

## The Nature of Spiritual Gifts



### Lesson Objective:

The object of this lesson is to gain a greater understanding of the gifts of God and how they function with the anointing. To recognize how the gifts of the Holy Spirit function with our motivational gifts and our service and calling.

### Key Scripture:

**1 Corinthians 12:4-6** *There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. (NKJV)*

## Aware of Spiritual Matters

**1 Corinthians 12:1** *Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant: (NKJV)*

**Key Point:** *Ignorance is not an option concerning spiritual gifts.*

The Apostle Paul begins his discourse concerning spiritual gifts with an important marker, “I don’t want you to be ignorant.” In the original text, the word “gifts” does not appear. Paul was basically stating that he does not want the believer to be unaware of the spiritual. The question as to why he wants us aware of the spiritual realm is seen in verse 31, so that the believer would *earnestly desire the greater gifts.*<sup>1</sup>

Paul needed to address the context upon which the understanding of the majority of these new Gentile believers in spiritual matters came from. They were once idolaters worshipping all kinds of gods who specialized in all types of characteristics. If he were addressing the normal person today, he would have to address what has formulated our opinions concerning the spiritual realm. Today we have all kinds of religions. But one of the greatest hindrances would be Humanism.

Humanism is the belief that the spiritual realm does not exist, we are an accident in evolution, and humans are the only superior beings on the face of the earth. So Paul addresses the most basic issue of our

<sup>1</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:31 & 14:1

understanding the supernatural realm of the Spirit, we have to change the way we think concerning what we think we already know. The humanistic theology has infiltrated many of the mind molders of our society. It is taught in the public schools, through media and entertainment, and supported by governing leaders. Even the Church has been imprinted with their ideals. Although we have fully accepted Jesus Christ as our Savior, we may still be dealing with hidden influences that hinder our spiritual experiences. For example, independence from God, being content with a religion that keeps God at a distance, and the lack of expectancy with the spiritual realm encountering us, are signs of a humanistic influence.

## Gifts of the Godhead

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**1 Corinthians 12:4-6** <sup>4</sup> Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup> And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons.

The following chart will help differentiate these spiritual gifts.

Motivational Gifts (Rom.12:6-8; 1Cor. 12:27-31)	Empowering Gifts (1Corinthians 12:8-11)	Commission Gifts (Ephesians 4:11)
Healings	Word of Wisdom	Apostles
Helps	Word of Knowledge	Prophets
Administration	Faith	Evangelists
Diversities of Communication	Healing	Pastors
Prophecy	Miracles	Teachers
Service	Prophecy	
Teaching	Discernment of spirits	
Exhorting	Kinds of Communication	
Giving	Interpretation of Communication	
Leadership		
Mercy		

God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit were all a part of our design and creation. There is an interaction of the Triune Godhead in energizing the gifts within us, which are spiritual. Each member of the Godhead had an active contribution to our individual spiritual makeup. We have received gifts from the Holy Spirit, gifts from Christ Jesus, and gifts from God our Father. Paul makes a distinction between the varieties of gifts by the Spirit, the varieties of ministries or ways of serving by the Lord, and the varieties of effects, or motivations, given by the Father. They are intended to function and flow together as a whole.

## Motivational Gifts

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**Key Point:** *Our motivational gifts do not determine our role.*

In the foreknowledge of God, we are each designed with an identity and calling all our own. The gifts of the Father are for the empowerment of the call we each receive from God. These gifts influence us with desires, which motivate us towards the expression of our goals and dreams. The Father gives His gifts to all his children. Therefore, whether one is born again and Spirit filled or not, all men are designed with significance by the Father. They are designated for us before we are even formed in the womb. These gifts become entwined with our personalities, which make us individually unique. Most of us don't have just one motivational gift. But we will usually have a domineering gift that influences our drive and ambitions.

**Key Point:** *The anointing upon our motivational gifts empowers our potential for success.*

The amazing thing about the motivating gifts of God is that they don't determine who we are or what role we will play. In the kingdom culture of freedom there is the liberty to pursue our own dreams and roles. He simply empowers us to do great things. We get to choose what those great things look like. None of us were created to be puppets in the master's hands. That would be a violation of God's nature and character. A good father will not force his children to pursue careers that are not on their hearts to do. If a good father by nature will do that, how much more our Father in heaven.

For example: Those who are motivated with a gift of mercy can find fulfillment in becoming a doctor, nurse, and caregiver in a nursing home or orphanage. Those motivated by a prophetic gifting have a strong sense of justice and feel agitated at any injustice. They may find fulfillment in police work, prison guards, lawyers, etc. Exhorters may find fulfillment being a counselor, a psychologist or psychiatrist. Those with the gift of helps may find fulfillment in those jobs that make life easier for others. Those with the gift of generosity find fulfillment giving into the needs of others.

Whereas Father God has gifted all men, we were also designed to function as one in His glory and presence. Those who have not yet come into salvation and who have not experienced the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, will be functioning below their potential. When the anointing of the Spirit breathes upon our motivational gifts, our potential for greatness excels beyond all that we can hope or imagine.

All of God's children on the face of the earth were predestined for greatness. Each of our greatness is measured, not by the world's standards, but by the unique and individual call He has placed upon our lives. It is sin or small thinking that usually derails us from our destinies.

## Gifts of Enabling Power

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All the gifts of the Holy Spirit Paul lists in 1 Corinthians 12 are based in a declaration made by Jesus before He was taken into heaven. *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you..."*<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Acts 1:8

**1 Corinthians 12:7-11** <sup>7</sup> But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup> For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup> But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

**Key Point:** *The Holy Spirit empowers us to fulfill the Father's will.*

Notice that it is the Holy Spirit who determines what is the common good, or the purpose of the Father's will in His anointing. He then gives to His children a supernatural ability to meet that purpose, distributing His gifts to each one individually just as the Holy Spirit chooses.

Consequently, every Christian, irrespective of their spiritual standing, their maturity level, their ignorance of theology, or their lack of integrity or character, can function in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. This is because the gifts of the Holy Spirit are expressions of unmerited favor. We thus have the potential of demonstrating grace through any charismatic gift, as the Holy Spirit wills. The same faith that brought us into the grace for salvation, is the grace that brings us into the powerful supernatural ministry of the Holy Spirit. Grace flows through faith.<sup>3</sup> Thus, faith is the key to functioning in the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

**Key Point:** *Gifts of grace are not based upon our spiritual maturity or knowledge – they are expressions of unmerited favor*

The whole context of Paul's epistle to the Corinthians is that they should not seek the results of grace, but rather, grace itself. Grace can then exercise itself through the one who spiritually discerns the need for that gift expression.

The nature of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit can be divided into three types:

**A. Revelation Gifts; B. Utterance Gifts; C. Power Gifts**

## **A.Revelation Gifts – To Know the Will of the Father**

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The Spirit of the Living God is omniscient. God knows everything. He will give us small portions of His knowledge through the revelation gifts. These facts in the mind of God are imparted into the hearts and minds of His servants pertaining to people, places, events, and things that are taking place now, things that have happened in the past, or things that will take place in the future. When revelation gifts flow, knowledge grows.

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<sup>3</sup> Ephesians 2:8

**Key Point:** *God is Omniscient, thus He reveals His knowledge to us through the Holy Spirit.*

It is not natural knowledge. It is supernatural knowledge. When the revelation gifts are manifesting, the Holy Spirit allows us to see and know things in the realm of the Spirit. In other words, you can look right at someone and know spiritual and natural things about him or her without even talking to them. You just know it.

Revelatory Gifts may be manifested in a variety of ways: They may come in a vision or a dream; Impressions by the Holy Spirit, or the inner voice of the Spirit; They may come by an audible voice; They may come by the quickening of the Scriptures to our minds; or they may come through angelic visitations.

## 1. Word of Knowledge

The supernatural gift of the word of knowledge is “a divine revelation from God that tells or shows us what is happening right now or what has happened. It has to do with facts in the mind of God pertaining to the present and the past.

Words of Knowledge act as keys, which unlock the heart of the receiver to faith. Typically, this gift is a support gift. It opens the way for greater gifts to follow, such as prophecy, healing, or miracles.

Examples of the “Word of Knowledge” include:

- Jesus knew about the death of Lazarus (Jn.11:11-14)
- Jesus exposed the life of the Samaritan woman (Jn.4:17-18)
- Jesus knew of Peter’s denial of Him (Jn.6:61)
- Peter knew Jesus was the Christ by divine revelation (Matt.16:16)
- Paul received a word of knowledge concerning false prophets in the Ephesian church. (Ac.20:29-31)

## 2. Word of Wisdom

The Word of Wisdom is “a divine revelation from God that tells or equips the hearer how or what decisions are needed, and to make good choices. This can also be a support gift that flows into the gift of prophecy.

Examples of the “Word of Wisdom”

- Jesus functioned with the gift of wisdom several times when the Pharisees attempted to trap him in his words. The word of knowledge revealed to Jesus what these Pharisees were thinking and then wisdom came and turned the situation for the glory of God. (Matt.22:15-22; Mk.12:13-40)
- Jesus gave a word of wisdom to the rich young ruler (Luke 18:18-23).
- God imparted to Paul the “word of wisdom” and he knew he was to press toward Jerusalem even though he had received the prophetic word that bonds and afflictions awaited him.<sup>4</sup> The prophetic word revealed the future and the word of wisdom revealed the choices he needed to make.

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<sup>4</sup> Acts 20:22-24

There is a vast difference between having knowledge (even if that knowledge came through prophecy) and having knowledge with wisdom. Paul knew what was awaiting him, but he also knew the will of God. The word of wisdom reveals the will of God.<sup>5</sup> (see also Acts 23:6-11)

### 3. Discerning of Spirits

To “discern” means to perceive, distinguish or differentiate. The gift of discerning of spirits is not reading someone’s mind, nor is it the “gift of suspicion” either. Many people will say that they have a “check” about someone. That may not be discernment. That could be suspicion based on personality clashes. The counterfeit gift of discernment is “suspicion” followed by “accusation.”

If our discernment is usually focused upon demons and darkness, we need to check ourselves for a negativity mindset. Discernment includes recognizing the presence of angels, recognizing the type of anointing that comes into the room, or recognizing the calling upon an individual. It is healthier to be discerning of the good things that God is doing rather than discerning what the devil is up to.

Discernment is also a support gift. It too is supposed to lead to the greater gifts of prophecy, word of knowledge, healing or miracles. Discernment may also come with the assignment to intercede on an individual’s behalf.

Example of Discernment:

- Jesus knew the thoughts of the Jews, which involved the spirits of men. (Matt.9:4)
- Jesus discerned that Peter’s utterance was directly inspired by Satan (Matt.16:22-23).
- Peter “perceived” that Simon the sorcerer was in the “gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity.” (Ac.8:20-23).
- Paul saw and revealed the evil in the heart of Elymas (Ac.13:9-12).

## B. The Utterance Gifts – To Speak the Will of Father

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Key Point: ***God is Holy, Good, and Love, thus His words are for the edification, exhortation and comfort.***

Through these gifts, God speaks for the edification, exhortation, and comfort of others.<sup>6</sup> There is sanctifying power in the word of God spoken to individuals.<sup>7</sup> They are also able to clarify what comes from the mind, emotions, or ambitions of the soul from that which is spiritual.<sup>8</sup>

### 4. Gift of Prophecy

God planted His goodness in us before the foundations of the earth. His likeness and image along with our identity, humanity, and call create a treasure that is extremely valuable in His

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<sup>5</sup> Acts 23:6-11

<sup>6</sup> 1Corinthians 14:3

<sup>7</sup> 1Timothy 4:5

<sup>8</sup> Hebrews 4:12

eyes. Each of us is basically the apple of His eye. People don't need a prophetic voice to point out their sins and failures. They are already very much aware of how short they have fallen from His glory. The prophetic gift does require the perspective of God to see past the brokenness and shame to see the value God has placed in us. Gold is valuable because it's rare and hard to find. You have to sort through a lot of dirt and rocks to find it. In like manner, there is glory in each of God's children and the prophetic gift looks for the gold and brings it to the surface so that the individual can see the value they contain.

Examples of Prophecy:

- Jesus prophesies to Peter as being a rock and the church would be built upon the rock (Matt.16:17-19)
- Jesus ministered prophetically to the Samaritan woman at the well. His ministry included both words of knowledge and prophecy (John 41-26).
- Jesus' counsel to the Rich Young Ruler was a combination of the Word of Wisdom and Prophecy (Lk.18:18-23).
- Jesus foretold of Peter's denial, but that he would also return to Him (Lk.22:31-34).

## 5. Gift of Tongues

The gift of diverse kind of tongues is a supernatural utterance in an unknown language. These languages could be of men or they could also be of angels (see 1 Corinthians 13:1).

The Diverse kind of tongues the Holy Spirit manifests in the assembly of people is different from the prayer language you received when you are baptized in the Holy Spirit. One who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God.<sup>9</sup> His spiritual language edifies himself or herself.<sup>10</sup> Our prayer language is not one the nine gifts of the Spirit, it is the Spirit of God praying through us (see Romans 8:26).

Diverse tongues does not come at your will; it is a gift that the Spirit wills. When the gift of tongues operates in the assembly of people, it is for a sign to those present, especially unbelievers.<sup>11</sup> The language of the tongue is then interpreted so that the whole assembly is edified.<sup>12</sup>

Examples of Tongues:

- In Acts chapter two the account of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost gives a testimony of the Gift of Tongues in operation. The assembly of believers was filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. They went out into the street where those hearing them speak in tongues recognized the language from where they traveled. They heard them speaking the wonderful words of God in an earthly language they had not learned.
- Peter went to Caesarea and ministered the gospel to Cornelius and a group of Gentiles. While Peter was still preaching the gospel, the Holy Spirit fell on the Gentiles and they began speaking in tongues and exalting God in the same way that was experienced on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 10:23-48; see also Acts 19:6).

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<sup>9</sup> 1Corinthians 14:2

<sup>10</sup> 1Corinthians 14:4

<sup>11</sup> 1Corinthians 14:22

<sup>12</sup> 1Corinthians 14:5

## 6. Interpretation of Tongues

This is a gift by Holy Spirit for giving the meaning of the words spoken in other tongues. This is an interpretation not a translation. That's why a tongue and interpretation can have differing lengths. When the gift of tongues is given in the assembly, it is to accompany an interpretation so that all may be edified.

Paul gave specific instructions of the use of tongues with interpretation in the assembly of believers. *If anyone speaks in a tongue, it should be by two or at the most three, and each in turn, and one must interpret; but if there is no interpreter, he must keep silent in the church; and let him speak to himself and to God.*<sup>13</sup>

## C. The Power Gifts – To Do the Will of the Father

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**Matthew 10:7-8** *7"And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' 8 "Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give.*

**Mark 16:17-18** *17"These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."*

**1 Corinthians 2:4-5** *4 and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.*

**Key Point:** *God is Almighty, thus He empowers His people with supernatural abilities.*

The manifestations of healing, miracles, people being set free and lost souls coming to Christ Jesus are the signs that follow them that believe. In their wake of ministry, the Holy Spirit expressing Himself through these manifestations is to be the normal Christian lifestyle. The Power Gifts are the manifestations displayed through deliverance; miracles and healing that are signs of God's goodness and authority.

## 7. Gift of Faith

The gift of faith is a divine supernatural manifestation of God's faith imparted to us for a specific time, at a specific place, for a specific purpose. It is the God given ability to believe Him for what would normally seem impossible in a particular situation.

The gift of faith rests on revelation knowledge of the will of God. This may come by special revelation, such as dreams, visions, angelic visitation, an inner voice of the Holy Spirit, or by the

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<sup>13</sup> 1Corinthians 14:27-28



written Word of God quickened for specific direction. With the revelation comes a strong sense of knowing it is finished.

When the gift of faith comes on us, whatever it is we are praying for will come to pass. It's almost impossible for the gift of faith to come on you and not have something happen, because you are operating in God's faith!

Examples of Faith:

- Jesus knew that he was going to raise Lazarus from the dead. (Jn.11:11)
- Jesus knew that this blind man, who had been blind from birth, was going to be healed so that the works of God might be made manifest – absolute faith in an act which had not yet happened.
- Peter proclaimed a lame man's healing with unwavering faith when he took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet (Ac.3:1-7).
- Paul gave a word of faith to the crew in a storm-tossed ship, assuring them that none would perish. (Ac.27:21-25).

## 8. The Working of Miracles

The working of miracles is a supernatural gift from God to perform what would be classified as naturally impossible acts. It is an intervention of God in the course or laws of nature with the supernatural.

Examples of Miracles:

- Jesus turned water into wine (John 2:1-10)
- A girl is raised from the dead (Matt.9:18-26)
- A mute man speaks (Matt.9:32-34)
- Man with a withered hand is restored (Mk.3:1-60)
- Jesus feeds five thousand with five loaves of bread and two fish (Mk.6:30-44)
- Jesus calms the storm (Lk.8:22-25)
- Jesus walks on water (Matt.14:22-27)
- Peter walks on water (Matt.14:27-33)
- Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead (Jn.11:1-44)
- Peter raises Dorcas to life (Acts 9:36-43)
- Many are healed by Peter's shadow (Acts 5:14-16)

## 9. Gift of Healing

A supernatural intervention of God's healing power over sickness and diseases without natural means. Miracles and healing often work together. When a healing is instantaneous, that is a miracle. When healing comes over time, even if that time is shortened, it is considered a healing. Miracles and healings are both the work of God and to be rejoiced in. Even though we want a miracle of instant healing, the work of healing over time is as glorious and worthy of thanksgiving and praise to God.

There is another difference between healings and miracles. A healing is the removal of sickness or disease in parts of the body, whereas a miracle is creative. In other words, a miracle is when an eyeball is formed in an empty eye socket, an arm grows back, or internal organs are replaced.

The gift of faith will work together with the Working of Miracles. Usually when the gift of faith comes it accompanies the working of miracles. They are like twins. They function together.

Examples of Healing:

- Jesus heals a great multitude (Matt.4:23-24)
- Jesus heals a leper (Matt.8:1-4)
- Jesus heals a Centurions servant (Matt.8:5-13)
- Jesus heals Peter's mother in law (Matt.8:14-15)
- Jesus heals a blind man (Mk.8:22-26)
- Jesus heals a boy with epilepsy (Lk.9:37-42)
- Man with dropsy is healed (Lk.14:1-6)
- Peter and John heal a lame man (Acts 3:1-10)
- Peter heals Aeneas from paralysis (Acts 9:32-35)

## Gifts of Service

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**Jeremiah 1:4-10** <sup>4</sup> Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, <sup>5</sup> "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, And before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations."

<sup>6</sup> Then I said, "Alas, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, Because I am a youth."

<sup>7</sup> But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am a youth,' Because everywhere I send you, you shall go, And all that I command you, you shall speak.

<sup>8</sup> "Do not be afraid of them, For I am with you to deliver you," declares the Lord. <sup>9</sup> Then the Lord stretched out His hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me, "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth. <sup>10</sup> "See, I have appointed you this day over the nations and over the kingdoms, To pluck up and to break down, To destroy and to overthrow, To build and to plant."

Notice the terminology God uses to identify Jeremiah's significance and destiny: he was formed, or designed with an identity and personality; he was consecrated, set apart, or motivated, for a significant purpose; and he was also appointed, or assigned and sent forth with a mission to accomplish specific goals.

**Key Point:** *Through regeneration, we have been formed, consecrated, and appointed.*

Jeremiah attempted to disqualify himself because of his perceived inability to communicate well and for his youth. It is intimidating to minister to people who are older than you are and carry a significant influence. God basically responds to Jeremiah with, "It doesn't matter what your inhibitions are, your lack of qualifications, or your perceived inability, because I'm sending you. Therefore, sense I am with you, you have no basis to be afraid."

The Lord then gives Jeremiah a sign, He reached out His hand and touched Jeremiah's mouth while making this declaration, "My words are in your mouth." God then refocuses upon a very important aspect, his appointment. "See...", or focus upon what I am doing, for I have appointed you with authority to remove what does not belong to My kingdom and to bring and build up what does belong to My kingdom." Does this sound a little familiar?

**Matthew 16:19** *"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."*

The touch of the Lord's anointing will be directly associated with the call upon our lives. For the prophet, God touches the mouth. For the apostle, the Lord touches their eyes. For the teacher the Lord touches their mind. For the workers of miracles and healing, the Lord touches their hands. For the Evangelist and the Pastor, the Lord touches their hearts.

**Ephesians 4:7 & 11** <sup>7</sup> *But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.*

<sup>11</sup> *And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,*

**Key Point:** *The gifts of Christ are not empowering gifts, but rather gifts of honor.*

The gifts of the Lord Jesus are not necessarily special ability gifts. They have more to do with an appointment with authority. These gifts are rather individuals who have the call of God the Father upon their lives to whom Jesus now appoints to accomplish His vision and will. These are individuals who have stewarded their Father given gifts and have been chosen to lead, guide, direct, and challenge God's people towards their greatness.

Notice the word *gift* in verse seven. These are different from the *gifts* of the Holy Spirit. The gifts of the Holy Spirit come from the Greek word *charisma*. This refers to gifts of grace or favor. In other words, you can't earn these gifts. The *gifts* of Christ are a different Greek word, *dorea*. It is also a gift of favor, but it is different in meaning in that it is associated with honor. This is the type of gift you would give to royalty, or a leader, or a government official.

Key Point: ***The gifts of Christ are saints who are commissioned to equip, mature, and empower His Church***

The gift of honor that Jesus gives His church comes with an appointment to an office whereby they have the authority – with all the backing of heaven – to accomplish a given mission. The individuals with these appointed offices have been gifted with an anointing to accomplish Christ's mission. Jesus is demonstrating honor to the church by giving her individuals who will empower them to accomplish His mission on the earth.

***Ephesians 4:12-13*** <sup>12</sup> *for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;* <sup>13</sup> *until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.*

What is the purpose that Jesus gives the church apostles, prophets, teacher, pastors and evangelists? So that the body of Christ will be built up. Why does the body need to be built up? So that she can attain maturity in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. Why does she need maturity in the knowledge of Christ? So that she can come into the fullness of her potential – Christ in her, the hope of glory.<sup>14</sup>

## Gifted, Motivated, and Empowered for Significance

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Lets do a quick review using again our example with Jeremiah. We saw from Jeremiah 1:4-10 the various aspects of Jeremiah's spiritual nature:

**He was formed** – he was gifted with an identity that included personality and call. The gifts and talents he received were given for the accomplishment of his call, or purpose; **He was consecrated** – he was set apart as a Prophet, which influenced his motivations or bend; **He was appointed** – he was given an assignment with the authority to do the mission of the Prophet placed upon him by God.

We also saw a measure of a supernatural impartation in that Jeremiah didn't feel he had the ability to speak well. However, God's presence was upon him and would go with him to enable him to do what he could not do in his own ability. In the New Testament, the presence of God in the Holy Spirit not only comes upon us, but He inhabits us. Thus, the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit are all accessible to us as He wills to accomplish what we could not do in our own abilities.

### Four Aspects of the Spiritual Gifts for Fulfilling our Purposes:

- 1 **Called** – We have a unique identity that has been spiritually motivated for purpose.
- 2 **Chosen** – Those who discover their value and significance are chosen and set apart for greatness.
- 3 **Commissioned** – Those who steward their gifting are given the mission to co-labor with Christ.
- 4 **Empowered** – In our partnership with Christ, we are empowered to do His works.

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<sup>14</sup> Colossians 1:27

Some could say that Jeremiah was special because of the prophetic task God wanted him to accomplish. However, *"God is not a respecter of persons,"* or as another translation phrases it, *"God shows no partiality."*<sup>15</sup> Although, we may or may not be called to be a prophet, our calling and destiny are just as true as his. The Father knows you. He has designed you and gifted you for greatness. The call upon your life is significant to the kingdom of God in the earth.

When we received the Spirit of God into our lives through salvation with the baptism of the Holy Spirit, those gifts and calling of God were breathed upon by His Spirit. Like a seed that seems to be dead, when it is planted in the right environment, it comes to life to fulfill the DNA code planted within it. The kingdom of God is the environment that is conducive to the maturity of our spiritual nature as it transforms us into the image of Jesus.

***Romans 11:29 ...for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.***

Key Point: ***God will not repent of the purpose He has called us to.***

God doesn't change His mind. When He designed each of us before the foundations of the earth and before we were even conceived and formed in our mother's womb, He experientially knew us. He will not repent from what He purposed in each of us. No matter how big of a mess we may have made in our lives, He will not give up on what He created us to be.

## Chosen and Commissioned

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***Matthew 22:14 "For many are called, but few are chosen."***

Key Point: ***Our responsibility in our partnership with Holy Spirit is to "put on Christ."***

The context that Jesus makes this statement was the Parable of the Wedding Feast. Jesus begins this parable much like the others, *"The kingdom of God is like..."* He then goes on to describe a king who arranged a marriage for his son. He sends out his servants to call the invited guests to the wedding. But those on the invitation list did not respond. He sends servants out again with the invitation that is accompanied with hooks to entice them and draw them in; there's going to be great food and fine wine. It's going to be a great party. But still the invited guests were too busy with their personal agendas to attend. Some of them even became hostile and abused the servants for interrupting their tasks and making them feel guilty for not being able to attend. The king then decided that those who were invited were not worthy to attend so he sent out the servants again to invite anyone they came across, no matter what neighborhood they went through. Consequently, the wedding feast was full of guests.

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<sup>15</sup> Acts 10:34 King James Version & New King James Version

However, the king noticed that a man in attendance was not properly dressed for such an honored occasion. One does not wear simple street cloths to a formal event. The man was basically handcuffed and escorted out of the party and left outside in the dark.

What is the message Jesus was teaching? There is a call to the kingdom that everyone has received an invitation to. There was an assignments given to the servants that played a very important part in extending the invitation to the kingdom. The call went first to God's chosen people, the Jews, but they rejected it. It was then given to the Gentiles, who then filled the wedding feast with their presence before the king. There then was the one who did not take responsibility for his part in honoring the king by his behavior.

**Galatians 3:27** *For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ*

**Romans 13:12-14** <sup>12</sup> *The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.* <sup>13</sup> *Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy.* <sup>14</sup> *But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.*

The Scripture makes it clear that being baptized into Christ is a gift of grace to those who receive Him. However, there is also a responsibility given to us to "put on Christ," (New King James Version). The good news is; the ability to put on Christ (which means, "the anointing") also comes by grace. The same way we came into the kingdom by grace through faith<sup>16</sup>, we now put on the righteousness of the "anointed one" by grace through faith. His grace for righteousness is provided for us because Christ Jesus purchased it for us. We just have to receive it by faith and put it on. It's all about a mindset that chooses to honor the king by wearing what our Groom has purchased for us.

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Jesus Christ our Lord.<sup>17</sup> In Jesus, all the fullness of the Deity dwells in bodily form... He is the head over all rule and authority.<sup>18</sup> The government of God's kingdom is upon His shoulders.<sup>19</sup> It is Jesus, therefore, who chooses and commissions His servants to do the work of bringing His kingdom to the earth. We, as the body of Christ connected and aligned and in right proportion to the head, have been restored to our original commission – to take dominion and rule upon the earth.

**Key Point:** *Jesus looks for a heart that is fully committed to Him.*

This brings us back to the truth that "many are called, but few are chosen." 2 Chronicles 16:9 states, "the eyes of the Lord search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him." There is a quality Jesus is looking for in His choosing a man to accomplish His purposes. It's a commitment to bring His kingdom to the earth. He is looking for the heart of humility that is willing to serve. Jesus demonstrated the type of heart the Father is looking for when he laid down His life to serve others. All who are going to be great in His kingdom will first be a servant of all.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> Ephesians 2:8

<sup>17</sup> Matthew 28:18

<sup>18</sup> Colossians 2:9-10

<sup>19</sup> Isaiah 9:6

<sup>20</sup> Matthew 20:26; Mark 10:43

As has been already pointed out, Jesus' gifts to the church are individuals whom He has appointed and commissioned to train and equip the body of Christ to do the work of the ministry. What is the work of the ministry? To take the kingdom of God into the earth and establish His reign. We have seen the five-fold ministry team of the apostles, prophets, teachers, pastors and evangelists as being the top of the governmental structure of the church, which has an element of truth to it, but only in prospect as gifts to the church in service to her reaching the potential she is called to become.

We saw that the first dimension of the nature of spiritual gifts was our identity, gifts, and call of the Father. The second dimension to the nature of spiritual gifts is the choosing and appointment with a commission from Christ to do the work of the ministry. With this commission from God, the Five-Fold ministry team has been given an appointment, or assignment, with authority and commission for equipping the saints. However, the choosing and appointment of Christ is not limited to the five ministry gifts He gives to the church. The five mentioned in Ephesians are among the numerous gifts the Father has given to His children. Out of all the gifts God the Father has given to us, Jesus chooses those with these certain callings and giftings to serve in officiating the church in reaching her destiny. However, out of all the gifts God the Father has distributed among us, only 5% may actually be called to serve in the church. The other 95% will actually be called to take the kingdom of God into the earth.

We saw several of the gifts that the Father has given His children - healing, helps, administration, prophecy, service, teaching, exhortation, giving, leadership, and mercy.<sup>21</sup> But the gifts of God are not limited to the few Paul lists. Only God knows how numerous these are. The gift of music, the gift of artistic expression, the gift of numeric calculation, the gift of science, the gift of engineering, the gift of working with children are but a few that could be added to the list.

**Key Point:** *Jesus chooses and appoints us according to the call Father has placed upon us in serving His ministry.*

The point is this, Jesus chooses and appoints us according to our call in doing His work of ministry. We are not going to earn our way into being an apostle if we are not called to be an apostle. You are not going to prophesy enough times to eventually be recognized as a prophet. That can only come by God's design and call. Just because somebody may be good at teaching, does not mean they are called to be a teacher to the church. Discovering our identity and our call is only a part to the dimensions in discovering the nature of our spiritual gifting with the anointing. The second part of that dimension is discerning our role and appointment.

This discovery of our call and commission is found in our journey. Along this journey we receive assignments with graces to fulfill those tasks. In these assignments, we are discovering not only what we are gifted to do but what we are not gifted to do. It is when you start looking back over your testimonies that a picture begins to form from those things you were good at with those things that gave you the sense of fulfillment, and also those things you never want to repeat again. You will discover that there are things that keep repeating themselves over and over again. The key to this discovery is being faithful with what we have been given and the assignments we pour ourselves into in the journey.

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<sup>21</sup> 1Corinthians 12:28 & Romans 12:6-8

## Stewards of the Manifold Grace of God

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**1 Peter 4:10-11** <sup>10</sup> As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. <sup>11</sup> Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

**Key Point:** *Stewarding the grace of God is the key to His choosing, commissioning, promoting us into His greater things.*

We have each received a special unique gift from Father God. The revelation and assimilation in this very important gift determines our promotion into the greater things through Christ Jesus. What we do with the revelation of who we are and the gifts we received from the Father is very important in reaching our potential. Stewarding the manifold grace of God, (the multi-faceted, many colored, various shades of anointing), is the key to His choosing and commissioning us into the greater things of His kingdom.

In the same way that a cut diamond emits light into the many colors of the rainbow, the hand of God is at work in our lives to cut, shape and perfect us so that we emanate our greatest potential. It's the cutting away of things that make it uncomfortable, requiring a mindset of continual contrite attitude.

**Key Point:** *We have each received a measure of faith through which the grace of the Spirit's anointing flows.*

Jesus made the importance of stewardship very clear in two parables. In one parable, the stewards were given talents,<sup>22</sup> and while in the other parable the servants were given minas.<sup>23</sup> In both parables, some servants were given more while others were given less. The emphasis was placed upon the assignment given to each servant to build an increase from what they received. For those who gained increase, more was given. Increase and promotion was given to the faithful. In Luke 19, the reward was to the point that in the stewards were appointed as governors over cities. The emphasis on the discourse was, "For to everyone who has, more shall be given, and he will have an abundance."<sup>24</sup>

**Romans 12:3-8** <sup>3</sup> For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. <sup>4</sup> Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. <sup>6</sup> We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. <sup>7</sup> If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; <sup>8</sup> if it is encouraging, let him encourage;

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<sup>22</sup> Matthew 25:15-30

<sup>23</sup> Luke 19:11-27

<sup>24</sup> Matthew 25:29



*if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully. (NIV)*

As Paul says, we all have different gifts. We have also received a measure of faith through which the grace of God's anointing flows. Our gifts are to be exercised in proportion to the measure of faith we have received. Paul also communicated to the church that he had a hope in our continued growth of faith.<sup>25</sup>

**Key Point:** *Faith sees beyond the present into our potential and inspires hope that propels us toward our destiny.*

In the choosing and appointments made by Christ Jesus our Lord, these are given in proportion to our faith. Again, being faithful with what we have been given is the key to increase and promotion. The great thing about the assignments of Christ is that when He promotes us, it is usually to a role or assignment that seems way over our heads and impossible for us to do. His promotion excels our faith level. When the steward with ten minas was given ten cities I could imagine the anxiety that had to flood his mind. But just like Jeremiah, we have the promise that no matter how limited we see ourselves, His remains faithful to never leave us, forsake us, and His presence is always with us. This is the greatest component of great faith - the awareness of His presence.

When we become comfortable in our ministry and our abilities to function in our role and assignment, then its time to dream bigger and ask for greater things. Its time to examine our faith and look for greater opportunities to invest our faith.

## Four Dimensions of Spiritual Gifts

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*1 Corinthians 12:4-6 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. (NKJV)*

Looking deeper into the dimensions of spiritual gifts, we can see and understand how they practically apply in our lives.

### 1. First Dimension:

**Varieties of Gifts** - The first dimension is simply the fact that there are different gifts and that each one of us have been given a combination of many of them as the Holy Spirit determines. This is the lifestyle of the supernatural that is to become natural to the saints of God.

### 2. Second Dimension:

**Varieties of Ministries** - Service of administrations refers to what we do with the gifts we receive. It speaks of how we minister it, how we serve with it, and how we steward it. Every gift and every anointing is primarily for service.

It is probable to be gifted in one area and yet serve in another. One could have the gift of healing, and yet serve as an evangelist. William Branham was gifted in the Word of Knowledge that ministered in

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<sup>25</sup> 2Corinthians 10:15

healing. Smith Wigglesworth was gifted in faith who ministered in healing. Maria Woodworth Etter was gifted in healing, but she ministered in evangelism. Bill Johnson moves greatly in the gift of healing and yet serves as an apostle, bringing kingdom revelation to the church. Kris Vallotton moves greatly in the prophetic gifting, and yet serves in establishing governmental structure through wisdom. One's gifting does not necessarily indicate how one will serve Christ. It is how our Lord appoints us to serve that becomes a key for success.

### 3. Third Dimension:

**Varieties of Expression** - The third dimension of Spiritual gifts has to deal with how God partners with our humanity. Being human isn't evil or being in the "flesh." God designed us as human creatures with the freedom to be ourselves. Our humanity is something He loves about us very much. In our humanity, there are none of us who are the same. No matter if you divide our personality types up into different temperaments, we are all a unique blend of Identity, personality, gifting, purpose, and an exceptional history that helped shape us. We have each been uniquely formed in the heavenlies and sent to earth. How we express ourselves is a manifestation of our humanity in right relationship and partnership with God.

**Key Point:** *The third dimension deals with our human style.*

A father who watches his children play will notice that each child will have certain quirks that make them unique from the other children. These quirks can become very amusing to the parent as they watch their children develop into their own being.

The third dimension deals with this human uniqueness in what is called personal style. Some of these styles are passed down from family members and also from others who have influenced us. These influences can come from various culture styles in society, while others are simply unique styles in an individual. There is a different style of English between those who live in London and those who live in the United States. There is a different style of English spoken in California and Alabama. Is one style greater than another? No! They are just different.

There are varieties of music styles such as country, rock & roll, hip hop, heavy metal, or classical that are preferred by some and hated by others. Styles of music will even change from one nation to the next. Typically, when the people from one nationality move to a different nation, they will take their music with them because they prefer it. Of all the various styles, there are some that people love while at the same time others hate. Does that make those styles of music that are hated evil? No! These are just different styles. What makes music bad is not the style, but rather the message contained in the music.

I was a worship leader during the days when the church was transitioning from hymnals to contemporary worship. Bringing guitars and drums into the worship setting was treated as if we were introducing the "devil's music" to the church. It was a difficult transition as a newer generation chose a different style that the older generation didn't like. It was a struggle to replace the organ with synthesizers. We literally had to move the organ and inch at a time towards the exit door each Sunday before it could finally disappear from sight. Change can create tensions that can grow into offenses when we fail to recognize that different isn't wrong. The other side of that coin is, we can experience a significant amount of peer pressure to conform to the style around us and fail to discover and express who we really are and what we enjoy.

Before someone attempts to play Heavy Metal praise music in church on Sunday because that's your style, let's make a very important connection. Our uniqueness and styles are valuable and God loves them. However, you can't break connection with the second dimension of serving one another in love should we throw our personal style into their faces. The apostle Paul was very clear on not bringing offense to those

around him because of his freedom.<sup>26</sup> We are free to express our styles from a heart of love and servitude to those around us.

If you watch television evangelists very much, you will notice different styles in the way they preach, minister, and prophesy. The preacher who prophesies in Old English, "Thus saith the Lord-ah....," has picked up a typical style from the Pentecostal influence. If the prophesies come with declarations such as, "The Word of God says....," that would be a fundamentalist style. Prophecies that go something like, "I feel like God is saying....," or "I see....," are the typical Charismatic style. So what's the right style? There isn't right or wrong. They are just different.

If you watch You Tube clips of Kathryn Kuhlman you will notice a very unique style. Bill Johnson has a different style from T.D. Jakes. Reinhardt Bonke is different than Billy Graham. All of these heroes of faith have demonstrated the hand of God upon their lives, and yet do so with styles that are unique to them. And God loves it. They may each give the exact same word, but their styles will determine how it is delivered.

**Key Point:** *Judging a person as being wrong because of style differences will rob us of the blessing God desires to give us through them.*

If we don't understand the value that God places on our humanity as we express ourselves through our styles, we can miss out on the treasures God has for us. He blesses us with people from all walks of life, all types of cultures, and all generations. Many people miss their miracle, prophetic word, or a revelation from God because of the style of the person ministering to them. Judging what is good as being unacceptable because of a style difference is going to rob us of a blessing. In a culture of honor, styles of people who are being themselves need to be received and celebrated.

If we highly value a person or a people group, we will find ourselves wanting to imitate them. Even Paul told his disciples to imitate him as he imitated Jesus. And yet, it is important to differentiate imitating characteristics rather than duplicating styles. Being ourselves in ministry is ok. Looking at others to measure myself is never a good idea. Looking at Jesus and measuring ourselves to how He's created us to be brings freedom to our expressions.

## Conclusion:

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Jesus did more in healing than making people's bodies better. In each expression of the supernatural the Father was revealed. In the works of God there is a promise of who God is and His intentions to manifest who He is. In God's expressions on earth is a prophetic voice that says, "The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."<sup>27</sup> What Jesus is doing in your life right now is a prophecy that increase and promotion is coming.

We have received from God a unique and valuable identity with a personality. He has placed His Divinity Code (DNA) within us that accompanies gifts, callings, and passions. In this journey towards greatness, our Lord Jesus has a plan for taking us from glory to glory, faith to faith, and laying revelation upon revelation, precept upon precept, until we reach our purposes. He gives us assignments and watches to see how we do

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<sup>26</sup> 1Corinthians 10:23-33

<sup>27</sup> Revelation 10:19

with stewarding His grace. He has gifted us with everything we need to reach our destiny. When we fail, He picks us up and gives us a new start.

How do you know if you are serving in your calling, or if you are serving an assignment. The Holy Spirit will lead us into an assignment that may not have anything to do with our calling in order to develop in us certain characteristics. Therefore, we devote ourselves to each assignment as a calling until He gives us another assignment or appoints us into our call.

***2 Peter 1:10-11*** <sup>10</sup> *Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble;* <sup>11</sup> *for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.*

There are qualities Jesus is looking for in His servants. These qualities are to be diligently sought after. They not only include the qualities of character, but also a lifestyle of the supernatural.<sup>28</sup> His calling deals with answering the question, "Who are you?" His choosing answers the question, "Why are you here." His calling is our identity with personality, and the gift of God that motivate us. His choosing includes the assignments along the way that prepare us for the appointment and commission of our Lord in fulfilling His mission on earth.

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*End of Lesson 104*

## Recommended Resources:

1. Audio Message: "Developing Supernatural Lifestyle," by Kris Vallotton
2. Audio Message: "The Nature of Spiritual Gifts" by Dan McCollam - from the School of Prophets series.

Copies of these messages can be obtained through:

Sound Wisdom  
933 College View Drive  
Redding, CA 96003  
USA

email: [customerservice@ibethel.org](mailto:customerservice@ibethel.org)  
Customer Service Phone #: 1-530-246-6000

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<sup>28</sup> 1Corinthians 14:1