

# G The Gifts of the Spirit

Lesson Commenced: \_\_\_\_\_

Lesson Checked: \_\_\_\_\_

One of the unique characteristics of true (Bible) Christianity is the dispensing of *spiritual gifts* from the Lord Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit to believers for the benefit and functioning of the particular New Testament body they belong to.

These gifts are key to the life and ministry of every Baptist church. Therefore the study of them is essential — even though it may require having to “wade through” some of the muck and mire of doctrinal error built up over the past 60 or so years largely by the controversial and flamboyant modern-day Charismatic Movement. This movement, with its hallmark emphases on “speaking in tongues” and the so-called “gift of healing,” has successfully infiltrated (and influenced) practically every denomination within Christendom — including Baptists!!!

Sound doctrine is never established by majority belief. Neither is it to be based on appearances, experiences, or emotions. It must always be grounded in and on the Word of God. (To know things as they *are* is better than believing things as they *seem*!!)

The major Bible passage dealing with the gifts of the Spirit is I Corinthians 12–14. In studying these chapters it is important to keep in mind the following:

- The epistle of I Corinthians was primarily addressed to the \_\_\_\_\_ of God which is at \_\_\_\_\_ — *I Corinthians 1:2*.
- This church was filled with E\_\_\_\_\_, S\_\_\_\_\_, and D\_\_\_\_\_ — *I Corinthians 3:3*.
- There were serious \_\_\_\_\_ within the church’s membership — *I Corinthians 1:11*.
- There were also \_\_\_\_\_ present within the church — *I Corinthians 11:19<sup>a</sup>*.

It is *not* a complimentary epistle, and much of what is written concerning spiritual gifts is done so to correct serious misconceptions and abuses.

This study is concerned with the Biblical doctrine of the gifts of the Spirit and the application of these gifts in the apostolic times as well as today.

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## GENERAL FACTS ABOUT SPIRITUAL GIFTS

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The word “gift” is translated from the Greek word *charisma*, which comes from *charis*, meaning “grace,” which in turn comes from the root word *char*, meaning “joy.”

Spiritual gifts are spiritual endowments — freely (and undeservedly) bestowed upon us by God!

### A. SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE GOD-GIVEN ABILITIES FOR SERVICE:

1. They were given by \_\_\_\_\_ after He \_\_\_\_\_ up on \_\_\_\_\_ — *Ephesians 4:7-8*.
2. There are D\_\_\_\_\_ (numbers) of spiritual gifts — *I Corinthians 12:4*.
3. They are called the M\_\_\_\_\_ (i.e. visible evidences) of the \_\_\_\_\_ in *I Corinthians 12:7<sup>a</sup>*.
4. They are given for P\_\_\_\_\_ (*I Corinthians 12:7<sup>b</sup>*) — not for self, but for others (see: *I Corinthians 14:6*).
5. They are to be used to \_\_\_\_\_ to others — *I Peter 4:10*.
6. They are to be used for the E\_\_\_\_\_ (“building up”) of the Lord’s \_\_\_\_\_ — *I Corinthians 14:12*.

**Note:** Spiritual gifts differ from talents. Talents are certain *natural* abilities which need to be enhanced by training and education, and may be used in many ways — for good or for evil.

### B. SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE SOVEREIGNLY BESTOWED:

1. According to *I Corinthians 12:11*, spiritual gifts are given by the Holy Spirit “severally [uniquely] as \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Note:** This means it is futile for a Christian to seek or pray for a particular gift. (*I Corinthians 12:31* is set in a church/body context. Besides, the “best gift” is always the one God gives!!)

2. According to *I Corinthians 1:7*, the church at Corinth came \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ gift — meaning that every spiritual gift was represented within its membership.

**Note:** This shows that possessing a spiritual gift does not equate to spirituality. The church at Corinth had all the gifts, but was at the same time carnal, schismatic, and filled with serious problems.

### **C. EVERY CHURCH MEMBER HAS A SPIRITUAL GIFT:**

1. They are given to \_\_\_\_\_ man — *I Corinthians 12:7,11*.
2. They are given to “every \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_” — *Ephesians 4:7*.
3. Every man “\_\_\_\_\_ received the \_\_\_\_\_” — *I Peter 4:10*.
4. God has “\_\_\_\_\_ [given gifts] to \_\_\_\_\_ man” — *Romans 12:3<sup>f</sup>*.
5. Members will all have D\_\_\_\_\_ gifts — *Romans 12:6<sup>a</sup>*.

**Note:** The rhetorical questions asked in *I Corinthians 12:29-30* show that no one person has all of the gifts.

**Note:** Church members have differing ministries and functions within the body of Christ (*Romans 12:4*). Each ministry, function, and office requires certain spiritual abilities. According to *I Corinthians 12:14-24*, GOD has “tempered the body together” (*verse 24*) by setting the members in the body (*verse 18*) in such a way that the body functions as He desires. Each member is necessary, and each spiritual gift bestowed is necessary!

### **D. SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE TO BE DISCERNED:**

We should be fully aware and knowledgeable of the gift God has given us to use for His glory in the Church. Gifts are discerned through:

1. By P\_\_\_\_\_ (preaching) — *I Timothy 4:14*. See: *Romans 1:11*.  
Hearing the Word of God preached directs a believer to his spiritual motivation (gift).
2. By the P\_\_\_\_\_ (the church’s pastors) — *I Timothy 4:14*.  
The “laying on of hands” on Timothy by the pastors of the church at Derbe/Lystra indicates their recognition of (and identification with) his spiritual gift.

### **E. SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE TO BE USED:**

1. A spiritual gift can be \_\_\_\_\_ E D — *I Timothy 4:14<sup>a</sup>*.
2. Our gift needs to be \_\_\_\_\_ up — *II Timothy 1:6*.  
According to this verse and *II Peter 1:13; 3:1-2*, this stirring happens as we are put in \_\_\_\_\_ of what the Word of God says.
3. According to *I Timothy 4:15* there are two things we must do if our profiting (gift) is to appear to (i.e. benefit) all:

- a. M\_\_\_\_\_ upon these things (i.e. those things mentioned in *I Timothy 4:13*) ...
- AND
- b. Give ourselves \_\_\_\_\_ to them (i.e. use them; exercise them!!).
4. The words “\_\_\_\_\_ us” and “\_\_\_\_\_ him” in *Romans 12:6-8* show the Lord expects us to concentrate on exercising our gift in our church.
  5. The motive for using our spiritual gift is that God in all \_\_\_\_\_ may be \_\_\_\_\_ — *I Peter 4:11*.

## **F. SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE TO BE CONTROLLED:**

Sandwiched between First Corinthians chapter 12 and chapter 14 is the “Love Chapter” (chapter 13). The exercise of all spiritual gifts is to be controlled by the Fruit of the Spirit — exemplified by the first mentioned fruit, charity (self-giving LOVE). See: Galatians 5:22-23.

1. The gift of T\_\_\_\_\_ without charity is just empty noise — *I Corinthians 13:1*.
2. The gifts of P\_\_\_\_\_, U\_\_\_\_\_, I N G all mysteries, all K\_\_\_\_\_, and all F\_\_\_\_\_ without charity are nothing — *I Corinthians 13:2*.
3. The gift of G\_\_\_ I N G without charity is of no profit — *I Corinthians 13:3*.

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## **THE NUMBER OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

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It is not clear as to whether the New Testament lists all of the spiritual gifts there are to be had. The following is a list of all those mentioned:

### **A. THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT FOR THE CHURCHES:**

This list is derived from I Corinthians 12, Romans 12, and I Peter 4.

1. The word of \_\_\_\_\_ — *I Corinthians 12:8<sup>a</sup>*.
2. The word of \_\_\_\_\_ — *I Corinthians 12:8<sup>b</sup>*.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ — *I Corinthians 12:9<sup>a</sup>*. (*Acts 6:8* couples this gift with that of miracles.)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ — *I Corinthians 12:9<sup>b</sup>, 28<sup>f</sup>, 30<sup>a</sup>*.
5. The working of \_\_\_\_\_ — *I Corinthians 12:10<sup>a</sup>, 28<sup>e</sup>, 29<sup>d</sup>*.

6. \_\_\_\_\_ — *I Corinthians 12:10<sup>b</sup>; Romans 12:6<sup>b</sup>; I Peter 4:11<sup>a</sup>.*
7. \_\_\_\_\_ of spirits — *I Corinthians 12:10<sup>c</sup>.*
8. \_\_\_\_\_ — *I Corinthians 12:10<sup>d</sup>,28<sup>i</sup>,30<sup>b</sup>.*
9. The \_\_\_\_\_ of tongues — *I Corinthians 12:10<sup>e</sup>,30<sup>c</sup>.*
10. \_\_\_\_\_ — *I Corinthians 12:28<sup>g</sup>.*
11. \_\_\_\_\_ — *I Corinthians 12:28<sup>h</sup>.*  
In *Romans 12:8<sup>e</sup>* this gift is called R\_\_ \_ I N G.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ — *Romans 12:7<sup>a</sup>; I Peter 4:11<sup>b</sup>.*
13. \_\_\_\_\_ — *Romans 12:7<sup>c</sup>.*
14. E\_\_\_\_\_ I O N — *Romans 12:8<sup>a</sup>.*
15. G\_\_ \_ I N G — *Romans 12:8<sup>c</sup>.*
16. M\_\_\_\_\_ — *Romans 12:8<sup>g</sup>.*

More will be said below about the relevance of these gifts of the Spirit to the Lord's churches today.

## **B. THE GIFTS OF THE SON TO THE CHURCHES:**

In addition to giving gifts to men (*Ephesians 4:8*), the Lord Jesus Christ also gives gifted men to His churches (*Ephesians 4:11*). These are:

1. A\_\_\_\_\_.
2. P\_\_\_\_\_.
3. E\_\_\_\_\_.
4. P\_\_\_\_\_ and T\_\_\_\_\_.

Three of these offices are also mentioned in *I Corinthians 12:28*.

More will be said below about the relevance of these offices to the Lord's churches today.

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# THE PERMANENCY AND PASSING OF THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

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At the heart of the “Charismatic debate” is the question of whether ALL of the spiritual gifts (and gifted offices) mentioned in the New Testament are available and operational today.

The answer to this question is “no!”

According to *I Corinthians 13:8* ...

- Prophecies shall \_\_\_\_\_.
- Tongues shall \_\_\_\_\_.
- Knowledge shall \_\_\_\_\_ away.

According to *I Corinthians 13:9-10*, this will happen when ...

- That which is \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_.

Some would say this refers to the return of Christ. However, according to *Joel 2:28-31*, there will actually be an outbreak of prophesying associated with the second coming of Christ — NOT the ending of it.

On this key question, scripture interprets scripture!

## A. WE HAVE THAT WHICH IS PERFECT:

1. According to *II Peter 1:19*, we have a \_\_\_\_\_ word of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. According to *II Peter 1:20-21*, this is referring to the [written] S\_\_\_\_S.
  - b. The written Word of God is superior to even an EYE \_\_\_\_\_ experience of the transfiguration of Christ (see: II Peter 1:16-18)!!
  - c. Until the day \_\_\_\_\_, and the Day \_\_\_\_\_ arises, the Holy Scriptures are sufficient for us. (See: Malachi 4:2; Revelation 22:16.)
2. *James 1:23-25* likens the Word of God to a \_\_\_\_\_ (i.e. a mirror).
  - a. When Paul wrote to the Corinthians he said: “For \_\_\_\_\_ we see through a glass \_\_\_\_\_” — *I Corinthians 13:12*.
  - b. James speaks of the Word of God as the \_\_\_\_\_ law of liberty (*James 1:25*).

“That which is perfect” refers to the completed (written) Word of God (i.e. the New Testament). The final Book of the New Testament was not penned until c.95–100 A.D. (The Revelation).

### BEFORE

- “We know in \_\_\_\_\_, and we prophesy in \_\_\_\_\_” — *I Corinthians 13:9,12*.
- The gifts of prophecy, the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, and discerning of spirits were necessary during the “days of infancy.”

### AFTER

- “We \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_” — *I Corinthians 2:16<sup>c</sup>*.
- “We know \_\_\_\_\_ things” — *I John 2:20*.  
(Note the word “written” in *verse 21!*)
- The Bible gives us all the wisdom, knowledge, and discernment necessary to live for and serve the Lord. Read: *II Peter 1:3-4*.

## **B. THERE WAS A SPECIFIC & LIMITED PURPOSE FOR SOME GIFTS:**

1. According to *Mark 16:17-18*, some of the gifts were “\_\_\_\_\_” that followed those who believed.
2. *Mark 16:20* shows that the purpose of these particular sign gifts was to C\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ that was preached by the apostles.
3. According to *Hebrews 2:3-4*, how did God bear witness to the word of salvation preached by those who “heard Him” (i.e. Jesus Christ)?
  - With \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, and ...
  - With diverse \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Ghost.
4. According to *Acts 4:29-30*, the church at Jerusalem prayed that the Lord would grant \_\_\_\_\_ to those preaching the Word by:
  - Stretching forth His hand to \_\_\_\_\_, and ...
  - Doing \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus’ Name.
5. Today, faith comes from H\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of God (*Romans 10:17*), which is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Spirit (*Ephesians 6:17<sup>b</sup>*).

## **C. SOME GIFTED OFFICES WERE ALSO TEMPORARY:**

The offices of apostles and predictive prophets are no longer in existence.

### 1. APOSTLES.

The office of “apostle” has ceased. We know this because an apostle:

- a. Had to be an eye-W\_\_\_\_\_ of the resurrected Christ — see: *Acts 1:22; I Corinthians 9:1; 15:8*.

- b. Had to be audibly C\_\_\_\_\_ by Christ into the ministry — *Matthew 10:1-2,5; Romans 1:1*.
- c. Was accredited by the \_\_\_\_\_ of an apostle — *II Corinthians 12:12*.

2. PROPHETS.

The office of predictive prophet (*foretelling*) has ceased because the gift of prophecy “failed” (was abolished) with the coming of the completed Word of God (*I Corinthians 13:8*). *Revelation 22:18* forbids any additional prophecy (revelation).

The offices of apostle and prophet are vitally linked to the written Word of God.

- The Gospel is made manifest by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the prophets — *Romans 16:25-26*. See also: *Ephesians 3:5*.
- In *II Peter 3:2*, we are instructed to be mindful of the \_\_\_\_\_ spoken before by the holy prophets and of the commandment of the apostles. See also: *Jude 17*.
- The Lord’s churches are built upon the \_\_\_\_\_ of the apostles and prophets (i.e. the Word of God, and the New Testament in particular) — *Ephesians 2:20&C*.

## THE SIGN GIFTS

According to *Mark 16:17-18*, the gifts of the Spirit denoted as “sign gifts” are:

- \_\_\_\_\_ I N G out \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I N G with new \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I N G up \_\_\_\_\_ (and other deadly poisons).
- Healing the \_\_\_\_\_.

These “sign gifts” are passing and passé!

**A. THE PURPOSE OF SIGN GIFTS:**

As noted previously, they were given for accreditation.

They either accredited God’s man (*Exodus 4:1-9; Acts 2:22*) or God’s message.

**Note:** Each of the signs listed in the prophecy of *Mark 16:17-18* were evidenced in the book of Acts — casting out devils (*Acts 16:18*), tongues (*Acts 2:4*), poisonous things (*Acts 28:3-6*), and healing (*Acts 3:6-8*).

“*These signs shall follow...*” — and they did!



## **B. THE PLACE OF SIGN GIFTS:**

Sign gifts were manifested not only for a particular purpose (accreditation) and at a particular time (apostolic age), but also to a particular group of people.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ require a \_\_\_\_\_ — *I Corinthians 1:22*.
2. Certain of the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (Jews) came seeking a sign from Jesus in *Matthew 12:38-40*.

See also: *Exodus 4:30-31; 31:13; Numbers 14:11; Judges 6:17; I Samuel 10:7-9; Isaiah 7:11,14; Ezekiel 4:3; Matthew 24:3,30; Mark 8:11-12; Luke 2:34.*

It is interesting to observe that whenever the New Testament records the manifestation of any sign gift, Jews and at least one apostle were present. Furthermore, *Micah 7:15* suggests that signs will be operative only when Israel is in the land. (There is no recorded instance of any manifestation of a sign gift after 70 A.D. — when Jerusalem fell and the Jewish diaspora began.)

## **C. THE PERIL WITH SIGN GIFTS:**

There is an extreme danger in seeking after the sign gifts today. This is because Satan is well able to produce (imitate) “signs and wonders” — *Exodus 7:10-12,22; 8:7,18; II Corinthians 11:13-15; Mark 13:21-23; II Thessalonians 2:9 and Revelation 13:13-14.*

Satan is well able to provide any experience outside of the Word of God an unbeliever (or a believer) may seek!

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# **THE SERVING GIFTS**

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Romans chapter 12 contains a list of seven spiritual gifts that are available today for service within a New Testament church. These are the “serving gifts;” they are permanent and profitable!

The gifts are listed in *verses 6-8*, and in *verses 9-15* the corresponding dispositions needed for using the gifts are given.

## **A. THE GIFT OF PROPHECY — *Romans 12:6.***

Biblical prophets are either fore-tellers or forth-tellers.

According to *I Corinthians 13:8*, the gift of *predictive* prophecy has “failed” (ended): it is the gift of *proclamatory* prophecy that remains for today.

1. According to *Romans 12:6*, prophesying must be done according to the proportion of \_\_\_\_\_ (i.e., the “rule of faith” or sound doctrine) which, according to *Romans 10:17*, comes through hearing the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

2. In *Acts 13:1*, Barnabas and Saul are called \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. In *Acts 15:35*, these men are involved in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord.  
These two references define the gift of prophecy for today. It is limited to the *preaching* of the (completed) Word of God.
4. According to *I Corinthians 14:3*, the purpose of prophesying is:
  - E\_\_\_\_\_ I O N.
  - E\_\_\_\_\_ I O N (see also: *Acts 15:32*).
  - C\_\_\_\_\_ (see also: *verse 31*).
5. Prophesying is to be directed to the \_\_\_\_\_ (see: *I Corinthians 14:4<sup>b</sup>, 5, 22<sup>b</sup>*).
6. According to *Romans 12:9*, the disposition required in a prophet (preacher) is that he have a:
  - Sincere \_\_\_\_\_ (see: *Ephesians 4:15*).
  - Hatred of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Consistent holy life (“CLEAVE” means to “hold fast to,” “to stick with”).

**B. THE GIFT OF MINISTRY — *Romans 12:7<sup>a</sup>*.**

The word “ministry” (diakonia) means “to serve.”

The position of servant is the C\_\_\_\_\_ position, according to *Matthew 20:27* and *Luke 22:26*.

1. The gift of ministry requires us to \_\_\_\_\_ (as in “waiter”) on our ministering (*Romans 12:7<sup>a</sup>*). In other words, the gift must be used!
2. According to *Romans 12:10*, the disposition in exercising this gift is that the servant be:
  - Kindly \_\_\_\_\_ toward others.
  - To H\_\_\_\_\_ and P\_\_\_\_\_ others.

This describes the true “servant’s heart!”

Those who hold the office of deacon are to be the servants of the church, but all believers need to be servants to one another (see: *Galatians 5:13<sup>e</sup>*; *Colossians 3:23-24*).

**C. THE GIFT OF TEACHING — *Romans 12:7<sup>b</sup>*.**

This is the God-given ability to present the truths of God’s Word clearly and precisely.

According to *Romans 12:11*, the disposition in exercising this gift is that the teacher is to be:

- Not S \_\_\_\_\_ in his preparation of Bible lessons.
- F \_\_\_\_\_ in spirit.
- Serving as unto the \_\_\_\_\_; not seeking to impress men.

Apollos was a man who exhibited the gift of teaching — *Acts 18:24-28*.

Those who hold the office of \_\_\_\_\_ (pastor) are to be teachers (*I Timothy 3:2<sup>g</sup>*; *II Timothy 2:24-25*; *Titus 1:9*), but all church members are to teach one another (*Colossians 3:16<sup>b</sup>*).

**D. THE GIFT OF EXHORTING — *Romans 12:8<sup>a</sup>*.**

The exhorter is motivated to get alongside other church members and, using the Word of God, encourage, stimulate, and motivate them to pursue spiritual growth, spiritual labor, and spiritual conduct.

1. According to *Romans 12:12*, one exercising this gift must:

- Rejoice in the blessed \_\_\_\_\_ — see: *Titus 2:11-13*.
- Be \_\_\_\_\_ in tribulation.
- Be persistent in \_\_\_\_\_ for others.

2. Perhaps the greatest example of an “exhorter” in the New Testament was \_\_\_\_\_ — see: *Acts 4:36-37*; *9:27*; *11:23*.

Nevertheless, all believers are to exhort \_\_\_\_\_ (*Hebrews 3:13*; *10:25*).

**E. THE GIFT OF GIVING — *Romans 12:8<sup>b</sup>*.**

This is the motivation to both gain and give bounty in order to meet the needs of others in the church.

1. Giving is to be done with \_\_\_\_\_ (i.e., without ulterior motive). See: *Matthew 6:3-4*.
2. Exercising the gift of giving will help meet the \_\_\_\_\_ I E S of other believers — *Romans 12:13*.
3. All believers ought to have a giving heart — *Matthew 10:8<sup>e</sup>*; *Luke 6:38*.

**F. THE GIFT OF RULING** — *Romans 12:8<sup>c</sup>*.

This is the God-given ability to oversee and direct the activities of others in the church in order to accomplish a work for God.

Those exercising this gift must be D\_\_\_\_\_.

According to *Romans 12:14*, they must also \_\_\_\_\_ those who would resist their rule.

**G. THE GIFT OF MERCY** — *Romans 12:8<sup>d</sup>*.

Those with this spiritual gift are motivated to identify with and share in the sufferings and joys of others, using the Word of God to bring comfort.

According to this scripture reference, the merciful must be \_\_\_\_\_FUL and uplifting.

According to *Romans 12:15*, those exercising the gift of mercy will empathize with the sorrows and joys of those in the church. Nevertheless, all believers are to:

- B\_\_\_\_\_ one another's B\_\_\_\_\_ — *Galatians 6:2*.
- Put on B\_\_\_\_\_ of mercies — *Colossians 3:12*.

What a blessing it is when all the members of a Bible-believing Baptist church exercise their spiritual gifts just as the Lord intended! What great things can be accomplished for the glory of God (*Ephesians 3:21*)!!

- This is why God hath \_\_\_\_\_ the members in the body as it has pleased Him (*I Corinthians 12:18*).
- This is why God has \_\_\_\_\_ the body together (*I Corinthians 12:24<sup>b</sup>*).
- This is why God has fitly [properly] \_\_\_\_\_ the whole body together (*Ephesians 4:16*).

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# THE GIFT OF TONGUES

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The best-known feature of the Charismatic Movement is its emphasis upon “speaking in tongues.” From the middle of the 20<sup>TH</sup> century this phenomenon has crossed practically every denominational boundary, infecting and destroying many Baptist churches along the way.

The gift of tongues is one of the “sign gifts” (*Mark 16:17*), and therefore has long-since ceased (*I Corinthians 13:8*). Nevertheless a large segment of present-day Christendom not only believes that speaking in tongues is for today, but that it is an experience to be earnestly sought by all Christians. Some teach it is optional, while others contend it to be essential for salvation (as the evidence of the so-called “baptism of the Spirit”).

To determine the Biblical truth about the gift of tongues, we ask THREE questions of every tongue-speaker:

## A. “IN WHAT LANGUAGE DID YOU SPEAK?”

1. Look up: *Acts 2:8-11*. In this passage of scripture, how many known languages and dialects are listed as having been heard on that Day of Pentecost?  
  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Look up: *Genesis 10:5,20; Deuteronomy 28:49; Ezra 4:7; Acts 21:40; 22:2; and Revelation 5:9; 7:9; 13:7*. How do these scriptures define the word “tongue?”  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Read: *I Corinthians 14:9-11*.

Some claim the expression “an unknown tongue” (found in *I Corinthians 14:2,4,13-14,19,27*) proves the existence of non-human (heavenly, ecstatic) languages. However this passage defines an unknown tongue as one:

- a. That is not \_\_\_\_\_ to be \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 9).
- b. That has no \_\_\_\_\_ I N G to the hearer (verse 11<sup>a</sup>).
- c. That makes the speaker sound like a \_\_\_\_\_ I A N (verse 11<sup>b</sup>).

According to *I Corinthians 14:2,4*, when someone speaks in a foreign language (unknown to the hearers) only God and the speaker can understand what is being said.

**Note:** The hyperbolic expression “tongues of angels” (*I Corinthians 13:1*) means the ability to speak perfectly (versus *II Corinthians 10:10*). Angels are spirit beings (*Hebrews 1:14*) and as such do not have

tongues. However, whenever they have appeared in human form they have always spoken in the language of the hearer and have been perfectly understood — e.g. *Daniel 9:21-22; Luke 2:10,15; Acts 12:7.*

If the gift of speaking with tongues were operational today, those who exercised the gift would possess the miraculous ability to speak in a foreign language without any formal language training.

**B. “TO WHICH GROUP OF UNBELIEVING JEWS DID YOU SPEAK?”**

1. According to *I Corinthians 14:22*, the purpose of the gift of tongues was for a \_\_\_\_\_ to them that \_\_\_\_\_ NOT.
2. According to *I Corinthians 1:22*, the \_\_\_\_\_ require a sign.

**Note:** *I Corinthians 14:21* refers to the prophecies of *Deuteronomy 28:49; Isaiah 28:11; 33:19; and Jeremiah 5:15* — in which tongues are declared to be a sign of impending judgment upon Israel. Interestingly, there is no instance of the gift of tongues being exercised after the fall of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.

**Note:** A study of the (only) three recorded instances of tongues being manifested shows that Jews and an apostle were always present: in *Acts 2:1-13* (to unbelieving, unregenerate Jews); in *Acts 10:44-48* (to unbelieving, saved Jews); and in *Acts 19:6* (to Jews who were trusting their baptism for salvation).

**C. “DID YOU FOLLOW THE BIBLICAL RULES WHEN YOU SPOKE IN TONGUES?”**

If the gift of tongues were for today (which it is not), then the following rules would have to be applied:

1. Only \_\_\_\_\_ men at the most are to speak — *I Corinthians 14:27*.
2. Those who speak are to do so “by \_\_\_\_\_” (i.e. not all at once, but in turn) — *I Corinthians 14:27*.
3. One person must \_\_\_\_\_ — *I Corinthians 14:27*.
4. If no interpreter is available, those who can only speak in a foreign language are to keep \_\_\_\_\_ — *I Corinthians 14:28*.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ are to keep silence also — *I Corinthians 14:34*.

**Note:** *I Corinthians 14:32* teaches that those who speak in our churches are to be in control of themselves. The Holy Spirit never takes anybody out of control into some state of ecstasy.

In reality, the Bible places little emphasis on tongues.

- There are only three recorded instances of the gift being scripturally used. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians indicates and corrects the abuse of the gift.
- Tongues and the interpretation of tongues are listed last in *I Corinthians 12:28-29*.
- Peter, James, John, and Jude all spoke with tongues, yet say nothing about it in their epistles.
- The apostle Paul was skilled in foreign languages (*I Corinthians 14:18*) but only spoke them on special occasions — *Acts 21:37; 22:2*.

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## THE GIFTS OF HEALING

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The so-called “gift of healing” is another hallmark of the Pentecostal and Charismatic movements.

The Word of God teaches divine healing but opposes the practices of modern-day divine healers. God is omnipotent, and His power extends to His ability to heal the physical body. He can heal anyone at any time in any way He wills. The issue is not, “Can God heal?” but rather, “**Is the gift of healing operational today?**”

[The matter of divine healing will be studied fully under lesson “S”]

The gift of healing is one of the sign gifts (*Mark 16:18*) and therefore is now obsolete. Modern-day “faith healing” is best shown for what it is by simply comparing it with the healing ministries of the Lord Jesus Christ and His apostles. Scripture then confounds these “charlatans of Christendom” with their contrived use of:

- selective sicknesses — psychosomatic illness (no broken bones, please!!).
- sideshow stooges — people who are miraculously “healed” at every town!
- surging sensationalism — emotional pulsating music, rhythmic repetition, climactic clowning!

### A. **THE HEALING MINISTRY OF JESUS CHRIST** — e.g. *Matthew 4:23-24*.

The Bible records 17 specific miracles of healing by the Lord Jesus Christ. Consider the following facts:

1. Jesus healed people where He found them — there were no special healing meetings.
2. Jesus healed ALL manner of sickness — no screening process was employed to eliminate hard cases or real sicknesses.
3. Christ's healings were complete — there were no failures, no relapses, and no convalescence was required.

4. Christ's healings were free of charge — there were no offerings, no books or DVDs for sale, no handkerchiefs, and no gimmicks.
5. Jesus generally healed without touching the sick person — he employed no theatrics.
6. Jesus never prayed before He healed someone.
7. Jesus discouraged testimonies — e.g., *Mark 7:36*.
8. Christ's healing ministry was directed to Israel.
9. Those Jesus healed were generally unsaved, or were saved at the same time as they were healed.

## **B. THE HEALING MINISTRY OF THE APOSTLES:**

The book of Acts records four specific miracles of healing and three general accounts of healings. Read: Acts 3:1-12,16 and note the following:

1. The afflicted man did not seek to be healed. He wanted money!
2. The two apostles healed the man where he was. They did not conduct a healing meeting nor draw attention to themselves to attract a crowd.
3. The healing was complete. There were no relapses with any of the apostolic healings.
4. Peter and John did not claim any special power or ability. They gave all the glory to God — *Acts 3:12*.
5. The miracle was a minor matter. Gospel preaching was the major focus of apostolic endeavor. More verses tell of Peter's subsequent preaching (and the conversion of about 5,000 men) than of the healing.

Once, it was the blessing — Now, it is the Lord,  
 Once, it was the feeling — Now, it is His Word;  
 Once, His gifts I wanted — Now, Himself alone,  
 Once I sought for healing — Now the Healer own!  
  
 Once, 'twas painful trying — Now, 'tis perfect trust,  
 Once, a half-salvation — Now, the uttermost;  
 Once, 'twas what I wanted — Now, what Jesus says,  
 Once, 'twas constant asking — Now, 'tis ceaseless praise!  
  
 Once, it was my working — His it hence shall be,  
 Once, I tried to use Him — Now He uses me;  
 Once, the power I wanted — Now, the Mighty One,  
 Once, I worked for glory — Now, His will alone!!

**MEMORY VERSE:** Try and commit to memory *I Peter 4:10*.