

Study 0070

Worship Under the New Covenant (6)

Having looked at the fundamental difference between full-time and part-time new covenant priests, as well as, where and how, they each mostly perform their acts of worship unto God. We now turn our attention to looking at the divine gifts available to both the full-time and part-time new covenant priests for divine service.

Texts: 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28; Romans 12:6-8; Ephesians 4:11

There are mainly two categories of divine gifts: those for spiritual service, and those for ministry offices. Our task will be to identify these divine gifts in their respective categories, and then to get to know the purpose for which each gift is given. From our scripture texts, we can identify seventeen (17) distinct gifts for spiritual service, and five (5) for ministry offices. Since we had previously studied the gifts for spiritual service, we shall do a revision of these gifts in this study, and then we shall study the gifts for ministry offices in the next study. May the Lord help us, to achieve the goal of knowing and redeeming divine gifts, in Jesus' name, Amen.

A word of wisdom is a word or message which God gives to a new covenant priest so that he can solve problems which could never have been solved otherwise (**Luke 22:8-12; 1 Kings 3:16-28; Exodus 15:22-25; 31:1-6**)

A word of knowledge is a word or message which God gives to a new covenant priest as revelation or information about a situation or circumstance, which could never have been otherwise known. Usually, a word of wisdom would follow, to solve the problem (**Daniel 2:1-45; John 11:11-15; 2 Kings 6:8-12; Matthew 16:5-8**)

The gift of faith which is to be distinguished from saving faith, is given by God to a new covenant priest so that he can believe and trust God for the impossible, and thus bring a miracle to individuals and the church. It usually operates in conjunction with other gifts, thus making it possible for other gifts to be used effectively (**Mark 2:1-11; Acts 3:1-8; 14:8-10; Romans 12:6-8**).

The gifts of healing is God's gift to a new covenant priest so that he can bring divine healing to others, without medicine or medication. There are many gifts embedded in this one gift, so that various kinds of conditions—physical, emotional, psychological, psychiatric, spiritual, etc.—can be healed (**Matthew 4:23-24; 8:1-3, 5-13, 14-15; Acts 5:15-16**).

The working of miracles is God's empowerment of a new covenant priest so that he can perform miracles, signs, and wonders, in the lives of others (**John 6:2-13; 9:1-7; Mark 8:22-25; Acts 19:11-12**).

Prophecy is how God conveys His mind and plans to the church, through a new covenant priest, and, it can be a fore-telling (something about the future), or, a forth-telling (the speaking forth of God's message which may be a reminder, a warning, a chastisement, etc.); and its primary purpose is to edify the church (**Acts 11:27-28; 21:8-11; 1 Corinthians 14:3-4**).

Discerning of spirits is God's gift to new covenant priests to enable them know what spirit is in operation in a particular individual or environment (**Acts 16:16-18; 8:18-32; 1 John 4:1-3**).

Divers kinds of tongues is God's gift to a new covenant priest which enables him to be able to communicate in a language never before learned and is especially useful for bringing unbelievers to Christ, as well as, in declaring God's message to the church (**1 Corinthians 13:1; 14:22; Acts 2:1-12**). Tongues can be those of men or those of angels, and is the initial physical evidence that a new covenant priest has been baptized in the Holy Ghost (**Acts**

10:44-47; 19:1-6), thus heralding the presence of other spiritual gifts in him. The “*tongues of angels*” is especially useful to the new covenant priest, as it enables him to communicate more effectively with God in prayer (**1 Corinthians 14:2**); intercede effectively for sinners and believers alike, and pray the will of God at all times (**Romans 8:26-27**); be edified and built up in faith (**1 Corinthians 14:4; Jude 20**); be able to give thanks more effectively (**1 Corinthians 14:17**); and, keep selfishness out of his prayers (**1 Corinthians 14:14**).

Interpretation of tongues is God’s gift to a new covenant priest which enables him to be able to interpret divers kinds of tongues, so that all those present can understand God’s message to the church through tongues (**1 Corinthians 14:10-13, 5**).

The gift of ministry or serving is God’s gift which enables a new covenant priest to serve others as unto the Lord, in the local assembly, without feeling despised. This gift may have been what was referred to as ‘serving tables’ in **Acts 6:2**, and may include activities like, ushering/greeting, leading worship, intercession/prayer, evangelism, and visitation (**Ephesians 6:5-8; Acts 6:1-7; James 1:27**).

The gift of teaching is the enablement God gives to a new covenant priest to communicate and expound God’s word in a manner that makes the hearers of the word of God to receive the truth with simplicity, and be rid of ignorance in the church, as well as enable disciple making. This gift enables the new covenant priest to teach the word of God without embellishment, but as an oracle of God (**Matthew 28:19-20; 13:10-13, 52, 54**).

The gift of exhortation is God’s enablement to a new covenant priest to bring encouragement to people through the word of God, and may involve preaching (as clearly distinct from teaching), and counselling (**Acts 2:1-40; 2 Timothy 4:2; Acts 11:19-23**). While teaching clears and warns the heart, exhortation cuddles and warms it; but neither contradicts, or undermines the other!

The gift of helps is God’s gift to enable new covenant priests assist the needy within and outside the church with all patience and humility, as well as, assist with ministry in the church. (**Psalm 41:1-3; Acts 9:36-39; 16:13-15; Philippians 2:25-30**).

The gift of giving is God’s gift to new covenant priests which enable them to give of themselves and of their substance, for the benefit of the church, without seeking dividends from God or glory for themselves (**2 Corinthians 8:1-5; Philippians 4:14-19**).

The gift of mercy is God’s gift to new covenant priests which enable them to extend the compassion of God to others (including non-Christians), through selfless acts of mercy. This gift is very critical in the working of miracles and intercession, otherwise nothing happens (**Luke 10:30-36; Luke 7:11-15; Matthew 9:13; 5:43-48**).

The gift of administration is God’s enablement bestowed on new covenant priests so that they can put in place organizational excellence, order, and structure in the church, which will enable effectiveness in church administration, and, aid numerical and spiritual growth. A recipient of this gift need not know anything about administration, organization, or management (**Exodus 18:12-26; Acts 6:1-7; Titus 1:5-9**).

The gift of leadership is God’s gift to a new covenant priest which enables him to provide true leadership through service, personal example, and love for God. This gift enables the new covenant priest to act as a loving father to the people of God, and to lead and direct them as he is himself led by the Holy Spirit. This gift does not confer authority to oppress the people of God; rather it requires personal sacrifice and humble service from the new covenant priest so endowed (**Matthew 20:20-28; 1 Peter 5:1-3; John 21:15-17**).

ASSIGNMENT

Please identify the gift(s) in operation in the scriptures listed below:

1. **Genesis 41:1-38**

2. **1 Kings 22:1-23**

3. **Acts 2:1-40**

4. **Matthew 15:32-37**

5. **1 Chronicles 23:1-32**

6. **Acts 16:6-10, 16-18, 36-41**

Conclusion

Critical to using spiritual gifts is that when they are used appropriately, they bring _____ to God. Spiritual gifts usually _____ together to bring about the greatest _____ to God.