

Key Passage Paper

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Th308 Gifts of the Spirit

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As stated before, God has given the body of Christ everything we need to live a victorious life and to be able to defeat the enemy. The gifts of the spirit are our spiritual weapons that we need to fight and win in this spiritual war. The church seems defeated in some areas because the gifts of the spirit are not operating the way God design. Just like a natural war, you cannot go into battle and not have your weapons and expect to defeat your enemy. Jesus was our example, when he walked the earth as a man; he allowed the gifts of the spirit to operate through him. All the miracles he performed while on earth, He performed them by allowing the gifts of the spirit to operate in his life.

In his book *The Gifts and Ministries of the Holy Spirit*, Lester Sumrall says “the greatest unused energy in the world today cannot be found under the ground with the oil and coal resources that latent power is within the church of the Lord Jesus Christ.” While oil and coal are very valuable energy resources that we use on a regular basic, the church possess an even greater valuable resource found in the gifts of the spirit. As Christians, we have to do our part by spending time in the presence of God, praying and fasting and open ourselves us to allow the gifts to flow as God sees fit. We cannot allow the enemy to make us believe that the gifts are not for me but for someone else. Each one of us in the body of Christ has been blessed with a spiritual gift, when we are not using our gift the body of Christ suffers.

In order to win this spiritual war that we are in, we have to put on the whole armor of God and remember we are not fighting against flesh and blood but against spiritual principalities. In order to defeat these demonic demons we have to fight in the spirit using the spiritual weapons God gave the church. The weapons we possess are strong and mighty to pulling down any strong hold. We just have to remember we have a right to any of the spiritual gifts and not be afraid to allow God to use them through us as He see fit.

We find in I Corinthians 12:7-11 the manifestation gifts that can flow through us at any given time and in any situation as God sees fit. These gifts can manifest themselves as needed, depending on the situation we are in and also depending on what God wants to do in the situation. It is through these gifts that both the believer and unbeliever can be blessed and the power of God is demonstrated. The manifestation gifts include the Word of Wisdom, Word of Knowledge, Faith, Gifts of Healing, Working of Miracles, Prophecy, Discerning of Spirits, Divers kinds of Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues.

As we read earlier God has given the church everything it needs to be victorious through the gifts of the spirit. They are called gifts because they cannot be earned. There is nothing we can do to earn or purchase these gifts; the only way to get them is to accept them as a gift from God. Just because they are given to the church does not mean they are not important. Also with the gifts, you do not get to choose as to whether or not you will accept them. If you choose not to accept them, you will lose them. Remember, these gifts are our weapons to defeat the enemy. Once you lose them, you will then lose the spiritual war.

In I Corinthians 12:11, Paul reminds us that “But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will”, all these gifts come from God and he divides them among men as he sees fit. God is the source of the gifts and the use of these gifts are to bring glory to God. Since God is the source of our gifts and our gifts are to bring glory to Him, we should not become high minded or think more of our selves than we ought to when God chooses to use us and allow the gifts to flow through us. For example if God uses you to operate with the gift of faith; you tend to have a level of faith that is unwavering while I may be weak in the faith. You should not think more of yourself because of your gift of faith. We are to

remember; the gifts are to edify and build up the body of Christ and should not be used for selfish gain.

For more understanding of the manifestation gifts, we can also look at the meaning of each gift as found in the manifestation gifts from the Institute in Basic Life Principles website.

1. The Word of Wisdom is a supernatural provision of divine wisdom or a right application of knowledge. God enables a person to know what to say or do in a specific situation.
2. Word of Knowledge: supernatural revelation of facts past, present, or future which were not learned through the efforts of the natural mind. God reveals a fact to you that you would not have known otherwise.
3. Faith: a sudden surge of faith, usually in a crisis, to confidently believe without a doubt.
4. Gifts of Healing: Healing refers to supernatural healing of infirmities and diseases, for the glory of God
5. Working of Miracles: this is a supernatural ability to serve others as a channel of God's miracle-working power such as raising one from the dead, physical healings and casting out demons. All for the glory of God.
6. Prophecy: is directly proclaiming the mind of God, telling something that God has spontaneously brought to mind.
7. Discerning of Spirits: by this gift, the believer is enabled to know immediately what is motivating a person or situation.
8. Divers kinds of Tongues: kindred languages that are not naturally acquired
9. Interpretation of Tongues: translation of languages that have not been naturally acquired

In 1Corinthians 14, Paul reminds us Let all things be done decently and in order and again in he reminds us that God is not the author of confusion, but of peace. In order for the gifts to operate, we have to be on one accord with the same mind, seeking to please God not ourselves, in all that we say or do. Our motivation should be that God get the glory out of our life and the gifts flowing through us. When we seek to please God and

allow the Spirit to flow as it pleases, then the body of Christ can be edified and the members are blessed, set free and delivered.

#### References

1. Sumrall, Lester "The Gifts and Ministries of the Holy Spirit". Whitaker House, Pa. 1982. Pg.49
2. <https://iblp.org/questions/what-are-manifestation-spiritual-gifts>. accessed 1/2/2018