

## LESSON 20

### THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT PART 4

#### **Required Bible Reading:**

1 Corinthians 12:7-11      1 Corinthians 14: 2,3,5,13  
Acts 21:10-11              Acts 10:45-46              Mark 16:17

In the last lesson, we studied the power gifts, the gifts that do something. In this lesson, we will be studying the utterance gifts, the gifts that say something.

The utterance gifts are: prophecy, tongues and interpretation of tongues. All of the gifts of the Spirit are supernatural manifestations of the Spirit of God and they operate as the Spirit wills. We're going to take each utterance gift separately and see what it is and how it operates.

We'll begin with prophecy. The gift of prophecy is different from the other gifts, in that it works independent of the other gifts. Prophecy is the most important of the three utterance gifts. Prophecy is supernatural utterance in a known tongue, while divers kinds of tongues is supernatural utterance in an unknown tongue. The **Hebrew** meaning of prophecy is to flow forth. It also carries with it the thought that bubbles forth like a fountain. The **Greek** word that is translated prophecy, means to speak for another. So prophecy can mean to speak for God, to be his mouthpiece. The simple gift of prophecy should not be confused with the prophetic office, or with prophetic utterance that may come forth in the prophet's ministry.

Paul said in **1 Corinthians 14:3**, he that propheseth, speaketh unto men for edification and exhortation and comfort. Prophecy in the Old Testament was a foretelling of the future. In the New Testament it is a forth-telling. The Bible tells us that all of us can prophecy, but not all of us stand in the office of the prophet.

Let's look at the New Testament's example of the prophet's ministry. *Acts 21:10-11*, "and as we tarried there many days, there came down from Judaea a certain prophet named Agabus. And when he had come unto us, he took Paul's girdle and bound his own hands and feet and said, thus saith the Holy Ghost, so shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles". Agabus had a message from the Holy Ghost for Paul. Notice that there was no direction for Paul given with it. He was the mouth piece of the Holy Ghost.

The simple gift of prophecy is for edification, exhortation and comfort. It is given to speak to people supernaturally, to edify the church. The gift of prophecy can also edify the church through exhortation. The word *exhort* in the Greek, means a calling nearer to God, an invitation.

**1 Corinthians 14:3** also says the gift of prophecy is given to comfort. Many of the prophecies given today do not bring comfort. If it does not edify, exhort or comfort, it is not the genuine gift of prophecy in operation.

## **Prophecy in Prayer**

Prophecy, like tongues, has to do with more than just public utterance. Prophecy can be used in one's prayer life. Many times while praying, a person can speak in tongues and then speak out things by the Spirit of God. Speaking with tongues is the beginning of the things of the Spirit. Because speaking in tongues is the door into the supernatural. We know that the gift of tongues is given to every Spirit-filled believer as the evidence of the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

God wants every believer to do more than speak in tongues. He wants them to be able to interpret what they say. *"Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he interpret"*. **1 Corinthians 14:13**. God wouldn't tell us to pray for something we couldn't have.

## **Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues**

Not every believer will have this gift, it is a ministry gift used in a public assembly, **1 Corinthians 14:27**. The gift of tongues and interpretation, when operating together, equal prophecy but, unlike prophecy, they cannot operate independent of one another. When you are speaking in tongues, it is a supernatural utterance in an unknown tongue. The Apostle Paul said when we pray in an unknown tongue our spirit prays, but our understanding is unfruitful. What does that mean? It means that we cannot understand what we're saying. For that reason Paul said *"Let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue, pray that he may interpret."*

Many times praying in tongues is a spring board to go into prophecy as you begin to interpret your prayers, you begin to speak by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the plan and purpose and divine will of God.

Of all the gifts of the Spirit, tongues is the most prominent in the church. It is the most frequently manifested gift in the church. Tongues and interpretation of tongues are distinctive of the church age, therefore they are more in operation. There are guidelines for speaking in tongues in the church. There has to be an interpreter present for the church to be edified, exhorted or comforted. If there is no interpreter present the Bible says we are to speak to God.

The gift of divers kinds of tongues is supernatural utterance by the Holy Spirit in languages never learned by the speaker, nor understood by the speaker, nor necessarily always understood by the hearer. It has nothing to do with the mind or intellect of man, nor does it have anything to do with linguistic ability (the ability to speak in other languages). These kind of tongues are used as a sign, many times to the believer. A message may be divinely directed to a certain individual in that person's natural language, but it is unknown by the speaker. That is a supernatural act of the Holy Spirit, as the Spirit wills.

The Bible tells us to covet spiritual gifts or desire them. Tongues can be used to magnify God and to speak the marvelous works of God.

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**TEST-LESSON 20 THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT PART 4**

1. The gifts that say something are: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. The gift of prophecy works \_\_\_\_\_ from the other gifts.

3. Prophecy is given for \_\_\_\_\_, exhortation,  
and \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Divers kinds of tongues is not a linguistic ability but a \_\_\_\_\_  
act of the Holy Ghost.

5. Tongues is the way into the \_\_\_\_\_.

True or False

6. You can interpret your own prayer language. \_\_\_\_\_T \_\_\_\_\_F

7. Agabus was an apostle. \_\_\_\_\_T \_\_\_\_\_F

8. The gift of tongues is what happens when people get born again  
and change the way they speak. \_\_\_\_\_T \_\_\_\_\_F

9. Tongues and interpretation of tongues are equal to prophecy. \_\_\_\_\_T \_\_\_\_\_F

10. The gift of prophecy foretells the future. \_\_\_\_\_T \_\_\_\_\_F