

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

(part 1)

Class Notes

Notes / Slides / Recordings are posted:

- <https://iknox.org/seminars/systematic3>

Context

- ~~The Church: Its Nature, Marks and Purposes~~
- ~~The Purity and Unity of the Church~~
- ~~The Power of the Church~~
- ~~Church Government~~
- ~~Means of Grace within the Church~~
- ~~Baptism~~
- ~~The Lord's Supper~~
- ~~Worship~~
- **Gifts of the Holy Spirit - Part 1**
- Gifts of the Holy Spirit - Part 2
- The Return of Christ: When and How?
- The Millennium
- The Final Judgement and Eternal Punishment
- The New Heavens and New Earth

General Questions

1. What role have spiritual gifts played in the history of redemption?
2. What is the purpose of spiritual gifts in the New Testament age?
3. How many gifts are there?
4. Are all of the gifts equally strong (prevalent/obvious)?
5. Are the gifts temporary or permanent?
6. Are the gifts miraculous?
7. How does one discover their spiritual gifts?
8. Are the gifts based on spiritual maturity?
9. Are all of the gifts spoken of in Scripture still applicable today?

Definition

Spiritual Gift

A spiritual gift is any ability that is empowered by the Holy Spirit and used in any ministry of the church.

What role have spiritual gifts played in the history of redemption?

- Old Testament
 - Present, but more limited (reserved)
 - Looking forward to a time where it would be more
- New Testament
 - Jesus came in the power of the Holy Spirit
 - Shared with his disciples
 - Pentecost

What is the purpose of spiritual gifts in the New Testament age?

- Equip Church to Carry out Ministry until Christ Returns
 - Preach the Gospel
 - Build up the Church
 - Equip the Saints
- Glimpse of what is to come

How many gifts are there?

- A number of lists exist
- Varied expressions in varied individuals
- How specific/general do you wish to be?
- General categorizations

Are all of the gifts equally strong (prevalent/obvious)?

- Some are more developed than others
- Some are differently-abled
- When is a gift a gift?

Are the gifts temporary or permanent?

- Does an ear become a hand?
- Situational equipping
- Discussion of developing/training/exercising gifts

Are the gifts miraculous?

- Depends a bit on your definition of 'miracle'
- Why are we asking this question?

How does one discover their spiritual gifts?

- Pursue the well-being of the city I have deported you to. Pray to the Lord on its behalf, for when it thrives, you will thrive. - Jeremiah 29:7
- Look for opportunities to use your gifts
- Look for opportunities to allow others to use (develop, discover) theirs

Are the gifts based on spiritual maturity?

- No
- Spiritual gifts are given to every believer

Are all of the gifts spoken of in Scripture still applicable today?

1. Does 1 Cor 13 tell us when miraculous gifts will cease?
2. Would the continuation of prophecy today challenge the sufficiency of Scripture?
3. Were the miraculous gifts limited to the Apostles and their companions?
4. Did miraculous gifts only accompany the giving of new Scripture?

Does 1 Cor 13 tell us when miraculous gifts will cease?

- Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease;
- as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put aside childish things. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I will know fully, as I am fully known. Now these three remain: faith, hope, and love—but the greatest of these is love.

**Would the continuation of prophecy today
challenge the sufficiency of Scripture?**

**Were the miraculous gifts limited to the
Apostles and their companions?**

Did miraculous gifts only accompany the giving of new Scripture?

Purpose of Miracles in Scripture:

- Authenticate the Gospel Message throughout the Church Age
- Give help to those in need (demonstrating God's mercy and love)
- Equip people for ministry
- Bring glory to God

OT and NT examples that contradict the premise

Questions