

MY LIFE IN CHRIST BLESSED – UNIT 3

MLICB 3.1

GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Introduction: the purpose of this lesson is to promote desire, bring understanding, remove fear or misunderstanding, and give guidelines for the expression of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the local church by believers.

Key Text: *1 Cor 12:4, 7-11 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: 8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. NKJV*

I. **What is meant by the “Gifts of the Spirit”?** There are many gifts that are part of the experience of the believer. All of God’s gifts are free, unearned and unmerited by man, but graciously given by God. The “gifts of the Spirit” outlined in 1 Corinthians 12 are to be distinguished from other gifts of God in the following ways:

- a. These gifts are distinctly attributed to the **Holy Spirit as the source** - 1 Cor 12:4, 7-11
- b. These gifts are a **manifestation or “shining forth” of the Spirit** who dwells within the believer – 1 Cor 12:7
- c. These gifts are **supernatural in character**, not simply an extension or refinement of natural abilities or powers – 1 Cor 12:8-10
- d. These gifts are **distributed at the discretion of the Holy Spirit** to meet specific needs at specific times – 1 Cor 12:11
- e. The “Gifts of the Spirit”, therefore, are **supernatural endowments** given to the believer at the direction of the Holy Spirit **to meet particular needs** at particular times – 1 Cor 12:11

II. **What are the gifts of the Spirit?**

- a. **Gifts of revelation** – God communicating His mind to the Church.
 1. **Word of Wisdom** – The gift of the Word of Wisdom is the God-given ability to perceive supernatural wisdom from God when it is needed – Matt 21:15-22

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2. **Word of Knowledge** – The gift of the Word of Knowledge is the God-given ability to receive from God facts and information which are humanly impossible to know – John 4:17-19
3. **Discerning of Spirits** – the gift of Discerning of Spirits is the God-given ability to recognize what spirit is behind different manifestations or activities. The gift also includes the God-given ability to challenge or cope with spirits – Acts 16:16-18
- b. **Gifts of inspiration** – God speaking to the church through people
 1. **Tongues** – The gift of Tongues is a God-given ability which enables a believer to speak in a language which he does not know. Acts 2:1-17
 2. **Interpretation** – the gift of Interpretation of Tongues is the God-given ability to bring forth in a known tongue a message initially given in an unknown tongue. Dan 5:25-28
 3. **Prophecy** – to prophesy is the ability to speak forth a message from God, (edification, exhortation, and comfort), which is received from the Holy Spirit as it is brought forth. Acts 11:28; 21:10-11
- c. **Gifts of Demonstration** – God doing or acting in the Church.
 1. **Faith** – The gift of Faith is a God-given ability to believe God for the impossible. Joshua 10:12 “Sun, stand still...”
 2. **Healing** – Gifts of Healings are the God-given ability to impart physical healing for the body at specific times. Acts 28:8-10 Paul healed
 3. **Miracles** – The gift of Miracles is a God-given ability to perform the impossible. Acts 20:9-12; 13:8-12; Acts 8:39-40

III. **How do these gifts operate?** When it comes to the gifts of the Spirit, we see the Spirit of God and man working together as co-laborers.

- a. **Gifts often operate together** with seamless compatibility – **Acts 27 & 28**
 1. **Word of knowledge** – *Sirs I perceive that this voyage will be with much hurt...* Acts 27:10
 2. **Gift of Faith** – *God has given thee all that are with thee... I believe...* Acts 27:20-25
 3. **Word of Wisdom** – *We must run aground on a certain island...* Acts 27:26

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4. **Word of Knowledge and Word of Wisdom** – The sailors who are deceptively attempting to escape, exposed by Paul, must stay with the ship... Acts 27:31
 5. **Miracles** – The serpent bit Paul with no ill effect as a miraculous sign to the natives Acts 28:3-6
 6. **Gift of Healings** – Publius was healed by Paul and then others came to be healed as well. Acts 28:8-10
- b. There is **the Spirit's part** relative to the operation of the gifts.
1. The Spirit takes the initiative as the giver – 1 Cor 12:11, 18, 28
 2. The Spirit is the only one who can do His part
- c. There is **man's part** relative to the operation of the gifts.
1. We should be genuinely **yielded** to the Lord. Rom 6:1-2, 13
 2. We should **desire** to be used in the realm. 1 Cor 14:1; 12:31
 3. We should **learn** all we can about the gifts. 1 Cor 12:1
 4. We should **pray** to be used in the gifts. 1 Cor 14:13; Matt 7:11
 5. We should **maintain faith** and dispel unbelief. Rom 12:6; Mark 6:5-6
 6. We should not neglect, but **stir up** the gifts. 1 Tim 4:14; 2 Tim 1:6

IV. **What guidelines should govern the operation of the gifts?** God gives many principles that anyone wanting to operate in the gifts should follow, realizing the vessel is responsible for the manner in which the gift is exercised.

- a. **The gifts must be used for the purpose of edifying or building up.**
 1. Will this strengthen the Body of Christ?
 2. Will the bring comfort?
- b. **The gift must be operated decently and orderly** – 1 Cor 14:27, 29, 33, 40
 1. is this message flowing with what God is saying?
 2. Is the best time to function in this gift?
 3. Does my manner of presentation add or detract from the message?
- c. **The gifts of the Spirit are to be balanced** by the Fruit of the Spirit. The Gifts of the Spirit bring to us the ability of God. The Fruit of the Spirit is the character of God grown in the soul of the believer. We must have both the ability and the character of God in balance to consistently bring forth life through the Gifts.

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1. **Love** – Are you interested in the well being of others? 1 Cor 13
 2. **Joy** – Do you find your joy in building up others? 2 Cor 7:4
 3. **Peace** – Are you at peace with the family of God? Matt 5:22-24
 4. **Longsuffering** – Are you willing to wait for the right time? 2 Tim 4:2
 5. **Gentleness** – Does it flow or interrupt? Is it pushy or gentle? Jam 3:17
 6. **Meekness** – Are you ministering in true humility?
 7. **Goodness** – Is your personal life in accord with God’s Word?
 8. **Self-control** – Are you willing to be limited to prescribed guidelines?
 9. **Faith** – Has God told you to say or do this?
- d. **A summary guideline to follow is** – when operating in the gifts of the Spirit, obey the moving of the Spirit that operates according to the Word of God on the basis of love and edification.

V. What are some misconceptions about the gifts of the Spirit?

- a. Some feel that the Gifts of the Spirit are an indication of God’s approval on a life or a church assembly. However, the gifts of God are not earned or deserved. God gives gifts to meet the needs of His people and they be can misused or abused.
- b. Some feel the Gifts of the Spirit operating in a life are an indication of spiritual maturity. However, these gifts are not to be seen as something only available to the “super-spiritual”, but these signs should follow those that believe.

VI. Conclusion: The gifts of the Spirit are part of the equipment given to the Church by the Spirit so that the Church might be a supernatural influence in the world today. Believers should not be afraid of these realms but should look to the Lord each day for the supernatural enablement of the Holy Spirit.

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Motivational Gifts Romans 12:3-9	Ministry Gifts 1 Cor 12:27-31	Manifestation Gifts 1 Cor 12:7-11
Gk: charismata charis - grace	Gk: diakoneo - deacon service	Gk: energema - effect phanerosis - to show, manifest
Prophecy	Apostle	Word of Wisdom
Serving	Prophet	Word of Knowledge
Teaching	Teacher	Faith
Exhorting	Miracles	Gifts of Healings
Giving	Healings	Working of Miracles
Administration	Helps	Prophecy
Mercy	Administrations	Discerning of Spirits
	Tongues	Different kind of tongues
		Interpretation of tongues
	<i>(this is not an exclusive list of ministries)</i>	
Motivational Gifts tell us how we process or think about something. It's the lens that we look through or how we perceive life situations. <i>"Grace does not work by itself; it is God and man working and acting together as one."</i> David Ireland	Ministry Gifts tell us what we're called to do, or what our assignment from Heaven is. He could call us into other venues like the work place (business, government, medicine, education, etc).	Manifestation Gifts, a.k.a. known as the Holy Spirit Gifts, are the manifestation or expression of God's power through us. The gifts don't make us infallible. You don't prophesy everyone's "mail". It's always by faith and grace that we operate in the gifts

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