



# Celebration CHURCH

Celebration Church Adult Discipleship

## **Lesson 3 – Spiritual Gifts**

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# Reasons for Discipleship

## **Believers without knowledge will not survive the onslaught of evil in the last days.**

“You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it. —*Matthew 7:13, 14 (NLT)*

And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. —*Matthew 24:10 (NKJV)*

## **Believers without knowledge may have enthusiasm but will remain fruitless.**

Enthusiasm without knowledge is no good; haste makes mistakes. —*Proverbs 19:2 (NLT)*

## **Believers without knowledge may have passion but do not look anything like Jesus.**

Whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked —*1 John 2:6 (ESV)*

## **Believers with knowledge are able to step into their royal priesthood.**

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; —*1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV)*

The priesthood of all believers is a call to ministry and service.

- The most significant blessing is that there is no hierarchy of beings standing between the believer and God.
- All believers have the Spirit of God and do the work of ministry.

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## **Spiritual Gifts**

## What are Spiritual Gifts?

The Apostle Paul coins the term charism (charisma in Greek), meaning a gift freely bestowed. It is based on the word for “grace” (charis). A charism is what might be called a “gracelet,” a droplet of the vast ocean of God’s grace. A spiritual gift is an endowment or extraordinary power given by the Holy Spirit.

## Why do we need Spiritual Gifts?

To enable believers to be instruments of God’s love and power to others. A spiritual gift is an anointing, or capacity, to serve God. It should be viewed as a tool to do the work of the kingdom much in the same way as a plumber, or carpenter, has tools to accomplish their tasks.

## Spiritual Gifts vs Natural Gifts

Spiritual gifts are not natural human abilities, but supernatural abilities.

A natural gift such as athletic ability or musical talent, is an innate aptitude that you can develop and use at will. A charism is dependent on the operation of the Holy Spirit, and therefore it has an efficacy that surpasses merely human talent.

“It either enables what is humanly impossible (such as prophecy, healings or miracles), or it elevates a natural aptitude (such as teaching or administration) to a supernatural level.”<sup>1</sup>

## Access to the Gifts

You can grow in the gifts by becoming more aware of the voice of God and His will. In doing so, the operation of the gifts may become more common. However, you will always be dependent on the Holy Spirit. “If you have a gift of healing, for example, you cannot pull that gift out of your pocket and heal someone whenever you feel like it. Rather you are a musical instrument on which the Holy Spirit plays according to His times. The more yielded you are to the Him, the more freely He will play.”<sup>2</sup>

## Common Spiritual Gifts

### 9 Charisma Gifts

For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, 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. —1 Corinthians 12:8 - 10 (NKJV)

These gifts fall into three categories:

- **Power Gifts:** Gifts of healings, working of miracles, and faith.

- **Speaking Gifts:** Gifts of prophecy, different kinds of tongues, and word of knowledge.
- **Discernment gifts:** A word of wisdom, discernment of spirits, and interpretation of tongues.

## 7 Motivational Gifts

In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So, if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly. —*Romans 12:4 - 8 (NLT)*

## Speaking and Serving Gifts

If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. —*1 Peter 4:11 (NIV)*

Paul is referring to a special kind of speaking, not merely teaching. Someone who gives a teaching is not usually considered to be speaking the very words of God, as is someone who speaks under the inspiration of the Spirit.

## 5 Office (Doma) Gifts

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, —*Ephesians 4:11 (NKJV)*

A true doma person is committed to training and equipping the church at large to grow in each one's gifting so we can all bear fruit for God the Father.

# FAQ

## Can anyone receive any of the above gifts?

Note: Many build a theology to support what gifts they cannot have rather than the ones they can have.

### Push-back verses include:

"It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have." —*1 Cor. 12:11 (NLT)*

"But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it." —*1 Cor. 12:18 (NLT)*

"And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? 30 Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all

interpret? 31 But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.” —1 Corinthians 12:29 – 31 (NLT)

### **Which gifts should I desire? (The best ones!)**

And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way. —1 Corinthians 12:29 – 31 (NLT)

These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak in new languages. They will be able to handle snakes with safety, and if they drink anything poisonous, it won't hurt them. They will be able to place their hands on the sick, and they will be healed.” —Mark 16:17 – 18 (NLT)

The charisma gifts can be received according to your purpose, while the domo gifts are given at birth.

### **Can one person possess all the gifts?**

No one has all the gifts it is possible to have – because then we would not need each other.

The eye cannot say to the hand, “...I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” —(1 Cor. 12:21)

### **Do all Christians have spiritual gifts?**

Charisms are given to all Christians:

“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit” —(1 Cor. 12:7)

“A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other” —1 Corinthians 12:7 (NLT).

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.” —(1 Peter 4:10)

**Many Christians do not exercise charism because they have no idea how to use them and grow in them; they may not even know what they are.**

### **Must you be baptized in the Holy Spirit in order to operate in the Gifts?**

Three Main Views:

- First, gifts do not become operative in the Christian's life until after baptism in the Holy Spirit.
- Second, gifts are made available to every Christian at the moment of regeneration; that is new birth in Christ, which (for this group) is the same time that one is baptized in the Holy Spirit.

- Third, some hold that an individual can have access to and move in the gifts of the Spirit prior to the baptism in the Spirit, which is usually subsequent to regeneration, but that baptism in the Spirit heightens or intensifies the gifts.

*This latter position was my experience, and I believe it has the great number of biblical texts to support it. It is not the only position, however. There are also biblical texts, though not as many, supporting the view of baptism of the Spirit occurring simultaneously with regeneration.<sup>3</sup> (Dr. Randy Clark, Spiritual Gifts Handbook)*

**\*\*ANSWER: \*\***IF the Spirit is within us, then the potential of moving in His gifts is also within us.

But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.) —*Romans 8:9 (NLT)*

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## Word of Wisdom

A Word of Wisdom refers to supernatural wisdom given in the moment that leads a person to make the right decision, or reply with the right answer, or break through an impasse, or know what to do in a particular situation.

Paul is not speaking here simply of wisdom, but of a “word” (logos) of wisdom.

He is referring to a specific insight from God that is applicable in a particular setting.

It is a wisdom that has nothing to do with IQ and is not gained. By human experience or learning but is supernaturally given by God.

Donald Gee, Concerning Spiritual Gifts:

In a manifestation of the spiritual gift of the word of wisdom something flashes.

One is deeply conscious that the supremely right thing has been said and the true course of action indicated. No further appeal is desired because the heart rests in a calm satisfaction that the will of God has been revealed.

There are some who regard themselves as having the gift of wisdom, and they apparently consider themselves as endowed with an infallible sagacity that can be tapped to order at any time!

In the mistaken sense in which such people mean it, there is no such gift.

It is the gift of the word of wisdom and implies a spoken utterance through a direct operation of the Holy Spirit at a given moment, rather than an abiding deposit of supernatural wisdom.

Believers do not become reservoirs of this kind of wisdom.<sup>4</sup>

### Arko Volumes:

She [Mary] said he [Jesus] settled all the disputes of the family; that no odds what was the subject or who it was, one word from him closed all mouths, and what gave

him such power was his words were always unpretending and spoken as though they were not intended as a rebuke, but merely as a decision.<sup>5</sup>

### **Biblical Example:**

In Acts 10, when Peter received a vision of a sheet let down. From heaven, filled with unclean. Animals followed shortly afterward by a visit from some Gentiles. Peter was given supernatural wisdom to understand that this vision and visit meant that he was to show these men hospitality, go and enter the house of the Gentile Cornelius – something that was totally against his principles as a devout Jew – and preach the Gospel to them. His obedience to the leading of the Holy Spirit led to the first evangelization of Gentiles, a momentous step in the growth of the Church.

### **Parenting Example:**

Parent catching child looking at pornography. The mother had the idea of her child writing a story about who that woman was. How she got into porn. (page 140)

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## **Word of Knowledge**

“Knowledge” refers to the knowledge of truths of the faith, such as the fact that our old self was crucified with Christ (Romans 6:6), or it can refer to the knowledge of ordinary facts.

- The “Gift of the Word of Knowledge” refers to a supernatural knowledge of facts that does not come through study, research, experience or any human.
- Often, it involves knowledge of something God desires to do or is about to do in a particular situation.

### **Knowledge of the will of God**

“And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have. Asked of him.” —1 John 5:14 – 15

The key here is “according to his will.”

The word of knowledge is a means by which God makes us aware of what is. According to His will in a particular setting.

### **Biblical examples:**

- When Peter knew supernaturally that Ananias and Sapphira had lied about the proceeds of their property (Acts 5).
- When Paul was evangelizing in Lystra, had a word of knowledge that a crippled man. Would be made well, As soon as Paul declared the word, saying in a loud voice, “Stand upright on your feet!” the man sprang up and began walking (Acts 14:10).

### **Excerpt from Spiritual Gifts Handbook on modern example in evangelism<sup>6</sup>**

*My friend of mine Mathias Thelen was on the phone one day ordering pizza for himself and some other. He struck up a conversation with the woman on the line, Emily, and the conversation began to turn toward God. Perceiving her openness, he began to share the Gospel with her by explaining that the essence of Christianity is to respond in love to the God who gave us His Son, Jesus.*

*As they were talking, an image came into Mathias' mind of Emily looking at herself in a mirror, with earrings on. He decided to take a step in faith and share it with her: "Even right now, as we speak, I see the Lord Jesus looking at you with love as you look at yourself in the mirror, with earrings on. The Lord wants you to know that He sees your beauty and delights in you, and that no matter what you've done in the past, He loves you and has a plan for your life."*

*There was silence on the line. Then he heard her trembling voice: "I feel as if I'm going to cry right now. How did you know that?"*

*"What do you mean?" he asked.*

*"Yesterday I had a terrible day, and life was so dim as I was thinking about the black hole I had fallen into in my past and about how I need to change my life. Then today, I put on the brand-new pair of earrings I just bought. Looking at myself wearing these new earrings made me feel better. How did you know? This is so amazing; I'm blown away right now."*

## **Gift of Faith**

There are two types of faith; saving faith and a gift of faith.

### **Saving Faith**

- Ephesians 2:8 & 9 NIV For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—9 not of works so that no one can boast.
- Romans 10:9 NIV If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
- Romans 12:3 (NKJV) For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.
- Hebrews 11:1 GNT To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see.
- Hebrews 11:6 (NIV) And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.



## **Gift of Faith**

**The gift of faith is granted individually, and not bestowed upon all equally.**

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, —1  
*Corinthians 12:8 - 10 (NKJV)*

**The gift of faith is knowing the ways of God.**

If it is true that you look favorably on me, let me know your ways so I may understand you more fully and continue to enjoy your favor. And remember that this nation is your very own people. —*Ex. 33:13 (NLT)*

When you have the gift of faith, you know it's going to happen. You can't explain it, but you have no doubt.

**The gift of faith seems to come upon a person and is lifted.**

1 Kings 18 - Elijah on Mt. Carmel

1 Kings 19 - Elijah under a juniper tree.

**A grain of the gift of faith can move a mountain.**

So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. —*Mark 11:22-24 (NKJV)*

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## **Footnotes:**

<sup>1</sup> Spiritual Gifts Handbook 24, 25

<sup>2</sup> " " 25

<sup>3</sup> Dr. Randy Clark, Believers do not become reservoirs of this kind of wisdom.

<sup>4</sup> Donald Gee. "Concerning Spiritual Gifts." Chpt 4

<sup>5</sup> Archko Volume, Chapter 4

<sup>6</sup> Spiritual Gifts Handbook, pg 142