



Spiritual Gifts 5

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Understanding the Gifts

- The gifts of the Spirit are God's gifts, shared with His creation.
- The Spirit shared is still God's, and He can take it back.
- The gifts are not ours, but God's, administered to us for His purposes.

The Purpose of the Gifts

- The gifts are given to profit others, not ourselves (1 Corinthians 12:7).
- They are not for selfish gain or personal promotion.
- The gifts show that God operates freely in and through us.

Types of Gifts

- Word of wisdom (1 Corinthians 12:8)
- Word of knowledge (1 Corinthians 12:8)
- Other gifts mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12.

Examples of the Gifts in Action

- Solomon and the two women (word of wisdom)
- Jesus and Nathanael (word of knowledge).

The Gifts of the Spirit

(1) *Knowledge*

- A spiritual operation where God gives knowledge to a person.
- Enables the person to tell others to release them from problems.
- Example: Brother Branham's life, where he used the gifts to give people answers from God.

(2) *Faith*

- God reveals Himself to give a person a purpose.
- Example: Noah, who built a boat in obedience to God's instruction.
- Faith comes by hearing and is an invisible thing that happens in the spirit world.
- Biblical faith is doing exactly what God tells you to do.

(3) *Workings of Miracles*

- Events that go beyond the natural order.
- Example: Moses parting the Red Sea.
- Miracles require a revelation from God Almighty.

(4) *Prophecy*

- A spiritual gift that enables a person to speak God's words.
- Prophecy is not about human expertise or examining the current situation.
- It is a direct revelation from God.

The Importance of Prophecy

- Prophecy is a crucial gift, as emphasized by Paul in 1 Corinthians 14.
- Paul wished that all believers would prophesy, indicating its importance.

Dangers of Misusing Prophecy

- We must not prophesy out of our imagination or interpretation of scriptures.
- We should not use our understanding to build a picture of future events.
- God does not want us to take it upon ourselves to prophesy without His inspiration.

The Role of Prophecy Today

- When God inspires us to prophesy, He opens our understanding of the current day.
- He takes control over us, and we speak what the Spirit says for our day.

A Divine Appointment

Examples from the Bible

- Isaiah (Isaiah 6) and Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1) received their callings through visions and trances.
- God spoke to them, saying, "I have called you."

The Sovereignty of God

- God had already planned for certain individuals to be prophets.
- He had called them before they were born.
- God's callings are not limited to the Old Testament; He still calls people today.

The Ministries of God

- God has appointed various ministries, including apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds, and teachers.
- These ministries are essential for the edification of the body of Christ.

The Focus of Ministry

- The focus of ministry should not be on the vessel (the person), but on the message being brought through the vessel.
- When taught properly, the focus should be on the teaching, not the teacher.

The Purpose of Prophecy

- Prophecy is given to edify and encourage believers (1 Corinthians 14:3-4).
- Prophecy will never contradict the Scriptures.

The Importance of Operating in Divine Order

- If we do not operate in divine order, our reward will be lost (1 Corinthians 3:10-15).
- Examples from Scripture include Samson, who lost his power after revealing the secret of his strength.

Samson's Story

- Samson was a young man filled with God's Spirit and anointed to serve the Lord.
- He lost his power and anointing after revealing the secret of his strength to Delilah.
- Samson spent time in captivity, but his hair grew back, and he repented, asking God to restore his anointing.
- God answered Samson's prayer, and he was able to destroy the Philistine temple, killing over 3,000 people.

King Saul's Story

- King Saul was anointed by God as king of Israel, but he disobeyed God's commands and became jealous of David.
- Saul's disobedience and jealousy led to the loss of his anointing and spiritual power.
- Despite still holding physical power as king, Saul's final battle ended in defeat, and he lost his life.

Avoiding Self-Importance

- Don't think that your knowledge, abilities, or positions make you special or entitled to God's anointing.
- Recognize that all callings, gifts, and administrations are God's, and He chooses who will receive them.

Brother William Branham's Life

- As a child, Brother Branham had visions but was told to ignore them.
- Later, he discovered that these visions were a gift from God.
- Brother Branham became a powerful tool for God, presenting a divine order of events in modern times.

The Importance of Humility

- We will all stand before the Lord one day, and He will judge our actions.
- We must remember that the Spirit is still God's, not ours.
- The Spirit is a gift to us from God, and He will take it back when the time comes.

Understanding the Gifts of the Spirit

- Some people say that we don't need the gifts of the Spirit anymore, but this is not true.
- The gifts of the Spirit are still necessary and relevant today.
- We must understand the gifts in the right way, recognizing that they are a tool for God's work, not our own.

Surrendering to God's Will

- Instead of trying to use the gifts of the Spirit, surrender to God's will and ask Him to use you.
- Say, "Lord, help me to be open to you so that you can pick out any gift you want in me, any calling, any works or administration that you see fit for the body of Christ."
- Expect that God will use you, but not for you to start using the gifts.

The Judgment Seat of Christ

To stand before the judgment seat of Christ one day (1 Corinthians 3:10-15), be:

- Sober
- Humble
- Ready to be used
- Hear the Lord say, "Well done, my faithful and true servant. You were true in the little; I will set you over much."

Conclusion

- This teaching is just a starting point for understanding the gifts of the Spirit.
- Work out your faith and be that little tool that God can use.
- Remember, God is always with you, even in difficult times.

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