

*I am warning you right now, if you are in a church that is allowing you to be free to do anything you want, run for your life. If you are not in a church that is preaching the whole Gospel,-all the words in red-,run for your life.*

Steve Hill, Pensacola Revivalist

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Prayer Study #295

## **CLASSIFICATION OF THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

First Love Ministries, Inc., of Perry, Georgia

*How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard Him, God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with diverse miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?*

Hebrews 2:2-4

The *charismata* or gifts of the Holy Spirit were foretold by the Prophet Joel in Joel 2:28-29 (*And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions; and, also, upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out My Spirit.*) and in Mark 16:17-18 (*And these signs shall follow those who believe: In My name they shall cast out demons; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.*)

Spiritual gifts are supernatural endowments given by the Holy Spirit for ministry to others. They differ from the fruit of the Spirit which result from individuals walking in personal sanctification or separation to God. Both are initiated by the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

The New Testament contains several lists of spiritual gifts, most of which were given by Paul. Each list is unique but has overlap. There is some confusion about why Paul did not use only one list. For the purpose of this study, we will use only the nine gifts listed in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:8-10 but acknowledge that this is not necessarily a complete list. I will list the gifts from other scriptures, as well as 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:8-10, as a comparison for your own information:

**Romans 12:6-8:** Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Giving, Leadership, and Mercy

**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:8-10:** Word of Wisdom, Word of Knowledge, Faith, Gifts of Healing, Miracles, Prophecy, Discerning of Spirits, Tongues, and Interpretation of Tongues

**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:28:** Apostle, Prophet, Teacher, Miracles, Kinds of Healings, Helps, Administration, Tongues

**Ephesians 4:11:** Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor-Teacher

**1<sup>st</sup> Peter 4:11:** Whoever speaks, Whoever renders service

(Other passages that illustrate the use of or list spiritual gifts include Acts 8, Isaiah 11:2-3, Mark 16:15-18.)

### **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:8-11 AMP**

8. To one is given in and through the [Holy] Spirit [the power to speak] a message of wisdom, and to another [the power to express] a word of knowledge and understanding according to the same [holy] Spirit:

9. To another [wonder working] faith by the same [Holy] Spirit, to another the extraordinary powers of healing by the one Spirit;

10. To another the working of miracles, to another prophetic insight (the gift of interpreting the divine will and purpose); to another the ability to discern and distinguish between [the utterances of true] spirits [and false ones], to another various kinds of [unknown] tongues, to another the ability to interpret [such] tongues.

11. All these [gifts, achievements, abilities] are inspired and brought to pass by one and the same [Holy] Spirit, Who apportions to each person individually [exactly] as He chooses.

It is important to reiterate that these are *gifts* from the Spirit. They are not earned or merited. They are also irrevocable. Romans 11:29 tells us, *For God's gifts and His call are irrevocable. [He never withdraws them when once they are given, and He does not change His mind about those to whom He gives His grace or to whom He sends His call.]* AMP Also, we well know the scripture in John 1 that speaks of Jesus as the incarnate Word of God. Jesus, and therefore the Word is unchangeable, the same yesterday and today and forever. Hebrews 13:8: *Jesus Christ, the same yesterday and today and forever.* Thus, the cessationists, who believe that the gifts of the

Holy Spirit were limited to early Christianity, are wrong. These gifts still are vital and active today.

Taking only the 9 gifts of 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12, which we will be discussing in much of the rest of this course, we can classify them as follows:

#### I. GIFTS OF REVELATION (THINK LIKE GOD)

1. A Word of Wisdom-a supernatural revelation of God's purpose
2. A Word of Knowledge-a supernatural revelation of facts in the mind of God
3. Discerning of Spirits-a supernatural insight into the realm of the spirits

#### II. GIFTS OF POWER (ACT LIKE GOD)

1. Faith-a supernatural trust in God for the miraculous
2. The Working of Miracles-a supernatural intervention of God's power in the ordinary course of nature
3. Gifts of Healing-a supernatural manifesting of power to heal disease

#### III. GIFTS OF INSPIRATION (VOCAL GIFTS or TALK LIKE GOD)

1. Prophecy-a supernatural utterance in a known tongue
2. Divers kind of tongues-a supernatural utterance in an unknown tongue
3. Interpretation of tongues-a supernatural giving forth of the meaning of other tongues.

Some say that everyone has spiritual gifts, but that they are not being manifested in everyone. If this were so, we would not be told to desire them and covet them, i.e. why would we be told to desire and covet something that we already had. Some say they are optional, but we are told not to be ignorant of them and commanded to desire them and covet them earnestly. Finally, some deny them as being for another day, but they are present in measure in many areas of the church today. Furthermore, they have been manifested throughout the history of the church from the very beginning at Pentecost until the present age.

Many believe that Paul did not list all of the gifts of the Spirit even in the passages cited in Romans, 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians and Ephesians. They believe that there are as many gifts as there are needs in the body of Christ. I personally am reluctant to call something a gift unless it is specifically specified in the

Word of God. There are also, however, some other abilities and capacities that have been considered spiritual gifts by some Christians, but these do not make the test of the supernatural in my opinion and should not be classified as gifts of the Holy Spirit, although in some sense they are gifts given by the grace of God.

These include the following:

Celibacy -1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 7:7

Hospitality -1<sup>st</sup> Peter 4:9-10

Intercession-Romans 8:26-27

Marriage-1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 7:7

Effective Witnessing-Acts 1:8, 5:32, 26:22, 1<sup>st</sup> John 5:6

Craftsmanship-Exodus 35:30-33

Interpretation of Dreams- (for examples, Daniel and Joseph and others)

Composing spiritual music, poetry, and prose-(for examples, the Psalms)

Again, after this week's lesson, we will be spending most of the rest of this course looking at the nine gifts as named in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12.

### **He's Still Workin' On Me Joel Hemphill**

He's still workin' on me to make me what I ought to be;  
It took Him just a week to make the moon and stars,  
The sun and the earth and Jupiter and Mars.  
How loving and patient he must be! He's still workin' on me!

There really ought to be a sign upon my heart:  
"Don't judge him yet, there's an unfinished part."  
But I'll be perfect just according to His plan.  
Fashioned by the Master's loving hand.

#### **REPEAT FIRST VERSE**

The mirror of His Word, reflections that I see  
Make me wonder why He never gave up on me!  
But He loves me as I am and helps me when I pray;  
Remember He's the Potter, I'm the clay

#### **REPEAT FIRST VERSE**