



Teaching of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and How they function at Wyandotte Family Church? 1 Corinthians 12-14



We believe in the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the power of God at work through human vessels. These gifts are used to build up and strengthen the "church" (people of God). *1 Corinthians 12:7, 1 Corinthians 13 & 1 Corinthians 14:4. (taken from the Fire Bible Commentary).*

The Apostle Paul also ends his entire 3-chapter discourse and teaching on the gifts of the Spirit in *1 Corinthians 14:40* with the admonition, "*But everything (all of the gifts) should be done in a fitting (decent) and orderly way.*" *parentheses added. This is best articulated with Paul's ministry philosophy in *1 Corinthians 10:33*

The following is an explanation of how the gifts of the Spirit can flow at Wyandotte Family in an orderly and fitting manner:

Prophecy—This is a special gift that gives the follower of Christ the ability to deliver a message or revelation directly from God under the Holy Spirit's prompting. Prophecy is more than just predicting what is to come in the future; it conveys the heart of God and His will. Prophecies offer **guidance, encouragement, comfort, warning, or judgment.** (*1 Corinthians 14:3, 25-26, 31*) Prophecy should not be viewed on the same level as Scripture. Therefore, the Bible says all prophecy should be tested for authenticity and truth (*1 Corinthians 14:29, 32, 1 Thessalonians 5:20-21*). We also see that the gift of prophecy is subject to the prophet, which means the individual can hear from God and share the word at the proper time. (*1 Corinthians 14:31-33*). *This type of gift operates on the prayer team at prayer meetings, worship nights, and the main gathering.*

What do I do if I feel God wants a word or message shared with the congregation?

If you are in a Sunday morning gathering and have a prophetic word from God for the entire Church, please write it down and bring it to one of our leaders up front. You can also approach one of our pastors and share it verbally. This is how we test the word. We will either share the word at the appropriate time or ask the person who gave the word to share it at the appropriate time. If we feel that the word is not right for the moment, we will hold off and discuss it after the gathering. We have put this process into practice so we can experience the Holy Spirit in an orderly way. People are not to blurt out a message or word on their own.

Speaking in Tongues—This is a supernatural expression of God's Spirit. Tongues may be an existing spoken language (*Acts 2:4-6*) or a language unknown on earth (*1 Corinthians 13:1*). When this gift is in operation, such speech has not been learned and is usually not understood by the speaker (*1 Corinthians 14:14*) or the hearers (*1 Corinthians 14:16*). This gift is different than speaking in your prayer language during your private prayer times. You can be baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of your heavenly prayer language and yet may never have operated in this public gift. *This gift is encouraged to operate and express itself during pre-gathering prayer, prayer and worship nights, Sunday night prayer meetings, Holy Spirit Saturdays, and in our Groups.*

Distinguishing between spirits—This is a special Spirit-given ability to properly discern and judge prophecies and to distinguish whether or not a message or spiritual expression is from the Holy Spirit. *This type of gift often operates and expresses itself on the leadership and pastoral team.*

Interpretation of Tongues—This is the Spirit-given ability to understand and communicate the meaning of a message spoken in tongues. When interpreted for others, a message of tongues can inspire deeper worship and prayer, or it can serve a purpose similar to the gift of prophecy. The person is often not interpreting the tongue, but rather, the Spirit of the message. *This gift is encouraged to operate and express itself during pre-gathering prayer, our prayer and worship nights, and in our groups. These are 3 expressions of this gift at Wyandotte Family. The Sunday morning aspect of "church" gives room for other gifts to operate.*

Word of Knowledge—This is a statement inspired by the Holy Spirit that reveals knowledge about people, circumstances, or Biblical truth that likely would not have been known or understood apart from God. Its purpose is usually to provide guidance, to help confirm a decision, or to expose something that is important for a person's spiritual development. *This type of gift often operates and comes alive during pre-gathering prayer, on the prayer team during the gathering, within the gathering in general, or in groups.*

Healing and Miraculous Powers—These gifts are given to the "church" to restore physical health by supernatural means (*Matthew 4:23-25; 10:1, Acts 3:6-8; 4:30*). Every act of healing is a special gift from God. Whether we have this particular gift or not, we are still encouraged to pray for the sick and those in need. *This type of gift often operates on the prayer team or during pre-gathering prayer, in groups, during our worship and prayer gatherings, and at our main gathering in general.*

Faith—This is not referring to saving faith by which a person first accepts Christ and turns their life over to Him. This is a special, supernatural, or exceptional faith that enables a follower of Christ to believe God for extraordinary and miraculous things. It is a faith that moves mountains (*1 Cor. 13:2*), and is often found in combination with other spiritual gifts such as healings, miracles, etc. *This type of gift often operates on the prayer team, during pre-gathering prayer, in groups, and within the gathering in general.*

Word of Wisdom—This is a message of practical insight and guidance directed by the Holy Spirit. Its aim is to apply the truth of a promise, command, or other direction revealed in God's Word, or it can express the Holy Spirit's wisdom about a specific situation or problem. *This type of gift often operates on the prayer team, in groups, or in the gathering in general.*
