

Empowerment of the Holy Spirit in a Believer's Life

Mitch Clay

Proclamation Ministries

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1Cor 12:11, 18 The Holy Spirit has divided his gifts to each person as he desires. And the Holy Spirit has set these gifted members in the Body of Christ as it pleases him.

There are many kinds of giftings but they can be broken up into 3 groups.

The Romans 12 Motivational Gifts (Rom 12:5-8)

These are empowerments of the Holy Spirit that we are born with. It is hard to distinguish between our personality and these motivational gifts in our lives because it is so much a part of who we are. These gifts determine our motive or how we view ministry and life. This is our inner drive. Romans call these gifts, grace.

Prophecy, ministry or serving, teaching, exhorting or encouraging, ruling or leadership, giving, mercy

Prophecy: Speaking from divine inspiration. Speaking what has been revealed, not just your own good thoughts but communicating what God has revealed. Declaring the purposes of God, whether by reproofing the wicked, or comforting the afflicted, or revealing things hidden. This is the same as one of the 9 gifts of the Holy Spirit but in this case it is more the flavor of a person's life and approach to life. More than just being moved on by the Holy Spirit to prophesy in a church meeting.

Ministry or Serving: The joy of a person with this kind of grace is found in serving. It is very easy to put the needs of others first. They find great satisfaction in ministering to the needs of others. This is a grace gift in a person's life. It is hard to separate the grace of God called serving from the person's personality. Deacons and servers serve in the house of God and among the people of God.

Teaching: To teach and share truth. Instruct people, to defend truth. This grace comes with a love for truth and a hatred of compromise and false doctrine.

Exhorting or encouraging: to address, speak to, or call to, to exhort, to comfort, to instruct. This is very similar to prophecy but does not contain the element of reproof. Again this is the motivating factor of a person's life. This kind of person is almost always encouraging and up lifting people telling them you can make it.

Ruling or Leadership: The characteristic of a person with this kind of grace is someone who is always leading. They are not afraid of being out in front. They just naturally take the lead. There is an unspoken authority in the lives of people with this grace.

Giving: This is the person who is always looking for a way to give. Their giving is not just financial. This grace to give is the motivating force in their lives.

Mercy: This is compassion, empathy and a genuine pity for the hurt and abused. This is the person that can't say no to a need they see in other people's lives. Their heart is broken for those who are in need.

The Nine Gifts of the Holy Spirit (1Cor 12:7-11)

The gifts of the Spirit are listed in 1Cor 12:7-11. These are 9 specific gifts of the Holy Spirit. These gifts are not our talents and abilities. They are supernatural giftings of the Holy Spirit released through us by the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Vocal Gifts: Diverse tongues, Interpretation of tongues, Prophecy

Revelatory Gifts: Word of Knowledge, Word of Wisdom, Discerning of Spirits

Power Gifts: Faith, Working of Miracles, Gifts of Healings

Vocal Gifts

Diverse Tongues: This is the Holy Spirit gift where a person is used by the Holy Spirit to bring a message from God in an unknown tongue. This requires the gift of interpretation of tongues. This gift, diverse tongues, is not to be confused with a person's personal prayer language spoken of in Romans 8:26. The gift of the Spirit diverse tongues when interpreted is for the benefit of the Body of Christ. When a message in tongues is interpreted in a congregational setting it is equivalent to the gift of prophecy.

Interpretation of Tongues: We have explained this in the definition of diverse tongues. It is a gift of the Holy Spirit where a believer can bring an interpretation of a message given in unknown tongues. This is an interpretation not a translation so the interpretation can be longer or shorter than the message in tongues.

Prophecy: A message given from the heart of God in the native tongue of the people the message is for. 1Cor 14:3 says prophecy is to edify, exhort and comfort. The purpose is to edify the church. Just because a person prophesies does not mean he is a prophet.

Revelatory Gifts

Word of Knowledge: This is a gift of the Holy Spirit whereby a believer gains knowledge supernaturally. This is knowledge they did not know. Notice it is a word of knowledge not a sentence or paragraph. It is not complete knowledge but just a word. It may be about a person or situation. For example in a church meeting the Holy Spirit shows me there is a person here with pain in their right arm.

Word of Wisdom: This is the gift of the Holy Spirit where a believer knows what to do with knowledge that has been revealed. In the example above about the pain in the right arm the word of wisdom is, if you will allow me to pray for you God will heal you. This wisdom tells us what to do with what was revealed in the word of knowledge.

Discerning of Spirits: Many people call this gift discernment. It is called the gift of the discerning of spirits because that is what it is, discerning of spirits. It is a gift of the Holy Spirit that allows a believer to see or discern the spirit world. You may be able to see an angel or a demon. It is very important that we have this Holy Spirit ability active in our congregations and ministries.

Power Gifts

Faith: This is the supernatural faith of God that is allowed to work through a believer. The Holy Spirit empowers a believer to believe with the faith of God. This is not a believer with strong personal faith but the faith of God working in a believers life. This Faith works closely with the other power gifts, working of miracles and gifts of healing.

Working of Miracles: This Holy Spirit gifting enables the believer to work miracles. A miracle is when nature's rules are set aside. For example rivers are parted, food is multiplied, water changed into wine or axe heads floating. These are all examples of the law of nature being over ridden. This can apply to the physical body also. Miracles of healing are instant and not a process of healing. For instance an arm growing out or an blind eye immediately receiving its sight.

Gifts of Healing: Again this is the gift of the Holy Spirit where God heals the sick. It is not a person's personal faith developed to lay hands on the sick and see them recover, Mk 16:18. It is the Holy Spirit empowering a believer to supernaturally heal a sick person.

Fivefold Ministry Gifts (Eph 4:11)

Apostles, prophets, evangelist, pastors, teachers

One version of the Bible says that God gifted men and gave them as gifts to the body of Christ some apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. When Jesus walked on the earth he was the full expression of these 5 ministry giftings. After he arose from the dead and left the earth Jesus dispersed these gifts or callings into men. These men did not choose their calling but God called them and then revealed this calling to them. They were then given or sent to the body of Christ to mature the saints for their work of ministry.

Apostle: From the Greek word that means ‘sent one’ or messenger. He is sent with a message from the one who sent him. He is sent to a specific area or people group. For example Paul, he was sent to the Gentiles or someone sent to Germany. They have corresponding authority to accomplish what they have been sent to do. Can be administrative in the overseeing of the work in the area they have been sent to. Sometimes they pioneer new work in the area they are called to.

Prophet: One who communicates the heart of God. Brings messages that may include direction, correction or a call to repentance. They have different areas of authority. For instance a local prophet God may use in a local congregation. A regional prophet may speak to a specific region. There are those they have national and international responsibility. Not only messengers but they are used by God to impart and train the body of Christ to hear God’s voice and prophesy.

Evangelist: These are gifted people who carry the tools needed to bring the lost into the kingdom of God. Their primary work is outside the local church in the world but they also have responsibility to train the local saints to do the work of an evangelizing. They need to be connected to local works for accountability and for physical support for the work they are called to do.

Pastor: This is a shepherd who gives daily intimate care to sheep in a local congregation. He is responsible for the daily needs that come with the care God’s children. A pastor also trains and equips the sheep he has been given.

Teacher: This is a presenter of truth. He is skilled in the Word of God. He has a love for correct doctrine and has been given to the church for its establishing in truth and doctrine. They also can be assigned to different regions like the prophet. Their main emphasis is training, instructing, and schooling whether in a local congregation or in a bible school.