

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

There are nine gifts of the Spirit listed in **1 Corinthians 12:8-10**

- *“There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit”* (1 Cor.12:4)
- *“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all”* (1 Cor.12:7)

1) WORD OF WISDOM - v.8 *“for to one is given, by the Spirit, a word of wisdom”*

[Greek: ‘*sophia*’ – complete or superior knowledge; skill in making the right use of knowledge]

This is wisdom from God, not human wisdom; moving in Christ, in His wisdom, knowing what God would do in a particular situation, and what He would have us do. It is particularly relevant in counselling, but in any situation, we can ask God for a word, the wisdom for the situation, the need, the direction of the meeting.

For example: Jesus’ answer in **John.8:7** is an awesome word of wisdom that resolved a difficult situation.

Acts 4:19-20 Peter and John’s answer here is another example of a word of wisdom in a very difficult situation.

James 1:5 *“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”*

James 3:17 *“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.”*

2) WORD OF KNOWLEDGE - v.8 *“to another a word of knowledge, by the same Spirit”*

[Greek: ‘*gnosis*’ – what is known or understood; by a word of knowledge God shares with us a portion of His perfect knowledge; to know as Jesus would have known in similar circumstances]

Jesus had a word of knowledge about the woman at the well, **Jn.4:16-19**.

The word of knowledge can come through a thought, impression, vision, or a voice that tells something about a specific situation. It is the Holy Spirit speaking to us (**Jn.16:13**).

The word of knowledge often reveals specific healing needs to the person ministering and gives the person responding confident expectation that the Lord will heal.

In other ministry situations the Lord may reveal something about that person. When you share what God has revealed, the person will be surprised and wonder, ‘how did you know that?’ This will open the person up to receive more of God’s word.

3) GIFT OF FAITH - v.9 *“to another faith, by the same Spirit”*

[Greek: ‘*pistis*’ – active believing, confidence, trust, firm assurance in God’s power & truth]

This is a charismatic gift. It is a supernatural trust above and beyond normal faith, to work God’s work, *“the faith of God”*. This is a spiritual gift from the Holy Spirit; it is not the gift of saving faith (**Eph.2:8**). We need the spiritual gift of faith when God has given us a vision or a word to do something we are not naturally able to; we need extra faith; the gift of faith. **Mk.11:22** *“So Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Have [the] faith in [of] God.’”* It is having a supernatural certainty that the Spirit will Himself, provide the necessary miracle.

In the prayer for the sick with the anointing of oil **James 5:15** says, *“the prayer of faith will save the sick”*. This is prayer that calls on the gift of faith, to enable the elders praying to believe for the supernatural healing of the person.

4) GIFTS OF HEALINGS - v.9 *“to another, gifts of healings, by the same Spirit”*

[Greek. ‘*iama*’ – a cure, a specific remedy for a specific disease]

Referred to as ‘gifts of healings’ in the plural, showing that God has a variety of ways in which healing is ministered, all supernatural. The sick are healed supernaturally through this gift.

Mark 16:18 indicates that with healing there can be a recovery time, “they will recover”. If it happens instantly, it is a miracle. When praying for the sick, pray in faith without doubting and expect the anointing of the Holy Spirit to manifest tangibly to you or the person being prayed for, e.g., a sensation of warmth/heat. You can say in faith, healing has been released.

When Jesus first sent the twelve apostles out to minister in **Matt.10:1**, He gave them power to heal all kinds of sicknesses and all kinds of disease; He gave them the gifts of healings by the Spirit.

5) WORKING OF MIRACLES - v.10 *“to another the working of miracles”* (works of power)

[Greek. ‘*energema*’ – an effect, a bringing forth, a causing to happen, a demonstration/experience of divine energy; ‘*dunamis*’ a mighty work, miraculous power, extraordinary force; a display of supernatural power or energy]

The working of miracles supersedes the ordinary laws of nature, or normal course of events, bringing about something by other than natural means. There are numerous examples of Jesus’ miracles. [e.g., **John.2:1-11**]. Stephen had this gift [**Acts 6:8**].

1 Cor.12:28 tells us that God has set this gift in the church. This along with all the spiritual gifts can be given to a person so that they become a miracle worker.

6) GIFT OF PROPHECY

v.10 “to another prophecy”

[Greek. ‘*propheteia*’ – a speaking forth, by divine inspiration or revelation; may include prediction; a breaking forth under sudden impulse in inspired speech that speaks of the things of God]

Prophecy is in the known language and is similar to the interpretation of tongues. It comes through an impression, thought, vision, the Spirit’s voice, with an accompanying sense or knowing that this is of God and not myself.

This gift enables a person to speak for God. Often the person exercising this gift has consciously received only a portion of what the Spirit intends to bring forth. The person needs to speak out what they have received and the gift will flow. The gift of prophecy is to bring edification, exhortation and comfort [1Cor.14:3]

7) DISCERNMENT OF SPIRITS

v.10 “to another discerning of spirits”

Gr. ‘*diakrisis*’ – making a distinction, judging, the act of detecting, seeing, identifying, understanding.

This gift of discernment is spiritual insight, seeing into the spirit world; seeing what is taking place; this is discerning the realm of the spirit as Jesus would have discerned it; it is distinguishing between the person who is inspired of God and the one who pretends to be. In **Acts 16:16-18** Paul discerned the spirit of divination in the slave girl. She appeared to be speaking the truth but it was by the wrong spirit. The discerning of spirits is recognising which spirit is present. Is the person acting under the power of the Holy Spirit; is the person demonised; is the person simply acting in

the flesh? This gift enables the ministry of deliverance from evil spirits to be exercised powerfully.

8) GIFT OF TONGUES

v.10 “to another different kinds of tongues”

Greek ‘*genos*’ – a sum of many kinds, in other words many different kinds.

Greek ‘*glossa*’ – the tongue, any language; a language the speaker has not previously known, which is spoken as led by the Spirit.

Speaking in tongues is initial evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit and there is Scriptural evidence to suggest that this gift, received at one’s baptism in the Holy Spirit, is not specifically one of the gifts of the Spirit taught in **1 Cor.12**. The gift of tongues received at one’s baptism in the Holy Spirit is for prayer to God privately for personal edification and does not need to be interpreted when used in private prayer (**1 Cor.14:2,4**).

The gift of different kinds of tongues is a gift given by the Spirit to bring a message to a meeting of God’s people. The message in an unknown tongue needs to be interpreted. When the Holy Spirit gives a person a message for the meeting in an unknown tongue, it gets people’s attention, because the interpretation often flows in a similar way to the gift of prophecy.

A second use of the gift of tongues that still manifests today, is the enabling of a person to witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in a human language they have not known, to a person who knows that language.

9) GIFT OF INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

v.10 “to another interpretation of tongues”

Gr. ‘*hermeneia*’ – a translation or explanation.

The interpretation of tongues gives the meaning or an understanding of what is spoken in tongues, generally not a direct translation as the tongue is

generally not a human language. It can come as a thought or a vision and may come through one or more people which when spoken out and shared can be responded to. In a prayer meeting a message brought in tongues gets the attention of the meeting; the group waits on God to release the gift of interpretation; this will then give direction and guidance to the meeting. The gift of speaking in tongues and the interpretation of the tongues is a very powerful gift when manifest in the meeting of the church.

The Nine Gifts of 1 Corinthians 12 can be put into three groupings

1) GIFTS OF COMMUNICATION:

Prophecy, Tongues, Interpretation of tongues
Saying things supernaturally, that is **utterance from the Holy Spirit**

Enablement in expression and communication
Miracles by word; inspiration; words

2) GIFTS OF REVELATION:

Wisdom, Knowledge, Discernment
Knowing things supernaturally; **intelligence of the Holy Spirit**

Enablement in understanding and insight
Miracles by thought; information; facts

3) GIFTS OF DEMONSTRATION:

Miracles, Healings, Faith
Doing things supernaturally; **deliverance by the Holy Spirit**

Enablement in power and energy
Miracles by deed; action; acts

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