing was the Lord Jesus. The Apostle Paul could not heal everyone. He even left members of his own evangelistic party behind because they were sick (Philippians 2:25-27). Simon Peter had to call in Jesus to heal his mother-in-law (Luke 4:38-39; Matthew 8:14-15).

3. WHY THE GIFT IS LIMITED

A student might ask, “Why could not a minister have all the gifts of the Spirit?” He would then be like God and the world would make him a god. The world would lavish praise upon him until he would become proud like Lucifer (Isaiah 14:13-14). No human being could stand the praise, the honor, and the riches lavished upon him if he had the ability to heal every disease among men. It is very interesting to study the end of those who have been especially used in divine healing.

4. HOW THE GIFT WORKS

The student will, with close observation, see how the men and women blessed with a divine-healing ministry are blessed with the ability to heal certain diseases.

- A. Reverend Stephen Jefferies of England was especially used to heal rheumatoid arthritis and all kinds of arthritic diseases.
- B. Reverend Fred Squire was especially used to minister to those with blind eyes. The last time I saw him, over 400 blind eyes had been opened.
- C. Reverend Clifton Erickson ministers with great success to persons with growths such as goiters, cancers, etc. We witnessed many goiters leaving people instantly in his great crusade in the Philippines.

5. HOW TO BE HEALED

- A. We must be careful to tell you that there are many ways to be healed. The greatest way is to pray for yourself. More people are healed this way than any other way.
- B. The second way to be healed is for a member of your family to pray for you. God will answer their prayer.
- C. Another biblical way to be healed is to send for the elders of the church and they will pray over you and you will be healed (James 5:14). You can always call for your pastor to pray for you and be healed.
- D. However, a remarkable way to be healed is through the sign-gift ministry, when a servant of the Lord has a special anointing to pray for specific diseases. When a minister has a certain gift of healing, he may not have sought for it, but discovered that this gift was bestowed upon him when he prayed for the people.

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**THE GIFTS OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT**

Lesson 17

**EXPOSITION ON
1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 14**

INTRODUCTION:

Do we have the gifts in operation?

Do they function according to the divine pattern?

READING:

1 Corinthians 14:1, *Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.*

1. VERSE 1

The word “rather” has only to do with the two gifts of prophecy and tongues. Chapter 14 deals with these two gifts of inspiration.

2. VERSE 2

The gift of tongues is for speaking unto God (prayer language).

3. VERSE 3

The gift of prophecy is for speaking to men.

4. VERSE 4

The gift of tongues edifies the person speaking.

Exposition on 1 Corinthians Chapter 14
Lesson 17

5. VERSE 5

The total Church can participate in this edification (if there is interpretation).

6. VERSES 6-13

These verses illustrate the need of the gift of interpretation in the open assembly.

Musical instruments must give forth sound and meaning. Music must make sense and sound. I could make a noise on a trumpet, but it would have no meaning. Tongues must be interpreted. They must have meaning.

7. VERSE 10

The Greek word for “voices” is *phones*. Oceanographers have now recorded the “voice” of a fish. The mother hen has a voice that her chicks understand. So it is in tongues: the voice is very meaningful. God knows every vibration of tone.

8. VERSE 14

Tongues alone in the assembly are unfruitful. We do not just speak into the air. We speak to God.

9. VERSE 15

The balancing of the natural and supernatural is necessary.

10. VERSE 16

“The unlearned” refers to those in the position of being an outsider or those who are not gifted with tongues.

11. VERSE 18

Paul gives his personal testimony of the use of the gifts.

12. VERSE 19

This verse does not disparage tongues. It proclaims the divine ministry of communication (the need to instruct others). It is a rebuke to selfishness in spiritual places.

13. VERSE 20

Brethren be not children, in your thinking, but in understanding be men.

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**THE GIFTS OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT**

Lesson 18

**THE DEVIL'S COUNTERFEITS
OF THE NINE GIFTS**

INTRODUCTION:

We understand that the devil will try to counterfeit anything of inestimable value. The devil has sought to counterfeit all the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit.

READING:

Revelation 13:14, *And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.*

1. THE WORD OF WISDOM

1 Corinthians 12:8-10, *For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;*

v. 9, To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

v. 10, To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

- A. Witches seek to reveal the future.
- B. Soothsayers and magicians seek to know the unknown.

The Devil's Counterfeits of the Nine Gifts
Lesson 18

- C. God spoke through the apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 11:13-15, *For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.*
v. 14, *And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.*
v. 15, *Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.*

2. THE WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

1 Corinthians 12:8, . . . *to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;*

- A. Palm reading is an attempt to know the present supernaturally.
- B. Gold finding is trying to know where to look for treasure.
- C. Fortune telling is the devil's counterfeit.

3. THE DISCERNING OF SPIRITS

1 Corinthians 12:10, . . . *to another discerning of spirits . . .*

The following are attempts at knowing spirits, but through the wrong source:

- A. Mind reading
- B. ESP
- C. Gurus
- D. Ouija boards

4. GIFT OF FAITH

1 Corinthians 12:9, *To another faith by the same Spirit; . . .*

God does things for you supernaturally.

5. THE WORKING OF MIRACLES

1 Corinthians 12:10, *To another the working of miracles; . . .*

- A. The devil attempts to perform the supernatural through human means.
- B. The witch doctor in Java could float in the air. This was a counterfeit of God's beautiful gift.

6. THE GIFTS OF HEALING

1 Corinthians 12:9, . . . *to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; . . .*

- A. Witches seek to heal by potions, fetishes, and curses.
- B. Cults claim to heal by curses.

7. THE GIFT OF PROPHECY

1 Corinthians 12:10, . . . *to another prophecy; . . .*

- A. Some speak when God has not said anything. False prophets seek to deceive.

Acts 13:6-12, And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Barjesus: v. 7, Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God. v. 8, But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith. v. 9, Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, v. 10, And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? v. 11, And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand. v. 12, Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.

- B. Revelation 16:13-14, *And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. v. 14, For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.*

8. THE GIFT OF SPEAKING IN TONGUES

1 Corinthians 12:10, . . . *to another the interpretation of tongues.*

I have heard false tongues coming forth from demon-possessed people.

9. THE INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

1 Corinthians 12:10, . . . *to another the interpretation of tongues.*

Devils seek to reveal mysteries and interpret the unknown. These are deceptions.

10. THE ANTICHRIST WILL COUNTERFEIT THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

A. The devil gave life to an image. The image then spoke words from the devil.

Revelation 13:15, *And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.*

B. Miracles

Revelation 13:14, *And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.*

C. Healing of a deadly wound

Revelation 13:11-12, *And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.*
v. 12, *And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.*

D. Fire comes down from heaven in the sight of men.

Revelation 13:13, *And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, . . .*

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**THE GIFTS OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT**

Lesson 19

**HOW TO RECEIVE THE
GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

INTRODUCTION:

Our definitions and identifications of the gifts of the Spirit are not sufficient. We must also know how to receive them.

READING:

John 14:16, *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;*

1. **THE PROMISE**

*Acts 2:38-39, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
v. 39, For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.*

The gifts are for every believer.

2. **BY REVELATION**

A. The apostle Paul received the gifts of divine revelation directly from God.

*Galatians 1:17-18, Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus.
v. 18, Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days.*

B. Jesus said to Peter in Matthew 16:17, . . . *flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee . . .*

How to Receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit
Lesson 19

3. LAYING ON OF HANDS

Timothy received gifts of the Spirit by laying on of hands.

1 Timothy 4:14, *Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.*

4. THE BIBLE SAYS

A. Covet the gifts earnestly!

1 Corinthians 12:31, *But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet show I unto you a more excellent way.*

B. Desire spiritual gifts.

1 Corinthians 14:1, *Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.*

C. Be zealous for spiritual gifts.

1 Corinthians 14:12, *Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.*

5. HOW I RECEIVED THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

A. I first received the discerning of spirits while ministering in a Full Gospel church in Java. During the service a young girl left her seat and began to writhe like a snake along the floor. Within my spirit I heard God say, "That is a devil." I ordered the girl to sit in the pew, and when I had finished my sermon, I leaned over and said, "Now come out of her!" By the power of God she was instantly delivered and hundreds of people received salvation that night.

B. God led me to accept the pastorate of a charismatic church in South Bend before He had imparted to me the ability to interpret tongues. When someone began speaking in tongues during my first Sunday service, instantly the gift was given and I received the interpretation.

6. PERSONAL ADVICE

A. Do not doubt.

B. Do not fear.

How to Receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit
Lesson 19

Jesus said in Luke 11:11-13, *If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?*

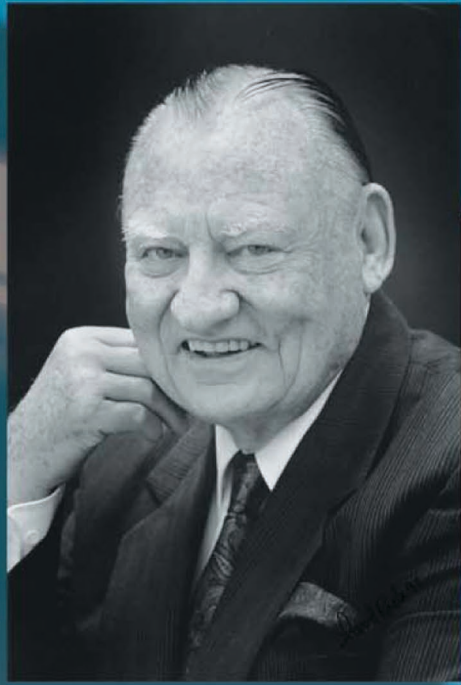
v. 12, *Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?*

v. 13, *If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?*

- C. Don't be prejudiced. God cannot bless a closed heart.
- D. Do not criticize. You may not know who you are fighting.

Acts 9:5, *And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.*

- E. Do not mimic. God has an original experience for you.



Dr. Lester Sumrall
1913 ~ 1996

The voice of Dr. Lester Sumrall remains prominent in the Christian world today. More than 65 years of ministry in over 100 nations made Dr. Sumrall a respected source of wisdom and understanding. He was an author, teacher, missionary, evangelist, and the pastor and founder of Christian Center Church in South Bend, Indiana. Throughout his lifetime, Dr. Sumrall worked tirelessly to fulfill The Great Commission by carrying the gospel to the ends of the earth. In 1957 he founded LeSEA, a multi-faceted global outreach. Today LeSEA's outreaches blanket the world through television, satellite, FM and shortwave radio, and LeSEA Global Feed the Hungry®.

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