

**THE PERSON AND WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**  
**Session 3: Earnestly Desiring the Spiritual Gifts**  
*Walking in Faith, Service, and Power... to the Glory of God*  
**November 15, 2015**

**WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?**

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ... All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.” (1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 11)

**1. "To each is given a manifestation..." (12:7)**

“The Triune God loves diversity – so much so, as someone has remarked, that when he sends a snowstorm he makes each flake different. We, however, manufacture ice cubes. Doubtless the church is in some sense like a mighty army, but that does not mean we should think of ourselves as undifferentiated khaki. We should be more like an orchestra: each part making its own unique contribution to the symphonic harmony... God establishes his brand of harmony by a lavish grant of highly diverse gifts, each contributing to the body as a whole.” (D.A. Carson, *Showing the Spirit*, 32)

**2. "...for the common good." (12:7)**

**3. "...as He wills." (12:11).**

**DEFINITION**

"Spiritual gifts are nothing less than God himself in us, energizing our souls, imparting revelation to our minds, infusing power in our wills, and working

his sovereign and gracious purposes through us.” Sam Storms, *The Beginner’s Guide to Spiritual Gifts*, 13.

“In light of this, we may define a spiritual gift as a God-given, and therefore gracious, capacity to serve the body of Christ. It is a divinely empowered or spiritually energized potential to minister to the body of Christ by communicating the knowledge, power, and love of Jesus.” Sam Storms, *The Beginner’s Guide to Spiritual Gifts*, 20.

“A spiritual gift is any ability that is empowered by the Holy Spirit and used in any ministry of the church.” Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 1016.

## WHAT ARE THE GIFTS?

### GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Romans 12:6-8	1 Corinthians 7:7	1 Corinthians 12:8-10	1 Corinthians 12:28	Ephesians 4:11	1 Peter 4:11
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prophecy</li> <li>2. Serving</li> <li>3. Teaching</li> <li>4. Encouraging</li> <li>5. Contributing</li> <li>6. Leadership</li> <li>7. Mercy</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Marriage</li> <li>2. Singleness</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Utterance of wisdom</li> <li>2. Utterance of knowledge</li> <li>3. Faith</li> <li>4. Gifts of healing</li> <li>5. Miracles</li> <li>6. Prophecy</li> <li>7. Distinguishing between spirits</li> <li>8. Tongues</li> <li>9. Interpretation of tongues</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Apostle</li> <li>2. Prophet</li> <li>3. Teacher</li> <li>4. Miracles</li> <li>5. Gifts of healing</li> <li>6. Helps</li> <li>7. Administration</li> <li>8. Tongues</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Apostle</li> <li>2. Prophet</li> <li>3. Evangelist</li> <li>4. Pastor</li> <li>5. Teacher</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Speaking</li> <li>2. Serving</li> </ol>

(The following definitions are adapted from Wayne Grudem’s *Systematic Theology*, chapters 52-53 and *The Beginners Guide to Spiritual Gifts* by Sam Storms).

A. Word of wisdom: explaining to others a Spirit inspired insight into some aspect of God’s redemptive purposes...and perhaps the illumination of others with the saving power of the gospel.

B. Word of knowledge: a Spirit-empowered ability to gain insights into and explain various aspects of the Christian faith and life, resulting in the instruction and edification of others.

C. Faith: the mysterious surge of confidence which gives a person a certainty and assurance that God is about to act through a word or an action.

D. Gifts of healing: perhaps many different gifts or powers of healing, each appropriate to and effective for its related illness, or each occurrence constituting a distinct gift in its own right.

E. Miracles: any kind of activity where God's mighty power is evident.

F. Prophecy:

1. Telling others what God has brought to mind.
2. Declaring the current burden or heart of God to his people for the purpose of edification (build up), exhortation (stir up) and consolation (cheer up).

G. Distinguishing of spirits: a special ability to recognize the influence of the Holy Spirit or of a demonic spirit in a person.

H. Tongues: prayer or praise spoken in syllables not understood by the speaker.

I. Teaching: the ability to explain Scripture and apply it to people's lives.

J. Helps/Serving: the ability to notice the needs of others and the desire and capacity to respond in helpful ways.

K. Administration: the ability to steer, organize, direct and lead people, projects and ministries so that the mission of the church is carried out.

L. Exhortation: the ability to speak to others in a way that magnifies God and results in them experiencing comfort, encouragement, inspiration, and strengthening.

M. Leadership: the ability to guide and direct the church in such a way that God is glorified, the church is unified and the church's mission is accomplished.

N. Showing mercy: the ability to identify with the emotions and feelings of others and to aid those in need or distress.

## **ARE SPIRITUAL GIFTS REALLY THAT IMPORTANT?**

### **COMMON QUESTIONS**

*I'm not sure what my spiritual gift is. What should I do?*

*Are spiritual gifts permanent or do they come and go?*

*Are there more spiritual gifts besides those listed above?*

*Do some people have more gifts than others?*

*Are talents and abilities the same as gifts?*

## **WHAT IS THE GIFT OF PROPHECY?**

### **Definition:**

“Declaring the current burden or heart of God to his people for the purpose of edification (build up), exhortation (stir up) and consolation (cheer up).” [Sam Storms?]

“The gift of prophecy... should be defined not as “predicting the future,” nor as “proclaiming a word from the Lord,” nor as “powerful preaching”—but rather as “telling something that God has spontaneously brought to mind.” Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 1049.

## **PROPHECY FOR THE CHURCH**

### **PERSONAL PROPHECY**

#### **HOW TO GET STARTED**

- Pray
- Be content with present gifts and eager for more
- Grow toward Christian maturity
- Have right motives
- Listen and share what you hear
- Start small, but be faithful

### **WHAT IS THE GIFT OF TONGUES?**

#### **Definition:**

Tongues: prayer or praise spoken in syllables not understood by the speaker.

“The gift of tongues is simply the Spirit-energized ability to pray, worship, give thanks, or speak in a language other than your own or the one you might have learned in school.” (Sam Storms, *The Beginner’s Guide to the Spiritual Gifts*, 119)

#### **PERSONAL USE**

- To God (14:2)
- Unintelligible (14:6-9)
- For personal benefit and building up (14:4)
- For praise and worship (14:14-15)

- Silent (14:28)

#### FOR THE CHURCH, WITH INTERPRETATION

- Functionally equivalent to prophecy (14:5), but a different flavor, being addressed to God rather than men (14:2)
- Must be accompanied by interpretation (14:5-11, 19)
- The key is intelligibility (14:6-19)
- Tongues function as a sign: negatively for unbelievers and positively for believers (14:20-25)

#### GETTING STARTED

- Be content with the gifts you have and use them.
- Pray and ask God for the gift of tongues
- As you pray to God, if you begin to think words that you do not understand, say them.

#### **BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS**

*Systematic Theology*, Wayne Grudem, especially chapters 52-53

*Showing the Spirit: A Theological Exposition of 1 Corinthians 12-14*, D.A. Carson

*The Beginner's Guide to Spiritual Gifts*, Sam Storms

*The Gift of Prophecy in the New Testament and Today*, Wayne Grudem