

## The 9 gifts of the Holy Spirit

1. **The gift of wisdom**, is the ability to speak with discretion. One may have a Doctorate and be unwise in the usage of accumulated intelligence. On the other hand, one with a minimum of acquired textbook knowledge may have the ability to say the right thing at the appropriate moment. Wisdom is the application of knowledge, otherwise it merely remains head knowledge.

2. **The gift of knowledge**, or the ability to delve into the deep things of God and then communicate them with simplicity to hungry hearts.

3. **The gift of faith**, or the ability to attempt the impossible for God. Joshua believed God, and the Sun stood still. Peter believed God, and walked on the water. Since this is not a gift for all, do not foolishly launch out on some gigantic project for the Kingdom, and then fall flat on your face. Be sure the venture is in the will of God (1 John 5:14-15).

4. **The gift of healing** is given to some who have the faith to trust God for miraculous healings. In Christ's day, healing generally was not produced by any virtue of the person healed, but entirely through the gift of the healer. The dead were resurrected. What faith did they have? Nevertheless, they were resuscitated. On the other hand, there are times when the gift of healing is impossible, even though the healer may be very sincere. The problem? He has not sought the will of God for the one he is attempting to heal. 1 John 5:14 states: "*And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us.*" When one has not sought God's will and attempts to heal, it is all in vain. One goes through the motions and all is futile and hopeless. The Apostle Paul understood this well. That is why he left his helper, Trophimus, sick at Miletum (2 Timothy 4:20). Epaphroditus also was left behind sick - "*nigh unto death*" (Philippians 2:27). Remember, God can heal anytime and anywhere, when it is His will. The one enabled to heal will be given the faith to do the job properly, once God's will is made plain to him through prayer and the Word for each case.

5. **The gift of miracles** is the ability to win the lost for Christ. Do you know of any greater miracle than getting a man saved for all eternity? This is the reason: "*. . . ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me . . .*" (Acts 1:8).

6. **The gift of prophecy** is the ability to tell forth the 'good news' with power.

7. **The gift of discernment** is the ability to judge whether the message is from God or Satan. 1 John 4:1 warns: "*. . . test the spirits . . .*"

8 and 9. **The gift of tongues and the interpretation of tongues** was the ability to speak in unlearned, foreign languages. Acts 2, verses 4, 6 and 8, state respectively: "*. . . they . . . began to speak with other tongues.*" Also: "*. . . every man heard them speak in his own language . . . and . . . how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?*" And again: "*. . . we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God . . .*" (verse 11). Some 14 or more languages were spoken and understood. In 1 Corinthians 14 the word unknown is in italics, meaning that it cannot be found in the original Greek text. Think of what could happen if missionaries received the original gift as they went to China, Japan, Germany, etc.

All of God's people have the baptism, and all have at least one of the gifts - therefore, we are all charismatics. "*The manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal*" (1 Corinthians 12:7). Verse 11 states: "*But all these [gifts] worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will*" Again: "*. . . unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ*" (Ephesians 4:7). If you have still not identified your gift/s, try "helps" in 1 Corinthians 12:28. If you help as a counsellor, an usher, a choir member etc, and if God has given you a special 'knack' in knowing how to do it, you have that particular "gift".

Remember, it is vital that the fruit (all 9 graces) of the Spirit is used to minister the gifts. This will produce godliness and holiness.

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