

The Holy Spirit's Gifting Work, Part 1

10/23/25

Here is where we're going:

- Gifting, part 2 on 10/30
- Prophecy, Tongues, and Healings today? On 11/6
- The Spirit's Work in You, Today on 11/13
- The Completion of the Holy Spirit's Work in the New Heavens and New Earth on 11/20

1 Corinthians 12:1, "Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be unaware." What is the most important spiritual gifts? The foundational spiritual gift?

1 Corinthians 12:2-3—to know Jesus and be sealed in Him! The gift of the Spirit is the inheritance of Jesus, 2 Corinthians 1:22, 2 Corinthians 5:5, Ephesians 1:13-14. The fullness of this inheritance is to come, 1 Corinthians 15:50-55. The fullness comes then, but the inheritance is at work in us, now: Galatians 5:22-25, the Fruit of the Spirit!

We are *all* given the gift of the fruit of the Spirit. The Spirit also *personally* gifts the saints, 1 Corinthians 12:4-6. The differing gifts, yet one body is an earthly picture of the Trinity.

The church is the chosen channel of revelation to the world. God is revealing to the world 1) who He is, and 2) what He is doing THROUGH US! The spiritual gifts have a forward trajectory.

Preview, yes, but also *proclamation* of the Spirit-filled One, our Lord Jesus

See 1 Corinthians 12:8-11

Wisdom comes from the Wise King—Isaiah 11:1-3, 11:4-5, 42:1-4. Knowledge of the LORD is given to all, but to some *deep* knowledge is given, giving the saints hope of the coming Kingdom, where knowledge of God will be open and available to all, Isaiah 11:9-10, Habakkuk 2:14, Isaiah 54:11-14, Jeremiah 31:33-34.

Next, the gift of faith/faithfulness. These saints are chosen by God to represent the deepest part of Him—His *chesed* heart, Exodus 34:6-7, Isaiah 42:1-4. We are all called to have faith and be faithful, but to some, an extra measure of faith and faithfulness is given to give us the hope of the reality of the coming Kingdom.

Next, healing and miracles. Jesus is the Healer: Luke 7:21, Isaiah 58:8, Isaiah 61:1, Malachi 4:1-2. Jesus began this work that He'll bring to completion. It now goes forth in His body: Acts 3:6-7, Acts 19:11-12.

Next, the gifts of prophecy, distinguishing between spirits, tongues, and the interpretation of tongues.

Regarding "prophecy," let's look at a mirroring passage: Romans 12:4-8. I do not believe "prophecy" is "future-telling." Yet, prophecy is distinguished from "teaching" and "exhorting." **Simply put, I believe these are three arms of body-pastoral-proclamation.** In other words, the pastor-teacher *should be* 1) prophesying, 2) teaching, and 3) exhorting.

Moses—The Prophets—the Apostles. Now, all of them do all three (prophesy, teaching, and exhorting). Yet, the three categories were *particularly* gifted in one of the three areas.

- Moses gave *Torah* (the teaching)
- The Prophets took the teaching, spoke *to the moment*, then *through the moment*, to *THE MOMENT*.
- The Apostles exhorted the saints to persevere in the truth, in Jesus, to the end.

Next, "distinguishing between spirits," or, "spiritual discernment." The whole body receives spiritual discernment (Rom. 12:1-2, 1 Cor. 2:13-14, Phil. 1:9-10), but to some, and extra measure is given. The gift of distinguishing is, in humility, the ability for *heightened* sense of the invisible, spiritual forces (Eph. 6:11-12). The spirits:

1. The Holy Spirit
2. The human spirit
3. The principality and power spirit (gods of the nations)
4. The demonic spirit

The one with "discernment" has the ability to distinguish spirits and has been given keen insight into spiritual strategy and then practical explanation. All in view of the fullness to come, Isaiah 25:6-7.

Finally, the gift of tongues and interpretation of tongues. This is all about reversing the curse and blockade of Babel, so that the gospel and knowledge of God can go forth unhindered.

To close today, what is the purpose of the spiritual gifts? To inbreak and give faithful preview of the *Messianic Kingdom* to come! When Jesus comes, 1) God's wisdom will

be freely given and knowledge of God will FILL the earth, 2) God's faithfulness will be on full display, and the nations, in full, will put their faith in King Jesus, 3) Jesus will heal the nations with all divine signs, wonders, and miracles, 4) spiritual discernment will flood the nations, since Satan will be cast down, and Jesus revealed, and 5) language will no longer be a blockade to God's glory. All nations will speak and praise in one language. THAT Kingdom is breaking in. Today, the world gets a taste of that glory in the church.