

Spiritual Gifts Manifested **1Corinthians 12:1-11**

We noted that God has saved you, added you to His church, and has dispensed gifts: *“pneumatika charismatica”* or spiritual gifts. We noted the purpose of these gifts if for: 1) the glory of God, 2) The edification of the church 3) for the furtherance of the gospel (**1Cor.12:7; 14:22**). That the Holy Spirit sovereignly dispenses these gifts as He sees fit (**1Cor.12:11**). Then, our dear brother brought a lesson on gifts that have ceased: **1Cor.13:8**—*“Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.”* Let us not be robbed of these Spiritual gifts because of the psuedo-charismatics and the unholy rollers of our day. Let us claim what God truly says concern all Scripture. Let us continue in our study of *“the manifestation of the Spirit”* (**1Cor.12:7**).

The Lord's Work is Spiritual; Not Physical

It is imperative that we understand that the work of the Lord is not a physical labor, but rather a spiritual one. Thus, it cannot be done in the power of our own strength, but as the Bible states: *“Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, this is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts”* (**Zech.4:6**). Do you not recall, the message of the LORD from Bro. Jim Duke when he was here and how that He spoke of through His servant that it is the physical that feeds the spiritual? It is our hands that turn the Bible pages, our eyes that read the verses, our ears that hear the word of the Lord, but it is a spiritual understanding—*“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned”* (**1Cor.2:14**). The work of the Lord is not physical, but spiritual: *“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ”* (**2Cor.10:3-5**).

When Jesus came and dwelt among us, He performed miracles. He healed people of various illnesses, diseases, demonic possessions, did He not? Were those miracles the end or the purpose for which He came to do? Did He simply heal folks of diseases, illnesses, and cast out demons? Or was it for another purpose? **Jn.20:30,31**—*“And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”* **Acts 1:3**—*“To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:”*

The purpose of these healings, etc. was NOT the healing in and of itself, but rather to manifest that Jesus is the Anointed of God, the Messiah, the chosen, the Savior, the Son of God come, manifest in the flesh to take away our sin! So too, these spiritual gifts are given to carry on the work of the Lord of delivering men, women, boys, and girls from sin. Not just the penalty of sin, but the power of sin *“till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge fo the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ”* (**Eph.4:13**).

The Scriptures give instances of when the Lord's work was attempted by man's own physical abilities. Observe: Abraham seeks to bring about the promise of God through human means (**Gen.16:1-5; Gen.17:18-21**). God rejected Abraham's attempt to bring to pass the work of the Lord through human means. It was the Lord who brought about the birth of Isaac (**Gen.21:1,2**). Observe Moses: **Acts 7:22-28**. Moses understood that God would deliver Israel from the Egyptians by his (Moses') hand. But it was not to be done by Moses' power. Moses would be used of the LORD to deliver them by His own power. In each of these instances, those who attempted to do what God had said in His word failed to accomplish it. Why? Because it was not done by His power, His might, His

spirit. So too when we attempt to do the Lord's work in the power of our own might will we fail. It cannot be done.

Manifestations of Spiritual gifts in the Scriptures

The Bible records many instances of spiritual gifts being used by the saints of God in carrying out His work. Whenever a spiritual gift is used, the Lord will be glorified and the Lord's work will benefit. When Satan's false ministers and disciples are using his counterfeit gifts, then the Lord's name will not be lifted up and the Lord's work will not be profited, but rather hindered and obstructed. Taking note of the manifestations of the Spirit as recorded in the Scriptures helps us to understand the nature and purpose of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We find much of this in the book of Acts. Remember, the book of Acts is NOT the book of *The Acts of the Apostles*, but rather, "*The Acts of the Holy Spirit through His Church*. Observe:

- 1) **Simon Peter—Acts 1:15-26**—Peter exercised the gift of understanding and applying the Word of God in revealing the divine interpretation of the Old Testament Scriptures concerning the betrayer of Jesus and the one who should take his place among the twelve apostles.
- 2) **The First Church—Acts 2:1-6**—The first church which was at Jerusalem was empowered by the Spirit with the gift of speaking in languages they had not studied so that others could hear the gospel of Christ and be saved.
- 3) **Agabus—Acts 11:27-30**—This man was gifted with the gift of prophecy to declare the will and mind of God for the benefit of the Lord's churches. Here Agabus told of a future event that would take place. (*NOTE: we must remember that the word "prophecy" is used in many different ways in Scripture. I believe the telling forth of future events has ceased, but the declaring of God's will and mind as already revealed in Scriptures still remains).
- 4) **James the Pastor of Jerusalem church—Acts 15:14-21**—Here we read of James. Now James, himself was a gift of the Lord to the Church. All true Pastors are **(Eph.4:11)**. Here we see James exercising that gift bestowed upon him in leading the church concerning the question of circumcision. Notice, how James applies the Scriptures. Not one time does he mention: thoughts, feelings, or any such like thing. Only Scriptures.
- 5) **Paul—Acts 13:6-12; 19:11-20; 28:3-5**—God worked miracles through the ministry of the Apostle Paul so that the Word of the Lord might spread and His name be magnified among the Gentiles.

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are an affirmation that God is in His people and they are of Him. We could notice many other manifestations of the Spirit in spiritual gifts in both the Old and New testament; but let these suffice to demonstrate the nature, purpose, result and need of the gifts of the Spirit of God. It is our responsibility as members of His New Testament Church to "*Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God*" **(Rom.6:13)**; to "*neglect not the gift that is in thee*" **(1Tim.4:14)**; to "*work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure*" **(Phil.2:12,13)**.