



Knowing God as Holy Spirit: “Gifts of the Holy Spirit”

January 12, 2020

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Scripture: I Corinthians 12:1-11

We continue our series: “*Knowing God as Holy Spirit.*” For many, Holy Spirit is a less familiar face of God. Through this short series, we will discover that Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force but rather a vibrant, essential *person* who engages fully with Father and Jesus in the glorious life of our Triune God. (And also engages with US).

I Corinthians is actually a *second* letter Paul is writing to this church of Gentile believers (in a pagan city of wealth, greed, and sexual sin). The Corinthian believers have responded to his first letter (which the Bible does not contain) and now Paul is answering questions they have raised. One of these is about the gifts of Holy Spirit...

12:1 “Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant”

* The Greek word used here is *charismata* – meaning gifts or grace, and “spiritual” captures the sense that these are God-breathed gifts. To summarize – Paul is teaching about ***gifts of grace breathed into us by Holy Spirit.***

* A simple definition: Spiritual gifts are the instantaneous enablement of Holy Spirit in *any believer* to exercise a gift for the edification of others.

12:4-6 Paul describes a diversity of gifts “but the same Spirit, the same Lord, the same God...” A beautiful expression of our Trinity God – three in perfect unity.

THEY are the source of these **diverse** gifts given for the edification of their **one** church.

12:7-11 Broad overview of spiritual gifts

- * “for the profit of all” (gifts are given to benefit others, to strengthen the church)
- * “given as He wills” (Holy Spirit gives these according to His purposes; this is not an expression of God having favorites. Gifts are given to ALL believers.)
- * Categories:
 - > Motivational Gift (Romans 12)
 - > Ministry Gifts (I Corinthians 14)
 - > Ministerial Gifts (Ephesians 4)
 - and
 - > **Manifestation Gifts** (I Corinthians 12) . . .

Manifestation Gifts:

I. Discerning Gifts

1. *Word of knowledge* – to know specifics about a matter apart from natural means.
(ex. – John 4:17-18)
2. *Word of wisdom* – to have divine insight regarding a particular question/challenge.
(ex. – John 9:28-33)
3. *Discerning of spirits* – keen awareness of the presence of demonic activity.
(ex. – Acts 16:16-18) This gift is *not* the same as a gift of discernment (keen insight and understanding about a matter)

II. Declarative Gifts

1. *Prophecy* – a message from God given through someone to another or to the Body (this CAN involve a future event, but this is not the defining nature of this gift).
I Corinthians 14:3 - prophecy is for: edification, exhortation, or comfort.
2. *Speaking in tongues* – a message given in an unknown language.
I Corinthians 14:4-6 – this gift is Holy Spirit speaking TO us. (Tongues as a prayer language is US expressing our hearts to God, with Holy Spirit’s help).
- * This gift has been one of the places our enemy has attacked to bring confusion and division in the church. This is NOT an essential gift for knowing Holy Spirit. It is one gift among many, but it IS a meaningful, desirable gift.
3. *Interpretation of tongues* – divine understanding of a message given in tongues.
I Corinthians 14:13-19

III. Dynamic Gifts

1. *Faith* – supernatural endowment of belief and confidence for a specific situation.
(ex. – Acts 9 . . . story of Ananias)
2. *Healings* – supernatural endowment of healing for others

(Jesus models often in the gospels; continued by the apostles in the early church)

3. *Working of Miracles* – divine power that alters physical/tangible circumstances.

All these gifts (and others expressed in the scriptures) are available to ALL believers, not just ministers or “veterans” of the faith. Holy Spirit imparts these (again – for **His** purposes and glory in and through His church) ...“as He wills – for the benefit of all.”