

# Bite Size Bible Study

## Spiritual Gifts #156

By Pastor Lee

Paul's first letter to the Corinthians has much to say about gifts of the Spirit. His thesis is that all these gifts are given to individuals but not the same gifts to every person. They are distributed so as to complete the body of Christ so that the entire body is completely functional for the spreading of the Good News.

<sup>4</sup> *There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.* <sup>5</sup> *There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.* <sup>6</sup> *There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.*

<sup>7</sup> *Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.* <sup>8</sup> *To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit,* <sup>9</sup> *to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit,* <sup>10</sup> *to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.* <sup>11</sup> *All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.*

### 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 NIV

**Spiritual Gifts** (*pneumata*) three groups:

- There are varieties of gifts (*charismata*), but the same Spirit;
- There are varieties of service (*diakonia*), but the same Lord;
- There are varieties of working (*energemata*).

The particular manifestation of the Spirit that each person receives is due not to his own merit but to the Spirit distributing to each person as he chooses, not to provide ground for pride but for the common good.

**Nine supernatural gifts from the Holy Spirit** are:

- Word of wisdom**, supernatural wisdom about how to solve a practical or spiritual problem.
- Word of knowledge**, supernatural knowledge relevant to understanding a situation.
- Faith** (or: "faithfulness") beyond what believers "normally" have, even though all faith is a gift from God (Eph 2:8-9) — "the faith which produces not only miracles, but martyrs".
- Gifts of healing**. Nearly everyone is acquainted with inexplicable healings. Some of these are from God, and of these some come in response to "ordinary" prayer, while others result from the ministry of those who have one or more of the "gifts" of healing. Healing was one of the chief ministries of Yeshua

the Messiah when he walked the earth, and he promised that we who believe in him would do "even greater works". God will not heal every illness, but he will supernaturally heal some.

- Miracles**. In a sense the events of everyday life are miracles, but the concept here seems to refer to "unusual" miracles, not "usual" ones. Spectacular miracles are reported more frequently in areas where the Gospel is relatively new.
- Prophecy** is speaking on behalf of God. The standard for judging a prophet is given in the *Torah*:  
*"But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods — that prophet shall die. And if you ask yourself, 'How are we to know if the word spoken is not from Adonai'." — when a prophet speaks in the name of Adonai, if the thing predicted does not come to pass, then it has not been spoken by Adonai: rather, the prophet has spoken it presumptuously, and you are not to be afraid of him.*" (Deut 18:20-22)
- The ability to judge between spirits**, popularly called "discernment of spirits." is the ability to tell whether a particular phenomenon is from the Spirit of God; from a person's own spirit, or from some demonic spirit; one might call it the supernatural ability to avoid being deceived. This particular gift is often needed in order to discern whether healings, miracles and prophecies are truly from God.
- The ability to speak in different kinds of tongues**.  
**Four different kinds of tongues:**
  - Speaking in ordinary human languages other than those one knows (Ac 2:4-11, 10:44-46, 19:6, as a sign that the Holy Spirit has come to dwell in God's people.
  - Speaking in ordinary human languages other than those one has learned, as a miracle from God.
  - Speaking publicly in a worship service in a language one has not learned, a language, which may not be a human language at all.
  - Speaking privately to God in a language one has not learned.
- The ability to interpret tongues**, to give the meaning in ordinary language of what is spoken by the "gift of tongues" in a public worship service. Tongues + Interpretation = Prophecy.

Using and demonstrating the Gifts of the Spirit is for the purpose of demonstrating that God is guiding and directing the body of believers – to those in the body and those who are observing the body in action.

Ref: Jewish New Testament Commentary by Davie H. Stern

### Cornerstone Community Church

PO Box 654 Lemon Grove, CA 91945-0654 – [www.cornerstonecommunityonline.org](http://www.cornerstonecommunityonline.org)

Comments and Suggestions for Topics may be sent to [llogue1@cox.net](mailto:llogue1@cox.net)