

Gifts from the Giver of Gifts

“...The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men...and would have done sacrifice with the people...Paul, heard...ran in among the people, crying out...Sirs, why do these things? We are also men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God...” (Acts 14:11-15).

The Gifts of the Spirit are important and an essential part of the church and our ministry. Unfortunately some misuse the Gifts and the power that comes through them. God does not give us the Gifts for a show of our power but to manifest His great power. We do not worship the “Gifts” or those used in a particular Gift. We worship the giver of Gifts (James 1:17). Simon the Sorcerer in Acts 8 desired to purchase the Gift. His Spirit was not correct. He wanted this Gift for his selfish use, glory, and power. This is not the purpose of the Gifts.

Purposes of the Gifts

God has purposes for the “Gifts of the Spirit” and they are as follows:

1. To show forth the power and love of the Holy Spirit in public gatherings, homes, families, and in people’s lives.
2. To help make the preaching of the gospel more effective by giving a supernatural confirmation to the message (Mark 16:15-20; Acts 14:8-18; 16:16-18; 19:11-20; 28:1-10).
3. To meet the needs of the people. Jesus always began at the person’s point of need. He ministered to their felt need first and also their hurts. In His first sermon at Nazareth

He preached on ministering to the needs expressed in Luke 4:18-19. Jesus’ total emphasis was on meeting needs and healing the hurts of people. The Bible records, “And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power” (Luke 4:32). “What a word is this! For with authority and power he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out” (Luke 4:36). When you meet the needs of someone, you immediately gain their interest and attention. If you are not meeting needs you are not ministering. The Gifts are given to meet needs and to strengthen the church and people.

4. To wage spiritual warfare against the devil and his forces (Acts 8:5-7; Acts 26:18).

Points to Remember

When studying the Gifts of the Spirit we should always keep in mind:

1. They are to build up the church.
2. They are for the benefit of everyone.
3. They are always associated with needs.
4. They are not just for inside of the church building but also for anywhere we go including our homes.
5. They are for the glory of God and not to lift up man.
6. They require someone to be Spirit filled and obedient to the Spirit.
7. They do not operate independent of each other. They operate together. They work like the parts of the body--together.
8. They are “Gifts” and the one being used should remain humble and not become proud. As long as we remain humble we can be used mightily. God wants to do a work through us but He wants the glory.

The Apostle Paul identified nine Gifts of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12. Other people identify

Gifts of the Spirit

more Gifts in different places of God’s Word. For the purpose of our study we will use the nine.

The Nine Gifts of the Spirit:

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

(Teacher should use a variety of methods for the students to memorize these nine Gifts right within this class session.)

Study Questions

1. What are the purposes of the Gifts of the Spirit? _____

2. As we study the Gifts of the Spirit what are some of the things we need to keep in mind?

3. List the nine Gifts of the Spirit. _____

4. Where do you find these nine Gifts of the Spirit in the Bible? _____

5. Which particular needs did Jesus mention that He was anointed to meet in Luke 4?

Additional Notes