

LESSON 18

THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT PART 2

Required Bible Reading:

1 Corinthians 12:4-6
12:8-11
13:1-8
14:1

In this lesson we'll be looking into "The Gifts of the Spirit" The nine supernatural manifestations of the Holy Ghost. The nine gifts as we studied last time are listed in **1 Corinthians chapter 12**. They are divided into three categories.

- **Three Revelation Gifts...**They reveal something
 - The word of wisdom
 - The word of knowledge
 - The discerning of spirits
- **The Power Gifts.....**They do something
 - The Gift of faith
 - The working of miracles
 - The Gifts of healings
- **Three Utterance or Inspirational Gifts...**They say something
 - Prophecy
 - Divers kinds of tongues
 - Interpretation of tongues

The Bible says we are not to be ignorant of spiritual gifts. It's important that we understand how the Spirit operates. And that the gifts of the Holy Spirit operate as the Spirit wills, not as we will. We can't turn them off and on when we want to. They are the gifts of the Holy Spirit, none of us can lay claim to them. But we can all operate in them as the Spirit wills.

God, the Holy Ghost and Jesus are all involved in the operation of the gifts.

1 Corinthians 12:4 says there are diversities of gifts but the same Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:5 says there are differences of administrations but the same Lord.

1 Corinthians 12:6, says there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God that worketh all in all.

The Revelation Gifts

The three revelation gifts are called revelation gifts because they reveal something.

The Word of Wisdom

The word of wisdom is the first mentioned and it is a very important gift because it is supernatural Revelation of the mind and purpose of God. It is God's wisdom imparted to man. It's not the whole wisdom of God, it's a fraction of God's wisdom, a word of wisdom. It always has to do with the future. God sees the end from beginning. We only see the beginning. When God gives us a word of wisdom, He's revealing to us something that has not yet occurred.

Joseph, in the Old Testament, had dreams concerning the future. God was giving him a word of wisdom. In the book of Jonah, God spoke to Jonah and told him to go to Nineveh, it was a revelation of God's purpose. Jesus foretold of his suffering that was to come. He also told about what would happen in the last days, according to **Matthew** chapter **24**. There is nothing greater than the revelation of the mind and purpose of God.

The Word of Knowledge

The word of wisdom is very close to the word of knowledge, but they differ just as wisdom and knowledge are different. The word of knowledge, like the word of wisdom, comes by revelation of the Spirit of God. The word of knowledge is knowledge about the past or present as revealed by the Spirit of God. It cannot be attained by natural means. In the word of knowledge, God is revealing something about the past or present, not to condemn anyone, but to help them. In **John 1:48**, Jesus saw Nathaniel under the fig tree before Philip called him. The word of knowledge can direct us. In **Acts 9:11**, the word of knowledge directed Ananias to where Saul of Tarsus was in the street called Straight. In **John 4:18**, Jesus spoke to the woman at the well through a word of knowledge. It exposed her life and the woman got converted. The word of knowledge is given by the Spirit without you having any prior knowledge of the facts.

The Discerning of Spirits

The discerning of spirits is the third gift of revelation. It gives us insight into the spirit world. It not only discerns evil spirits but good spirits also. The ability to see the presence or activity of spirit beings, comes only by revelation which God gives by the Holy Spirit. Visions come by the ability to see into the realm of the Spirit, as the Spirit wills. We can't go seeking after visions, because the devil will accommodate us. He operates in the spirit realm. Discerning of spirits also allows us to see the spirit working behind a person, their intentions and their motives.

The discerning of spirits allows us to see into the spirit realm where God and angels operate and to discern the presence of good spirits just as we can sometimes discern the presence of evil spirits. Stephen, in the book of **Acts**, saw Jesus just before he was martyred. John, in the Book of **Revelation**, saw heaven opened, looked into the heavenly realm and saw Jesus and the heavenly host.

We will continue our study on the nine manifestations of the Holy Ghost in our next lesson.

