

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

WEEK 3: TEMPORARY GIFTS, DETERMINING GIFTS, USING GIFTS

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES

Romans 12:6 ~ “Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, *each of us is to exercise them accordingly*: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith;”

1 Corinthians 12:7 ~ “But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”

1 Peter 4:10 ~ “As each one has received a *special* gift, employ it in servicing one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

Our schedule will look like this:

- Week 1: February 25 Introduction and Purpose of the Gifts
- Week 2: March 3 Temporary and Permanent Gifts
- March 10 *Congregational Meeting*
- March 17 *Daniel Herceg: ministry update and time in the Word*
- Week 3: March 24 Contemporary Issues in the Church Week 1:
- March 31 *Easter- No Fellowship Group this week*
- Week 4: April 7 Contemporary Issues in the Church Week 2

REVIEW: THE GIFTS

- Spiritual gifts are the gracious way the Holy Spirit gives each believer the ability to serve and edify the rest of the body of Christ. As each person ministers within the church, using human talents, personality, and skills, God brings growth and fruit to his church. God gives you the ability, you minister in the church, and others grow because of it!
- James Stitzinger: “A spiritual gift, then, is any ability and accompanying spiritual ministry and effect that God, through Christ, enables a believer to use, or motivates him to use, for His glory, in the body of Christ, through the energizing work of the Spirit.”¹
- Spiritual gifts are diverse and distinct among individuals, yet they all contain gracious provision, a **spiritual ministry, and most important, an effect or activity**.²
- Healthy members of a church will work at using their gifts so that it blesses, edifies, and lifts up others.
- The Spirit distributes according to his will (1 Cor 12:11), to believers, at conversion, for the **edification of the church and the glory of God** (1 Cor 12:7; 14:26; 1 Peter 4:10-11).

¹ James F. Stitzinger, “Spiritual Gifts: Definitions and Kinds”, TMSJ 14/2 (Fall 2003) 161.

² Stitzinger, 161.

PERMANENT GIFTS

These are in operation from Pentecost until the church's rapture.
Given for the purpose of edifying the church and glorifying God.

Speaking Gifts:

- The effective use of speech and communication to minister to the body that builds up.

Pastor-Teacher (Romans 12:8) ~ Office Given to the church for teaching/leading.

Teaching (Romans 12:7, 1 Corinthians 12:28) ~ Able to effectively teach the Word!

2 Timothy 2:15 ~ "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth."

Evangelism ((Acts 21:8; Eph 4:11; 2 Tim 4:5) ~ Preaching leading to salvation

Romans 15:20 ~ "And thus I **aspired to preach the gospel**, not where Christ was already named, so that I would not build on another man's foundation;"

Exhortation (Rom 12:8) ~ Calling people to change according to the Word

2 Timothy 3:16 ~ "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;"

Auxiliary/Serving Gifts:

The effective use of accompanying services which support and care for the body.

Helps/Ministry (Romans 12:7; 1 Corinthians 12:8) ~ Aware of needs and joyfully serving

Acts 20:35 ~ "In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

Showing Mercy (Romans 12:8) ~ Expression of compassion and empathy

2 Corinthians 2:2-4 ~ "...For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you with many tears; not so that you would be made sorrowful, but that you might know the love which I have especially for you."

Gift of Giving (Romans 12:8) ~ Liberal generosity fueled by love for the Lord and others

Governing/Ruling (Rom. 12:8; 1 Cor. 12:28) ~ Leadership and skill to guide biblically

3 John 8 ~ "I wrote something to the church; but Diotrephes, **who loves to be first among them**, does not accept what we say."

TEMPORARY GIFTS

In operation from Pentecost until the foundation of the church.

Given for the purpose of revealing Scripture and confirming Scripture.

Why Are These Gifts Considered Temporary?

Scripture indicates to us that the Spirit enabled certain gifts for the establishing of his divine revelation and for the establishment of the church.

- There were three major periods of time in history when God used revelatory gifts, and sign gifts (miraculous signs and wonders).³
 - Moses Pentateuch
 - Elijah and Elisha Prophets
 - Christ and the Apostles New Testament
- During these periods, God spoke through men and confirmed the message and the messengers that what was said and written was from God. They were given unique abilities to speak from God and to act from God.
- The gifts of divine knowledge and divine wisdom, prophecy, apostleship, distinguishing of spirits were enabled through the Apostles and Jesus to establish the New Testament and for the foundation of the church. After the church was established and the New Testament complete, the Spirit no longer needed to enable the church with new revelation.

Ephesians 2:19-20~ “[you] are of God’s household, having been **built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets**, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone.”

2 Corinthians 12:12 ~ “The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles”

Hebrews 2:3-4 ~ “how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, God also bearing witness with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will”

- The record of church history demonstrates that those who came after the apostles did not consider themselves apostles. Rather, they regarded the apostles and the apostolic age as unique and unrepeatable.⁴

³ Adapted from Pastor Todd’s notes on “The Confusion of Tongues Usage” from 2018.

⁴ John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, eds., [*Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2017), 808.

1 Corinthians 13:8 ~ “Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away”

- The gifts of prophecy, tongues (+ interpretation of tongues), and divine knowledge would cease.

1 Corinthians 15:8 ~ “and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.”

Jude 17 ~ “But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that **were spoken beforehand by the apostles** of our Lord Jesus Christ”

2 Timothy 4:20 ~ “but Trophimus I left sick at Miletus” (written 67-68 AD)

Apostleship Revelatory Gifts:

“The early church valued products of apostles most highly in their recognition of authoritative writings to take their places alongside the OT canon, because they had direct appointments from Christ as His authoritative representatives.”⁵

Apostleship (Ephesians 4:11; 1 Corinthians 12:28) ~ Establish the Word and the Church

- The Supernatural ability, office, and function of Jesus’ disciples who were sent by Jesus Christ directly for the establishment of the early church and her mission and leadership.
- Apostleship ⁶ is the “supergift” of all the gifts because they basically demonstrated all of the gifts at that time, yet not without the ability to sin (Peter, Gal 2:11-14).
- They received the divine calling directly from the Lord (Acts 1:22; 1 Cor 9:1) to represent Him in the spread of the way, recall all what He taught (John 16:13-15), write down inspired Scripture and confirm with sign gifts that both the message and the messenger were indeed from God.
- They laid the foundation of the church (Eph 2:19-22).
- May have also included Barnabas and James (1 Cor 9:1, 5-6; 15:7; Gal 1:19), Adronicus, Junias, others (Rom 16:7; 1 Cor 15:5, 7), and perhaps others⁷ (2 Cor 11:13).

Prophecy (Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28) ~ Proclaim divine truth

Like the apostles, they were channels of direct divine revelation in the age of revelation.

Prophecy continued in this early church to bring supernatural foreknowledge to the congregation when there was completed NT.⁸

⁵ Robert Thomas, “Correlation of Revelatory Spiritual Gifts and NT Canonicity” *TMSJ* 8/1 (Spring 1997) 27-28).

⁶ Requirements: 1. Disciple of Christ during his ministry (Acts 1:8, 21-23). 2. Eyewitness of the risen Christ with his own eyes (Acts 1:21-22, Luke 24:48; 1 Cor 9:1-2). 3. Directly ordained by Jesus to this office (Luke 6:13-16). Paul was the last, least (1 Cor 15:9, not one of the 12).

⁷ Thomas *Understanding Spiritual Gifts*, suggests if there were false apostles, it implies more than the 12 plus Paul would have been recognized as apostles such that the Corinthians could have been confused.

⁸ Reasoning for temporary gift of prophecy: (A) The church in Corinth struggled with the abuse of sign gifts in the church before the NT was complete; (B) “Prophecy in the New Testament is the same as prophecy in the OT; it is a continuation of the same office and function.” Boyer, “The Office of the Prophet in the New Testament Times” 13, quoted by Stitzinger, 167; and (C) 1 Corinthians 13:2 leans heavily on revelation and sign gifts without love.

- The earliest churches had prophets.

Acts 11:27-28 ~ “Now at this time *some* **prophets** came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them, named Agabus, stood up and indicated by the Spirit that there would definitely be a severe famine all over the world. And this took place in the reign of Claudius.”

- Famines in Israel in 45-46 AD, during the reign of Claudius, Emperor of Rome (41-54AD).
- Verse 30 mentions the elders, the office of leadership which remains on in the church (1 Tim 3, Titus 1).

Acts 13:1 ~ “Now **there were prophets and teachers at Antioch**, in the church that was there: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.”

Acts 21:10-11 ~ “As we were staying there for some days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. And coming to us, he took Paul’s belt and bound his own feet and hands, and said, “**This is what the Holy Spirit says**: ‘In this way the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.’”

- There are two ways of looking at prophecy:
 - A. Foretelling –Acts 11:27-28 – Agabus prophesied that there would be a great famine over the whole world a) must be consistent with God’s word b) must come true just as stated
 - B. Forthtelling—Declaring the Word of God---Prophecy encourages, strengthens with preaching and teaching.

Acts 15:32, 35 ~ “Judas and Silas, also being **prophets** themselves, **encouraged and strengthened** the brethren **with a lengthy message**... But Paul and Barnabas stayed in Antioch, **teaching and preaching with many others also**, the word of the Lord.”

- Thus, prophecy as a gift ceased because the Lord had no *new direct revelation*, but the nature of proclamation continued with teaching and exhortation and still continues today.

Distinguishing Spiritual Gifts (1 Corinthians 12:10) ~ Discern true from false revelation.

- The supernatural ability to distinguish between the Spirit of God and the demonic.
- A validating companion to prophecy to know and edify the church with clarity concerning whether claimed prophecy was legitimately from God. (Acts 16:16, 18; 1 John 4:1-3)
- “Guarded the church from being led astray”

Acts 5:3 ~ “But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back *some* of the price of the land?”

- Today, one may be enabled to distinguish truth from error as already laid out in Scripture.

Word of Wisdom (1 Corinthians 12:8) ~ Declaring divine wisdom in a situation

- The supernatural ability to understand the mysteries of God (1 Cor 13:2, 8, 9, 12) when prophecy is given, offering to the church the depths of God (1 Cor 2:6-13).
- Called a “*word of wisdom*” in 1 Corinthians 12, making it a speaking gift for others.

- This gift “focuses more attention on the reception of the revelation from God while prophecy puts more emphasis upon communicating...”⁹
- Today one may be enabled to wisely apply the truth to circumstances.

Word of Knowledge (1 Corinthians 12:8) ~ Speak truth from God

- The supernatural ability to what God knows to the extent the church needs to know it.
- On a supernatural level, God revealed to apostles and prophets what they needed to know regarding revelation. This wasn’t human level understanding and reason, but God-breathed knowledge.

1 Corinthians 13:2 ~ “If I have the **gift of prophecy**, and **know** all **mysteries** and all knowledge; and if I have **all faith**, so as to **remove mountains**, but do not have love, I am nothing.”

Confirmatory Gifts:

Faith (1 Corinthians 12:9) ~ Extraordinary ability to trust God

- The supernatural ability to trust the Lord in a special way to overcome obstacles to their ministries for Christ in the early church.
- Related to the miraculous gifts in 1 Corinthians 13:2.
- A trust that God would prove his word through the miraculous gifts when needed, how needed.

Hebrews 2:4 ~ “God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.”

- Today the Spirit still enables some to stand strong through great difficulty and hardship without wavering to encourage and bolster the church. They are characterized by persistent prayer.

James 1:5-6 ~ “But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But he must ask in **faith without any doubting**, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.”

Effective Working of Miracles (1 Corinthians 12:10, 28) ~ Able to display the miraculous

- The supernatural ability to confirm the revelation of God through the Apostles with the accompanying sign or wonder which could only be from God.
- Used to verify God’s spokesmen and their messages before the NT was complete.

Acts 2:22 ~ “Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, **a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs** which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know—”

- The 72 sent by Christ were given power over the demons in Luke 10:17-19
- The power of death and the result of new life: **Acts 9:41-42** ~ “And he gave her his hand and raised her up; and calling the saints and widows, he **presented her alive**. It became known all over Joppa, and **many believed in the Lord**.”

⁹ Thomas, *Understanding Spiritual Gifts*, 179.

Healings (1 Corinthians 12:9, 28) ~ Able to display signs of effective and permanent healing

- The supernatural ability to exercise and effectively heal in ways not normal to how our bodies normally heal themselves.
- Plural: wide variety of methods, means and levels of severity.
- Immediate and effective healings. **Matthew 20:34** ~ Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes; and immediately they regained their sight and followed Him.”
- Jesus commanded the 72 he sent out to “heal those in it who are sick, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’” ~ Luke 10:9

Tongues (1 Corinthians 12:10, 28; 14:22) ~ God-enabled speech in foreign languages

- Purpose: “Tongues are for a **sign**, not to those who believe, but to unbelievers” (1 Cor 14:22).¹⁰ A sign (semeion) was, “a ‘fingerpost’ of God, an authenticating (Rom 4:11; 2 Thess 3:17) and in most cases miraculous (Acts 2:19, 22; 14:3; Rom 15:4:19; 1 Cor 1:22; 2 Cor 12:12) pointer... Those who had been steeped in Judaism all their lives needed elements of tangible proof that the new movement founded by Jesus Christ was genuinely of God.”¹¹
- Always accompanied by an audience of unbelievers or interpretation for edification (Acts 2:19, 22; 1 Cor 14:13, 22, 26-28).
- Acts 2 and 1 Corinthians 12-14 contain the same language about *speaking with tongues*, both pertain to foreign languages, both required understanding through native language speaker or interpretation, both had a shocking reaction (Acts 2:13; 1 Cor 14:23), and both are connected to prophecy.

Interpretation of Tongues (1 Cor. 12:30; 14:5, 13, 26-28) ~ Explain the tongue’s meaning

- Tongues’ twin, and nearly identical to prophecy because the interpretation enabled the listeners to understand.
- Interpretation brings edification (1 Cor 14:5), a productive outcome of tongues (1 Cor 14:13-15), and peace in the assembly together (1 Cor 14:28, 33).

DISCOVERING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT:¹²

1 Peter 4:10 ~ “As each one has received a gift (sg), use it (sg)...”

- The Spirit uniquely distributes a mixture of abilities to each person.
- Every believer has at least one gift. Desire to serve the church with what you’ve been given.

¹⁰ “In Peter’s Pentecost sermon (Acts 2:22 ff.), he described Jesus the Nazarene as a man approved, identified, accredited, confirmed, and dedicated from God or by God to the Jewish people by means of miracles and wonders and signs that God did through Him in the midst of these same people. Such supernatural feats were what proved the apostles and prophets to be from God and demonstrated the divine origin of the message they spoke,” Thomas, *Understanding Spiritual Gifts*, 187.

¹¹ Thomas, *Understanding Spiritual Gifts*, 104.

¹² Adapted from ‘Appendix F’ of Robert Thomas, *Understanding Spiritual Gifts*, 205-214.

- Study what Scripture says about the church (Eph 4), the value of everyone in the body (1 Cor 12), and the purpose of each of the gifts.
- Pray for wisdom in discerning how the Lord has gifted you.
- Be aware of how the Lord in his providence has prepared you for good works (Eph 2:10) through your natural abilities, talents, skills, resources, or circumstances.
- Evaluate where you recognize your genuine joy or greater desire for serving in the church.

1 Timothy 3:1 ~ “It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do.”

- Be willing to experiment in serving in various ways in the church.
 - Your gifting may care for others more as you grow in spiritual wisdom and knowledge.
 - As a young believer, your gifting may be more effective 1-1 or in smaller groups. God gives more grace as you grow in responsibility and maturity.
- Note when joy, satisfaction, and desire accompany various activities in the body.
- Be alert to the reactions, affirmations, and evaluations of others.
- Self-evaluate according to whether you noticed fruitful encouragement of others.
- Recognize that you have a combination of gifts, displaying unique ways you serve the church.
- Recognize degrees of giftedness and a range of ability.

USING YOUR GIFT:

1. Develop and be diligent to grow in your gift!

1 Timothy 4:13 ~ “Until I come, give attention to the *public reading of Scripture*, to exhortation and teaching.” *Practice, study, talk, enhance.*

2 Timothy 1:6 ~ “For this reason I remind you to **kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you...**”

2. Maintain your gift with harmony, demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit, with love, patience, etc.
3. Adjust or regulate your gift in light of others’ gifts in the body with patience (Phi 2:1-5)
4. Beware of pride and arrogance in using your gift (1 Corinthians 12:21)
5. Remember the value of each person in the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:15-17)