



Lecture 2

Knowing Your God-Given Gifts

DISCOVERING OUR GOD-GIVEN GIFTS

1 Corinthians 12:4-13 (Wuest translation)

Now, there are different distributions of spiritual gifts, these gifts being diverse from one another, but there is the same Spirit. And there are different distributions of various kinds of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are different distributions of divine energy motivating these gifts in their operation, but the same God who by His divine energy operates them all in their sphere. But to each one there is constantly being given the clearly seen operations of the Spirit with a view to the profit [of all]. For to one is given through the intermediate agency of the Spirit a **word of wisdom**, and to another a **word of knowledge** according to the same Spirit, to another **faith** by the same Spirit, and to another **gifts of healing** by the one Spirit, and to another the **working of miracles**, and to another the **giving forth of divine revelations (prophecy)**, and to another the **correct evaluation (discernment of spirits)** of those individuals who give forth divine revelations, and to another **various kinds of languages**, and to another the **interpretation of languages**. But all these the one and same Spirit is by divine energy putting into operation, dividing to each one separately even as He desires. For even as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body being many, are one body, thus also is the Christ, for indeed by means of one Spirit we all were placed into one body, whether Jews or Gentiles, whether slaves or free men. And we all were imbued with one Spirit.

Word of Wisdom

That is, revelations of the divine wisdom that is revealed in the Word of God, as contrasted with human philosophy.

Ephesians 6:19 (Wuest translation)

“and on behalf of me, in order that there might be given me utterance in the opening of my mouth, in every fearless, confident freedom of speaking, to make known the mystery of the good news

Word of knowledge

Contrary to the Word of Wisdom, a Word of Knowledge is a God-given revelation about a person or a situation that could not be known by the person without God's supernatural input. For instance, when ministering to a person in need, God reveals the key issues to set the captive free, i.e. some event in the past, some current circumstance, etc.

Faith

Faith, not only in the Word, but also confidence in God, by the impulse of His Spirit, that He would enable the believer to perform any **prompting** to “move mountains” in a particular circumstances (Mark 11:23-24).

Gifts of healing

Ministering healing of the body and the soul by the power and prompting of the Holy Spirit.

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Working of miracles

Miracles within God's will under the submission to the Holy Spirit as Jesus did while on earth. It always has to be the will of the Father. Working of miracles can also relate to healing. Miracles of healing is a God-given gift. This is not progressive healing but instantaneous healing by the prompting and power of the Holy Spirit.

Prophecy

As mentioned in Lecture 1, the gift of prophecy has two aspects or elements to it: forth-telling (God-inspired exhortation) and foretelling (anticipating God-revealed events). While there are no new prophecies to be added to the Bible, there are times when God will reveal a future work to the believer, for the purpose of affirming ahead of time His plan and purposes for a person or ministry. Prophecy is also God's gift to believers (by inspiration of the Holy Spirit) to warn, exhort, instruct, judge and to guide.

Discernment of spirits

A God-given supernatural sensitivity through the Holy Spirit, to discern evil spirits and also the intentions of the heart of others. Discernment of spirits is discerning between the operation of God's Spirit, evil spirits and the helpless human spirit.

Languages (tongues)

This gift of tongues in a language unknown to the person, is for personal edification as the Apostle Paul describes. It can also be for the church but it will have to be interpreted, according to Scripture.

1 Corinthians 14:18 (Wuest translation)

"I thank my God that I speak in tongues more than you all,¹⁹ but in the church assembly I would rather speak five words with my understanding in order that I might instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue"

1 Corinthians 14:2-5

For the one who is uttering words in a tongue [a language not understood except through an interpreter] is not speaking to men but to God, for no one hears him so as to understand what he is saying. And he utters with his human spirit [as energised by the Holy Spirit] divine revelations not explained.³ But he who imparts divine revelations to men is speaking with the result of upbuilding the Christian life, and exhortation, and consolation.⁴ The one who utters words in a tongue builds himself up in his Christian life. But he who imparts divine revelations to others builds up the local assembly.⁵ Now I desire that all of you be speaking in tongues, but I prefer that you impart divine revelations to others which you have received. Moreover, greater is the one who imparts divine revelations to others than he who speaks in tongues, with this exception - that he interpret, in order that the local assembly might receive upbuilding

Interpretation of tongues

1 Corinthians 14:12-14 (Wuest translation)

Thus also, as for yourselves, since you are those who are most eagerly desirous of spirits [spiritual powers], be desiring them in order that you may abound in them with a view to the building up of the local assembly.¹³ Therefore, let the one who speaks in a tongue be praying that he may be unfolding the meaning of what he is saying,¹⁴ for if I am praying in a tongue, my spirit [the human spirit as moved by the Holy Spirit] is praying, but my intellect confers no benefits upon others.

Operating in the spiritual gifts is exciting and enhances our faith. Putting action to the Word of God always lifts our faith and causes us to grow.