

## Study 0021

### Scripture Text: Hebrews 6:2a; 1 Corinthians 12:1-7

Our second scripture text tells us that God does not want us to be ignorant of the spiritual gifts, which He bestows upon us at Holy Spirit baptism. Furthermore, we are told that these spiritual gifts are given to those who are Christ's; that they are varied and diverse in the way they are used and operated; and, that they are given to a person for the benefit of all (including unbelievers). We will thus be taking a look at the gifts of the Holy Spirit in this study and the next. We had previously identified seventeen spiritual gifts from **Romans 12:6-8** and **1 Corinthians 12:8-11, 28**. For ease of study, we shall consider spiritual gifts under the categories mentioned in our last study. In this study, our focus is on revelation, power/demonstration, and inspiration/ vocal gifts; while we shall examine service/ ministry, support, and administration/ organization gifts, next study.

### Revelation Gifts

As the name suggests, these are gifts which enable the recipient see or know what has been revealed by God. They must be distinguished from the esoteric means of probing into what is not revealed (**1 Corinthians 2:9-10; Deuteronomy 29:29; Matthew 16:13-17**). Revelation gifts are:

- (a) A Word of Wisdom. This is when a word or message from God is given to a person in which God reveals His plans/purpose about the future; or provides a solution to a problem which could never have been solved otherwise (**Luke 22:10-12; Genesis 41:31-36; 1 Kings 3:16-28; Exodus 15:22-25; 31:1-6**)
- (b) A Word of Knowledge. This is when a word or message from God is given to a person, revealing information about a situation, and it is usually followed by a means of solving the problem (**Genesis 41:1-32; Daniel 2:1-45; John 4:15-19; 11:11-15; 2 Kings 6:8-12; Matthew 12:14-15; 16:5-8**)
- (c) Discerning of Spirits. This is when God gives insight into the realm of the spirits or when God reveals the spirit(s) in operation in an environment or in an individual. This is not something that we think about or guess, but it is something that is clearly revealed by the Holy Spirit (**Acts 16:16-18; 8:18-32; 1 Kings 22:1-23; 1 John 4:1-3**)

### Power or Demonstration Gifts

These are essentially gifts that demonstrate the miraculous power of God at work through the believer in Christ. In this category are:

- (a) Faith. This gift is to be distinguished from the faith that we demonstrate in believing God for salvation and receiving from Him. This is a gift or tool given to the believer in Christ, which enables him to believe God for the obviously impossible, so that God can bring a blessing to people (**Hebrews 11:6a**). This gift operates in conjunction with most other gifts, for example, the working of miracles. (**Acts 3:1-8; Romans 12:6-8**).
- (b) The Gifts of Healings. This is the supernatural ability bestowed on a believer in Christ to bring healing to others. It is important to note that it is 'gifts' as in many, not a 'gift' as in one; and it is also 'healings' as in numerous, not 'healing' as in one. These are not 'one-gift-fits-all'; thus, we have different gifts to administer different healings. Furthermore, these gifts operate without the agency of medicine or medication (**Matthew 4:23-24; 8:1-3, 5-13, 14-15; Acts 5:15-16**).

- (c) The Working of Miracles. This is the supernatural ability given to a believer to perform miracles in the lives of others or for the benefit of others. A miracle happens when natural laws are either suspended or dismissed and supernatural laws release them for the sole purpose of bringing a blessing to others (**John 6:6-13; 9:1-7; Mark 8:22-25; Exodus 14:15-16, 21-22**).

### **Inspiration or Vocal Gifts**

These are so called because they are utterances made by people who are inspired by the Holy Spirit to speak forth. They are not utterances made by the will of man. The line separating the gifts in this category can sometimes be blurred: for example, a person may speak in tongues and interpret at the same time; which then makes it prophecy! The vocal gifts are:

- (a) Prophecy. This is the ability to convey the word of God as it is given directly from the throne of God in the language of the hearer and speaker. Such messages can be fore-telling, which is speaking about future things; and, forth-telling, which is the speaking forth of God's message as it is received, with or without explanation or exposition (**Acts 11:27-28; 21:8-11**). Prophecy gives information to the church about God's mind, His plans, as well as events yet to occur (**1 Corinthians 2:9-13**). It is not based on probabilities; rather, it is based on the Holy Spirit's revelation of these events. Prophecy edifies or builds up the church (**1 Corinthians 14:3-4**).
- (b) Tongues. This is the supernatural ability to speak in the language of men not previously learnt or to speak in the language of angels (**1 Corinthians 13:1**). Tongues are the initial sign that we have been baptized in the Holy Ghost and thus the indicator that other spiritual gifts are present in our lives. The tongues of angels (which is what we know commonly as 'tongues') is useful to the believer in Christ in the following ways: (1) it enables him to intercede effectively and pray the will of God at all times (**Romans 8:26**); (2) it enables him to be edified and built up in faith (**1 Corinthians 14:4; Jude 20**); (3) it enables him to give thanks more effectively (**1 Corinthians 14:17**); and (4) it keeps selfishness out of his prayers (**1 Corinthians 14:14**). Tongues are however, useful for bringing unbelievers to Christ, and that is especially in the area of the tongues of men (**1 Corinthians 14:22; Acts 2:1-7, 37**); as well as declaring God's message to the church when there is interpretation (**1 Corinthians 14:5**).
- (c) Interpretation of Tongues. This is the supernatural ability to interpret what is spoken in a language never before learned so that all present can understand what is being said. The value of interpretation of tongues is in the fact that God may be indeed communicating with the church through tongues, but if there is no interpretation of that tongue, then, it would be a wasted message, and the church is not benefitted (**1 Corinthians 14:10-13**). Because this gift can be abused and misused, there is a principle on which this gift operates: when tongues are in operation in the church and for the benefit of the church, no more than three persons may speak, but there must be one person to interpret what is being said, otherwise, let those speaking in tongues communicate within themselves or with God, without disturbing the corporate worship (**1 Corinthians 14:27-33**). Furthermore, those who have the gift of speaking in tongues for the purpose of communicating to the church, should also pray for the gift of interpretation of tongues (**1 Corinthians 14:13**).

## **EXERCISE**

Answer true or false to the following:

- 1) Spiritual gifts are for the benefit of the church alone.
- 2) Although Jesus Christ is the Baptizer in the Holy Spirit, the gifts of the Holy Spirit are given by the Holy Spirit.
- 3) Spiritual gifts are varied and they are used and operated in one way essentially.
- 4) Revelation gifts help us to peer into the secret things of God.
- 5) Revelation gifts are wisdom, vision, and discernment.
- 6) While a word of wisdom solves problems; a word of knowledge identifies problems to be solved.
- 7) Discerning of spirits helps us to accurately guess what spirit is in operation in an environment or individual.
- 8) Power or demonstration gifts are those gifts which enable us to reveal our spiritual muscles.
- 9) The gift of faith is clearly different from the faith we receive for salvation.
- 10) With the gift of healings, all diseases can be cured.
- 11) The working of miracles is a gift which enables the recipient to receive personal miracles.
- 12) Inspiration gifts manifest as the utterance of the Holy Spirit through men.
- 13) An inspiration or vocal gift enables the dumb to speak.
- 14) Prophecy involves shaking the individual on whom the Holy Spirit is, so that he can then speak forth what is stored within him.
- 15) Prophecy is for personal edification, just as tongues are for the edification of the church.
- 16) Tongues are very useful for missionary activities because they enable the missionary to learn foreign languages faster and excellently.
- 17) Tongues are also useful for bringing individuals to salvation.
- 18) As useful as tongues are, without interpretation their usefulness is limited.
- 19) There are tongues of men and tongues of angels; and a person with the gift of tongues may speak both.
- 20) Tongues, prophecy, and interpretation of tongues can all take place at the same time and through the same individual.