

**Ephesians 4.11 & Selected Scriptures – "The Categories of Spiritual Gifts: (1) The Temporary, Miraculous and (2) the Permanent, Ministering Gifts."**

The two primary words for "gifts" in the New Testament:

- **Charisma** — gift of grace — something *freely* given by God (Rom 5.15-16; 6.23; Rom 12.6; 1 Pet 4.10; 1 Cor 12.4, 7, 8).
- **Pneumatikos** — spiritual gift — that which comes from God the *Spirit* & is to be employed by the Spirit's power; that which is under The Spirit's control (1 Cor 12.1; 1 Cor 12.4, 9, 28, 30-31; 14.1)
- A few *BIG-PICTURE* points:
  - Spiritual gifts are given to **every** Christian.
  - Spiritual gifts are found & cultivated in the **context** of your local church.
  - Spiritual gifts are **supernaturally** & graciously given.
  - Spiritual gifts are for the purpose of **building** up Christ's body corporately.
  - Spiritual gifts are to be cultivated, excelled at and employed by **God's power!**

**THESIS** — As we study God's Word tonight on the topic of SPIRITUAL GIFTS — I want to clarify for you the \*categories\* of spiritual gifts & bring understanding to some questions & then give a final encouragement that God has given you a gift to use to edify/build up the corporate body.

## I. THE CATEGORIES OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

### The CATEGORIES OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS *(what are they?)*

#### **(1) The Temporary, Miraculous Gifts** *(Given for a particular purpose in laying the foundation of the Church before NT was complete)*

1. **Apostleship** (1 Cor 12:28-29; Eph 4.11) —
2. **Working of miracles** (1 Cor 12.10, 28-29) —
3. **Gifts of healing** (1 Cor 12.9, 28, 30) —
4. **Speaking in tongues** (1 Cor 12.10, 28, 30; 1 Cor 13.1; 14.22) —
5. **Interpreting tongues** (1 Cor 12.10, 28, 30; 14:6-18) -
6. **Prophecy** (1 Cor 12.10, 28-29; Eph 4.11) —
7. **Words of wisdom** (1 Cor 12.8; 13.2) —
8. **Distinguishing between spirits** (1 Cor 12.10)—

#### **(2) The Permanent, Ministering Gifts**

1. **Preaching** (Rom 12.6; 1 Tim 4.13-14; 1 Pet 4.11) —
2. **Teaching** (Rom 12.7; 1 Cor 12.28-29) —
3. **Exhortation** (Rom 12.8) —
4. **Service and helping** (Rom 12.7; 1 Cor 12.28; 1 Pet 4.11) —
5. **Leading & administrating** (Rom 12.8; 1 Cor 12.28) —
6. **Giving** (Rom 12.8; 1 Cor 13.3) —
7. **Showing mercy** (Rom 12.8) —
8. **Faith** (1 Cor 12.9; 13.2) —
9. **Evangelism** (Eph 4.11) —
10. **Shepherding/teaching** (Eph 4.11) —

**Ephesians 4.11 & Selected Scriptures – "The Categories of Spiritual Gifts: (1) The Temporary, Miraculous and (2) the Permanent, Ministering Gifts."****II. THE CLARIFICATION OF MIRACULOUS GIFTS**

- **Cessationism** is the view that the sign, revelatory (miraculous) gifts passed away when the foundation stage of the church ended. The apostles & prophets passed away & the Scriptures are now our fully sufficient & authoritative standard.
- **The Case for Cessationism.** *The sign, revelatory gifts have ceased in light of the following 8 reasons:*
  1. **Foundational role/office of Apostle & Prophet** -- All Apostles & Prophets have passed away (Eph 2.20; Matt 10:1-8)
  2. **The unique role of miracles** -- The miraculous gifts were to validate the messenger & message from God (2 Cor 12.12; Heb 2.3-4; Acts 2.22\*)
  3. **The uniqueness & infrequency of miraculous eras** (Moses, Elijah/Elisha, Jesus/Apostles; cf. The future Tribulation)
  4. **The perfect has come.** The perfect refers to the completed canon of Scripture & thus tongues & prophecies have ceased (1 Cor 13.8-10)
  5. **The NT has rules that governed the miraculous gifts** -- whenever tongues was practiced, specific rules were to be followed (cf. 1 Cor 14). Healings were immediate, instantaneous, complete, public, verifiable/undeniable. Prophecies \*had\* to be 100% accurate *all the time*.
  6. **The silence in the "Pastorals" about tongues, miracles.** No mention of tongues, etc. but rather repeated emphasis on preaching, guarding, discipling, serving, praying, clinging to the revealed Word (Pastorals). As the NT was written, the mention, importance & place of tongues diminished & faded away since Scripture is sufficient.
  7. **The overwhelming testimony of Church History.**
    - a) **Luther:** "This visible outpouring of the Holy Spirit was necessary to the establishment of the early church as were also the miracles that accompanied the gift of the Holy Ghost. Once the church had been established and properly advertised by these miracles, the visible appearance of the Holy Ghost ceased."
    - b) **Calvin:** "The gift of healing, like the rest of the miracles which the Lord willed to be brought forth for a time, has vanished away in order to make the preaching of the gospel marvelous forever."
    - c) **Spurgeon:** "Those earlier miraculous gifts have departed from us."
    - d) **Watson:** Sure, there is as much need of ordination now as in Christ's time and in the time of the apostles, there being then extraordinary gifts in the church which are now ceased" (17<sup>th</sup> c.)
    - e) **John Gill:** In those early times, when the gift of doing miracles was bestowed, it was not given to all, only to some; and now there are none that are possessed of it" (1700s)
    - f) **George Smeaton:** The supernatural or extraordinary gifts were temporary, and intended to disappear when the Church should be founded and the inspired canon of Scripture closed; for they were an external proof of an internal inspiration" (1800s)
    - g) This whole place is very obscure: but the obscurity is produced by our ignorance of the facts referred to and by their cessation, being such as then used to occur but now no longer take place. [<sup>\*\*4<sup>th</sup></sup> century minister: **John Chrysostom**, Commenting on 1 Corinthians 12]
  8. **We have our sufficient & reliable Word--Bible** (2 Tim 3:16-17). We have the *more sure* prophetic word (2 Pet 1:19). The Bible is *enough* - don't need miracles to validate God's message; we have the very power & fullness of God's message in the Bible.

**III. THE EDIFICATION IN USING YOUR GIFT**

Again, we must note that often in the history of the Church trouble has arisen because people thought that they were prophets in the New Testament sense, and that they had received special revelations of truth. The answer to that is that in view of the New Testament Scriptures there is no need of further truth. That is an absolute proposition. We have all truth in the New Testament, and we have no need of any further revelations. ... The answer to all this is that the need for prophets ends once we have the canon of the New Testament. We no longer need direct revelations of truth; the truth is in the Bible. We must never separate the Spirit and the Word. The Spirit speaks to us through the Word; so we should always doubt and query any supposed revelation that is not entirely consistent with the Word of God. Indeed the essence of wisdom is to reject altogether the term 'revelation' as far as we are concerned, and speak only of 'illumination'. The revelation has been given once and for all, and what we need and what by the grace of God we can have, and do have, is illumination by the Spirit to understand the Word. [Martyn Lloyd Jones]