

Leadership Development Program

Module 7

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Module 7 – Part 1 – Lesson 1

Historical Context for Corinth and 1 Corinthians

Corinth was a large Greek city which thrived for hundreds of years before Christ. But about 150 years before Christ, it was totally destroyed by the Romans when the Greeks rebelled against Roman rule. For a hundred years it sat in ruins, desolate and uninhabited, until Julius Caesar ordered it to be resettled as a Roman colony around 44 BC. In the following years, people from Rome and other parts of the empire began to flock there, including a large number of freed slaves.

And it grew quickly into a relatively big city – we don't know the population, but it may have been the third most important in the Roman Empire. This happened mostly because it was positioned on an isthmus. This was a four and a half mile wide strip of land with sea on both sides that connected the southern part of Greece (the Peloponnesian peninsula) to the northern part. This made Corinth a perfect crossroads for trade – land travellers between different parts of Greece had to pass through it and it had harbors on both sides, so it attracted commerce from the sea. Rather than sailing around the southern tip of the peninsula, shipping companies would save a week's time by docking a boat on one side of Corinth, unloading the cargo, carrying it across the city, and then loading it onto another boat to sail on to Italy. (Today they actually have a canal for this.)

There was some industry in Corinth – it was known for making bronze – but it was mainly a center for shipping and trade. The other thing that sustained the economy there, was actually tourism. Corinth hosted the Isthmian Games, which were similar to the Olympics. People who travelled to Corinth to see these games needed food and drink, as well as places to stay. In the absence of the modern hotel, people stayed in tents. This is why, incidentally, Paul was able to work successfully as a tentmaker when he was living in Corinth in Acts 18.

All of this combined to make Corinth a city that went very quickly after its reestablishment from being very poor to very rich. Some of its top officials were children of former slaves who had come into money through the booming economy in Corinth. But not everyone benefitted from this. Like many cities which grow quickly with booming economies, many people were left behind or stepped on by the more successful. Corinth became a city with a wide disparity between rich and poor. This contributed as well to Corinth's reputation as a very prideful city. Self-promotion was part of Corinth's culture. If a person gave money to have something built, he also paid to have a big stone chiselled to say, "I ____ built this ____." Because many people had money, they essentially competed to see who could have more public plaques. Lastly, Corinth was known as a city of wild living. It had more than three temples to the Greek goddess Aphrodite, and that certainly influenced their understanding of sexuality. The city's devotion to Aphrodite combined with the large numbers of sailors and travellers passing through led Corinth to become so known for promiscuity that its name became slang. "To play the Corinthian" was another way of talking about sex. Taking together the economic prosperity, the tourism, the pride, and the promiscuous culture, it's easy to see why one

commentator called Ephesus, “at once the New York, Los Angeles, and Las Vegas of the ancient world.”

Paul arrives in this environment in Acts 18 after he’s spent time in Athens. The year is about AD 50. We know this because Acts 18:2 talks about Paul meeting Prisca and Aquilla who had just been exiled from Rome, and that was the year that Claudius exiled the Jews from Rome.

Prisca and Aquilla also worked as tentmakers, so Paul went into business with them and they made tents for all of these travellers passing through the city. Acts 18 also says that Paul was trying to persuade both the Jews and Greeks about the Gospel. One person who believed him - Gordon Fee, *The First Epistle to the Corinthians* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans 1987) p. 3 was Crispus, who had been a synagogue leader, and whose whole household was baptized. Luke tells the story in Acts 18 and then Paul refers to Crispus in chapter 1. At Corinth, Paul has a vision of Jesus telling him to stay there and that no one will harm him, so Paul ends up staying there for a year and six months. But during that time, the Jews tried to get the Roman government to stop Paul from preaching about Jesus. The proconsul, Gallio, sees the matter as a dispute between Jews and sends them away. Acts then says that another synagogue leader, named Sosthenes, was beaten (presumably by the Romans). We are not positive, but there is a good chance that this Sosthenes later converted and joined the church in Corinth. If so, then it’s possible that he’s actually the Sosthenes mentioned in the first verse of the letter. Either way, Paul stays in Corinth until about AD 52, and then he heads on Ephesus and Antioch. But the story doesn’t end there:

Some time goes by, during which Prisca and Aquilla meet an eloquent preacher named Apollos. He’s preaching truth about Jesus, but doesn’t understand baptism. Prisca and Aquilla take him aside and explain baptism to him, and eventually send him on his way to continue in ministry. Sometime after this, Apollos arrives in Corinth, and he starts preaching to the church there. During this time, Apollos gathers quite a following among the Corinthians, but he eventually leaves Corinth to rejoin Paul in Ephesus. Paul’s has now been away from Corinth for a year or two, and in that time has written letters back and forth with the Corinthians.

Most recently, Paul has received a letter from the Corinthians, brought by three men who are mentioned in chapter 16. This letter has somehow revealed about a dozen different problems in the Corinthian church, including the fact that they are divided amongst themselves and many don’t really like Paul anymore. Paul’s also heard from a woman named Chloe about the divisions in Corinth, and he finds this deeply troubling. Paul sees that the Corinthians are in trouble, but Paul is in Ephesus, and he feels called to stay there because God’s doing such exciting things through his ministry. So Paul writes another letter: the one we now call 1 Corinthians.

The epistle may be divided into seven parts:

1. Salutation (1:1–3)

1. Paul addresses the issue regarding challenges to his apostleship and defends the issue by claiming that it was given to him through a revelation from Christ. The salutation (the first section of the letter) reinforces the legitimacy of Paul's apostolic claim.

2. Thanksgiving (1:4–9)

1. The thanksgiving part of the letter is typical of Hellenistic letter writing. In a thanksgiving recitation the writer thanks God for health, a safe journey, deliverance from danger, or good fortune.
2. In this letter, the thanksgiving "introduces charismata and gnosis, topics to which Paul will return and that he will discuss at greater length later in the letter" (Roetzel, 1999).

Module 7 – Part 1 – Lesson 2

In this part of Lesson 7 we will discuss the “gifts.” In the latter part of this lesson you were introduced to the gifts of the Holy Spirit with a broad coverage of why the gifts were given to the Church. Now we will deal specifically with the individual “gift.”

The “**gifts**” are:

- The Word of Knowledge
- The Word of Wisdom
- The Gift of Faith
- The Gifts of Healing
- The Gift of Working of Miracles
- The Gift of Speaking with Tongues
- The Gift of Interpretation of Tongues
- The Gift of Prophecy
- The Gift of Discerning of Spirits

“THE WORD OF KNOWLEDGE”: First we will consider the distinction between “wisdom” and “knowledge.” The simple definition is, *wisdom is knowledge* rightly applied.

“KNOWLEDGE” usually comes before wisdom.

EXAMPLE: If you are a teacher, you must first have knowledge before you can teach; but not all who “know” are able to teach. Teaching is causing another to learn. Teaching, therefore, is a kind of “wisdom” itself. “Wisdom” is based upon knowledge. Since the Holy Spirit is God and knows all things, the knowledge that He gives in this “gift” is a measure of understanding of the great facts of life and of the universes that are known to God.

Peter was right when he told Jesus, “**...you know all things....**” **John 21:17** Concerning knowledge, we also can read in the Word of God:

Colossians 2:3 *“in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”*

Hebrews 4:13 *“Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”*

Acts 15:18 *“ things known from long ago.”*

“Knowledge” is a “gift” that each of us should covet from the Lord. It would help us to pray more effectively and to be more effective witnesses for Jesus Christ. Devour the Word of God,

and it will help you to become **“KNOWLEDGEABLE.”** And, as the Word takes hold of your life, you will be “gifted” with His “knowledge.” God expects us to put “action” to our prayer, and getting His Word within us helps to develop this “gift.” “Knowledge” is “knowing.” While it is a “gift” from God, it may be enlarged within your life by the study of God’s Word. Then you will need the “gift of wisdom” to use the “knowledge.”

“THE WORD OF WISDOM”: “Wisdom” builds with the material that “knowledge” provides. The ability to use infinite “knowledge” in the most profitable way is the “wisdom” of God.

Proverbs 8:22-30 *“The LORD brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old; I was formed long ages ago, at the very beginning, when the world came to be. When there were no watery depths, I was given birth, when there were no springs overflowing with water; before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth, before he made the world or its fields or any of the dust of the earth. I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep, when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep, when he gave the sea its boundary so the waters would not overstep his command, and when he marked out the foundations of the earth. Then I was constantly at his side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence,”*

Proverbs 9:10 *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”*

Proverbs 8:13 *“To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.”*

God’s Word is God’s **“WISDOM.”** In all of His counsel, His directions, His commandments and His judgments, He is displaying His “wisdom.” If you will heed these words, that will be “wisdom” on your part. Now in addition to the general advice which is contained and written in His Word, there are times when God gives specific, personal advice to His children through the **“Word of Wisdom.”**

Galatians 2:1-2 *“Then after fourteen years, I went up again to Jerusalem, this time with Barnabas. I took Titus along also. I went in response to a revelation and, meeting privately with those esteemed as leaders, I presented to them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles. I wanted to be sure I was not running and had not been running my race in vain.”*

“Revelation” is a word used for the “Word of wisdom.” Sometimes the “Word of wisdom” is imparted to those who preach as they present the Gospel in the power of the Spirit. **1 Corinthians 2:1-7, 10**

Colossians 1:28 *“... admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom...”*

As you study the New Testament, you find that “wisdom” was given to the Church leaders to form Church Government. (**Acts 6; Acts 15; 1 Corinthians 7:6, 10, 25, 40; 2 Peter 3:15; Acts 7:9-10**) “Wisdom” has many attributes. “Wisdom” is pure.

James 3:17 *“But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.”*

To receive the “gift of wisdom,” we must walk with the Lord and desire this “gift.” The “gift” is like its “Giver,” meek and lowly in heart, and imparts its nature to its possessors. By this men may know whether or not the “wisdom” that we have is from God. **“The Gift of the Word of Wisdom”** is knowing how to use the “knowledge” God has given you, or the “knowledge” you have taken in by Study.

“THE GIFT OF FAITH”: “Faith” is the power by which God works. If you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Saviour, then you have “faith.” It takes “faith” to come to Jesus. This is the measure of “faith” promised to all who believe. “The gift of faith” is supernatural and it must be mixed with another ingredient: **“LOVE—CHARITY!”**

1 Corinthians 13:2 *“...and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.”*

“Faith” is the power with which God speaks, and by speaking, brings things to pass. In Genesis 1, in the beginning of history, God SAID, “Let there be light: and there was light.” And God SAID, “Let there be a firmament, and it was so.” And on go the six days of creation by the Word of His mouth.

Hebrews 11:3 *“By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.”*

This is the same power by which Jesus Christ, God’s beloved, turned the water into wine, multiplied the loaves and fishes, cast out devils, raised the dead and stilled the tempest.

It was the “Word,” and it is still the Word of divine authority. You can have this “faith.” All who claim they possess such “faith” sometimes do not have this “faith.”

God will work His will and His way in all things. He is the Supreme authority. To believe He has a “hand picked” few who may attain this “faith” is not a true belief. “God is not a respecter of persons.”

1 Corinthians 12:11 *“All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.”*

One who is “gifted” with “faith” will be an individual who perseveres in the face of all obstacles and finishes his race. Sometimes I have seen the “gift of faith” in the life of an individual in a deep spiritual way: not so much in miracles, healing, or outward signs; but in a strength that came deep from within, and they were able to stand firm in the midst of great disaster and severe trial.

You can have this “faith.” Jesus said in **Mark 11:22**, *“... Have faith in God.”*

When you see something happening in Jesus’ name, it is the “faith” of God which is functioning through men. When Peter and John performed the miracle of the healing of the lame man at the gate Beautiful, Peter explained:

Acts 3:16 *“... It is Jesus’ name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.”*

Seek the Lord for this “gift,” and then believe that this “gift” will be manifest through you, just as you expect other “gifts.” God wants you to believe Him in “faith.”

“THE GIFTS OF HEALING”: Usually, but not always, the “gifts of healing” come after the manifestation of the Holy Spirit, which increases “faith” for healing, and the Christian begins to minister to the sick. Few people today believe in the “gifts of healing” and practice them who have not received the infilling of the Holy Spirit and truly believe the New Testament message.

Like the other “gifts,” healing seems to be released with a far greater intensity and reality after the receiving of the Holy Spirit (speaking of the baptism of the Holy Spirit).

Some “gifts” have been referred to as **“POWER GIFTS”**:

1. Faith,
2. Working of Miracles, and
3. Gifts of Healings.

These “gifts” operate in the realm of the physical. (Because of this emphasis on fleshly things, this is why they have been abused.) They are the “gifts” of action which produce signs and wonders. We should desire all “gifts” and allow the Lord to impart to us that which He will.

Acts 4:29-30 *“...enable your servants to speak your word..., ...and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”*

“GIFTS OF THE WORKING OF MIRACLES”: Stephen was a man full of “faith” and of “power.”

Acts 6:8 This introduces us to the “gifts of working of miracles” (here too, the original text lists both the word gifts and miracles in the plural), as distinct from the gift of faith. Stephen had both “gifts”. Although they are similar in nature, the Spirit distinguishes between them:

1 Corinthians 12:9-10 *“...to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers...”*

Now there is a difference between “healing and miracles”. “Healing” is a gradual process; miracles are instantaneous. For instance, when Jesus told the ten men that were sick to go and show themselves to the priests, as they went they were “healed.” See **Luke 17:11-19**. An example of a miracle would be blind Bartimaeus receiving his sight instantaneously as Jesus touched him. See **Mark 10:46-52**.

Many “miracles” are told in Scripture. In the Old Testament there was the sun and moon that stood still in **Joshua 10:12-14**; the parting of the Red Sea in **Exodus 14:21-31**; the barrel of meal and the cruse of oil that did not fail in **1 Kings 17:14**; and numerous others.

In the New Testament, there were many, many “miracles” performed by Jesus Christ and His Disciples. We read in **John 2:11** where Jesus turned the water into wine; in **John 21:5-12** where the Disciples put their nets on the opposite side of the boat, and though they were not able to catch fish all night, all of a sudden they had more fish than they could handle; and in **Matthew 14:25-33** where Jesus and Peter walked on the water; in **Acts 8:39-40** where Philip was transported from one distant city to another.

Module 7 – Part 1 – Lesson 3

As you are studying this lesson now, I want you to believe that God can and will work “miracles” through your life. Remember that the “miracle” worker is Jesus Christ, and not you; and *ALL* glory and honor must go to Him. Not all “miracles” will be seen of men. God may preserve you in a “miraculous way,” and you will not know until eternity reveals it.

SCRIPTURES TO STUDY:

- _____ **James 5:13-16**
- _____ **Hebrews 11:1-3**
- _____ **John 4:48-53**
- _____ **1 Corinthians 2:1-16**

1. Jesus worked “miracles” in **Mark 3:22**, but to whom did the scribes attribute the “power” of the “working of these miracles?”

2. Jesus answered this accusation. Please tell what His answer was. **Mark 3:23-26**

3. Sometimes we hear people who are uneducated referred to as spiritually more competent and more powerful with God than many who are highly educated. Why would people make such a statement? **1 Corinthians 2:9-13**

4. Stephen, the first deacon, had great power with God. What kind of a reputation did he have? What was there about his work that people could not deny? **Acts 6:8-10**

5. Peter met a woman named Tabitha. How was the “gift of faith” used in this instance? **Acts 9:40**

6. The Pharisees constantly approached Jesus with controversial questions. How was the “Word of wisdom” used when such instances arose? **Matthew 22:15-22**

7. Jesus performed many “miracles”. What was the main purpose for these “miracles?” **Matthew 9:6**

8. In **Matthew 10:1**, relate what Jesus gave to the twelve Disciples.

9. A Roman centurion came to Jesus in **Matthew 8:5-13**. How was the “gift of healing” used in this case?

10. In your own words tell what you think about these “gifts” you have studied so far.

PLEASE FILL IN THE BLANKS:

1. "For this _____, since the _____ we heard about you, we have not stopped _____ for you. We _____ ask God to fill you with the _____ of his will through all the _____ and understanding that the _____ gives..."
Colossians 1:9
2. "If any of you lacks _____, you should ask _____, who gives _____ to all without finding fault, and it will be given to _____." **James 1:5**
3. "My goal is that they may be _____ in heart and united in _____, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the _____ of _____, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of _____ and _____." **Colossians 2:2-3**
4. "They will pick up _____ with their hands; and when they drink _____, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on _____ people, and they will _____." **Mark 16:18**
5. "God also bearing them witness, both with _____ and _____, and with divers _____, and _____ of the Holy Ghost according to his own will." God also testified to it by _____, _____ and various _____, and by _____ of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will." **Hebrews 2:4**
6. "Oh, the depth of the riches of the _____ and _____ of God! How unsearchable his _____, and his paths beyond _____!" **Romans 11:33**
7. " _____ the sick, _____ the dead, _____ those who have leprosy, _____ out demons. _____ you have _____; _____ give." **Matthew 10:8**
8. Read **Chapter 2 of 1 Corinthians**, and tell in your own words what you believe is the message of this chapter.

9. Define: upbraids and divers.

UPBRAID:
DIVERS

10. Jesus worked a “miracle” at the wedding in Cana of Galilee. Read **John 2:1-25** and explain this story and this “miracle.”

11. In this study, we have talked about the “gifts” of the Holy Spirit coming into the lives of believers. The Bible tells us we should covet earnestly the best “gifts.” As you do these lessons on the “gifts” of the Holy Spirit, ask the Lord to begin working through your life, not in a mystical fashion, but the true workings of the Holy Ghost. Have you had any of these “gifts” from God to manifest in and through your life? If so, please share them with us.

PLEASE MEMORIZE THIS VERSE: *“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”* Ephesians 4:30

Module 7 – Part 2 – Lesson 1
1 Corinthians – Part 2

How do we know that there had been correspondence previous to the Paul writing 1 Corinthians? Paul refers constantly to questions he has been asked regarding issues in the church. Whenever we read the words “now concerning” we can expect that the issue that he will be dealing with comes from a list he has of issues or concerns that he had received through correspondence. Additionally, Paul refers to three reports he had received. In 1:11 he addresses the report of Divisions. In 5:1 he addresses the report of Immorality, and in 11:18 he addresses the report of abuses at the Lord’s supper.

There are times when Paul wants to introduce a new thought, or give background information regarding a specific topic. When he does he often introduces that segment by saying “I would not have you ignorant.”

It has been said that the Corinthian Letters are the most culturally interpreted letters or instructions that we have in the Bible. If this is true, and it probably is in much of this book, then the reader must take into account that much of what is written, is written to this group of people and has to do with how they live out their faith in the light of their history, culture, conditions, and circumstances.

Furthermore, we should read what is specifically written and accept the sources Paul attributes to them. It should be an open question that, in the case of the Corinthian Correspondence, divine inspiration may mean that we have a true account of exactly what we have, and not what some might think we have.

Many doctrines have been formulated from 1 Corinthians however the language is clear on where the source for the writing is (in many cases). There are times when Paul clearly says “I received from the Lord” 1 Corinthians 11:23 & 15:3.

But there are other sections where Paul is clearly leaning towards judgments that have not been received by direct revelation. They may be based on his understanding of scriptures, times when God commanded him to give specific instructions, or times when he gives his own judgment. NKJV

“I say this as a concession, not as a command.” 7:6

“To the married I give this command (not I but the Lord):” 7:10

“To the rest I say this (I not the Lord):” 7:12

“...This is the rule I lay down in all the churches.” 7:17

“I have no command from the lord, but I give a judgment as one who by the Lord’s mercy is

trustworthy.” 7:25

“Because of the present crisis, I think that it is good for a man to remain as he is.” 7:26

“In my judgement,... – and I think I have the Spirit of God.” 7:40

“If anyone wants to be contentious about this, we have no other practice – nor do the churches of God.” 11:16

3 Division in Corinth (1:10–4:21)

1:18-2:5	Christ the Wisdom and the Power of God
2:-6-2:16	
	Divisions in the Church
	1. Facts of Division
	2. Causes of Division
	3. Cure for Division
4:1-4:21	Apostles of Christ

4 Immorality in Corinth (5:1–6:20) What are the divisions? What does it say?

1. Discipline an immoral Brother _____ - _____

2. Resolving personal disputes _____ - _____

3. Sexual purity _____ - _____

Module 7 – Part 2 – Lesson 2

In Part 1, Lesson 2 & 3 we studied the spiritual “gifts” and your personal spiritual experience. In Part 2, Lesson 2 we want to deal with:

- The Gift of Speaking in Tongues
- The Gift of the Interpretation of Tongues
- The Gift of Prophecy, and
- The Discerning of Spirits.

We are interested in your experience with these “gifts” also.

“THE GIFT OF SPEAKING WITH TONGUES”: The Bible tells us that at the birthday of the Christian Church, on the Day of Pentecost in **Chapter 2 of The Book of Acts**, that when they were filled with the Holy Ghost, they all spake with other tongues. There are several million people today throughout the world that have been filled with the Holy Spirit and pray to the Lord with the “gift” that God has given them, that of “speaking in an unknown language.” We call it the “heavenly language.”

This is a “gift” given from the Lord especially for your prayer life. Then there is an additional “gift,” that of “tongues” that is manifested in a Church worship service, which is then “interpreted” (“Gift of Interpretation”) and comes under another category. This is a beautiful experience, something to be taken seriously, and an experience to be sought after. We should ask the Lord to fill each of us with His precious Holy Ghost. Note the Old Testament Scripture prophecy by **Isaiah 28:11**, ***“Very well then, with foreign lips and strange tongues God will speak to this people..”***

Jesus Himself said in **Mark 16:17**, ***“And these signs shall follow them that believe ... they shall speak with new tongues.”***

As you can see, “tongues” are God’s idea, and anyone who are critical of this gift and of God and His plan do so at their own risk. Concerning praying with the heavenly “tongue,” we should read **Romans 8:26**, ***“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.”***

And should someone say to you this experience is for the Disciples and not for today, ask them to read **Acts, Chapter 2, and “quote” to them verse 39 ...**

“The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” Acts 2:39

“THE GIFT OF INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES”: Paul explains at great length that “tongues,” without “interpretation” in the Church, are meaningless and thus out of order. **1 Corinthians 14:5-13, 16-20, 23, 27, 28.** The one who speaks in “tongues” should keep silent and not speak in “tongues” if there is no interpreter present; or he, himself, should be responsible for the “interpretation.” “Interpretation of tongues” is a supernatural “gift” (like the “gift of tongues”), and has no function apart from the “gift” itself.

After someone has ministered through the “gift of tongues,” there is a lack of proper order if there is no “interpretation” of the “gift of tongues.” Therefore, the one giving the “tongue” **must pause and wait** to see if there will be an interpretation. While they are waiting, they should ask God for the “interpretation,” should no one be present to “interpret.” It is proper order and vital to the overall move of the Holy Spirit, that the one giving the “tongue” **WAIT** for an “interpretation” **FROM ANOTHER** before he interpret. After a period of time if there is no “interpretation,” he may “interpret.” Remember, it is the plan of God that all things be established in the mouth of two or three witnesses. **2 Corinthians 13:1**

The “interpreter of tongues,” who also speaks as the Spirit gives utterance, need not worry about a “word for word” exact translation in length of the message in “tongues.” The word translated “interpret,” means to “express thoroughly, to give the sense and significance.” This, then, is the nature of the “gift of interpretation.” The message in “tongues” may be short and a much longer “interpretation” will follow, or vice versa.

When Daniel “interpreted” the three words which “Belshazzar” saw written on the wall, he used three sentences in which to give the “interpretation.” **Daniel 5:25-28** Please stop right here and read these Scriptures in Daniel. What Daniel in all reality was doing was explaining the “meaning” of the words the King had seen on the wall. The “meaning” took a little more explanation than the basic sentence of judgment.

“THE GIFT OF PROPHECY”:

“Prophecy” is one of the “gifts” of utterance.

THE GIFTS OF UTTERANCE ARE:

- Prophecy,
- Tongues, and
- Interpretation of Tongues.

They all have to do with speaking and so are grouped together and called the “gifts” of utterance. They operate in the realm of the Spirit.

These “gifts” express and convey the emotions of God.

“Prophecy” is not necessarily foretelling, which means to tell or declare in advance, to predict; but it is forth-telling. It is speaking forth the message of God to His people, and in most cases will not contain predictions about the future. “Prediction,” while a genuine part of “prophecy,” is only a small part. Paul tells us in **1 Corinthians 14:3** that one who “prophecies” speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort; we are told to eagerly desire this “gift.” **1 Corinthians 14:1, 39**

1 Corinthians 14:3-4 “ But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort. Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies edifies the church.” 1 Corinthians 14:31 “For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged.”

True “prophecy” will bless, encourage and strengthen people, without the “prediction” of a single event. We must also ask God for truth of all “prophecy.” The enemy has counterfeits of all the true “gifts,” and in this world today there are many counterfeits. Also, we must use caution concerning direct, personal “prophecy.” You should “weigh” “prophecy” that people say to you personally. It must be in line with God’s Word and have its roots in the Holy Scripture. Then you can listen to: “The Lord told me to tell you this.” You must always wait on the “personal prophecy.” It will be confirmed if there is truth in it, but you must only be guided for your life as the Lord speaks to you personally. Others may bring “confirmation,” but God will speak to you!

If God has instructions for you, He will give you a witness of His Word in your own heart; and as a result, the Holy Spirit will confirm that whatever comes from a friend or through the “gifts” of the Spirit will be bearing witness with the Holy Spirit in your life. It is a false reverence which

accepts everything which purports to be a divine message as if it were from God directly and without possible human mixture.

1 John 4:1 *“Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God.”*

Proverbs 14:15 *“The simple believe anything, but the prudent give thought to their steps.”*

It is not always necessary to have a “prophecy” or “tongues” as a means of guidance to discover the will of God. In the greatest crisis of the early Church, when apostles, elders, and brethren came together to consider the matter of circumcision being essential to salvation, no message in “prophecy,” “tongues,” or “interpretation” was given to decide the matter. I do believe the “gift” of the Spirit was at work guiding them in wisdom and unity.

“THE GIFT OF DISCERNING OF SPIRITS”: There is a great unseen world of spirits, and it is divided into the good and the evil. Satan and God are Kings over these respective realms. Principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this world, wicked spirits in high places, evil spirits and demons are all under the authority of Satan. (I do not capitalize his name)

GOOD SPIRITS: Cherubim, Seraphim, Archangels, Messengers and Angels do the bidding of God. The realm of God and the realm of Satan are arrayed against each other and continue to do battle. God, the Holy Spirit, is the Commander-in-Chief of God’s army. He personally indwells and energizes Spirit-filled believers.

A valuable weapon, both of defence and offense for them, is the “gift of the discerning of spirits.” When Jesus was here in His earthly ministry, He met spirits HEAD ON, and delivered men from their EVIL power.

The Bible speaks of *dumb spirits*, **Matthew 9:32, Mark 9:17**; *blind spirits*, **Matthew 12:22**; *deaf spirits*, **Matthew 9:25**; *spirits of infirmity*, **Luke 13:11, 16**; *spirits of lunacy*, **Matthew 17:15, 18**; and *those possessed with devils or demons*, **Matthew 4:24, 8:16, 28; Acts 8:7; 16:16**.

The Bible says that with the Word of authority He cast out the evil spirits. **Mark 16:17** The enemy, Satan, is not only himself the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience, but he has spirits and demons, distinct spirit-beings, which he places in the minds and bodies of susceptible unbelievers. His purpose is not only to torment and afflict his victims, but to use them as tools to oppose the Gospel and to deceive Christian workers.

Many are the examples in the New Testament of God’s people who had the “gift of discerning of spirit”: Paul and Barnabas and their experience with Elymas, the sorcerer, Acts 13:6–12; and Paul and Silas and their experience in **Acts 16:16–18**. Here the “gift of discerning of spirits” unmasked this deceiving demon and disclosed him as an enemy in disguise. Peter also had this

“gift.” He exercised it in **Acts 5:1-11**. Paul has told us that in the last days there would be deceiving spirits and doctrines of devils, or demons, **1 Timothy 4:1**. The “gift of discerning of spirits” functions along with the “Word of wisdom and knowledge” in exposing and rebuking these spirits of error. In these last days you and I live in, the false prophets will perform miracles and signs, lying wonders in the name of the antichrist, according to **2 Thessalonians 2:9** and **Revelation 13:14**.

The “gift of discerning of spirits” can be used to discern the good Spirit in man also.

SCRIPTURES TO STUDY:

- _____ **1 Corinthians 12:1, 13:1-2; Chapter 14**
- _____ **Acts 2:16-18, 38; 5:1-11, 13:6-12, 16:16-18**
- _____ **1 Thessalonians 5:19**
- _____ **Hebrews 5:14**
- _____ **1 Timothy 4:1**

1. There is an ingredient you must have with the “gift of tongues.” What is it? **1 Corinthians 13:1**

2. In **Acts 2:11**, these believers spoke in “tongues.” What was accomplished by this?

3. In **Acts 1:5**, Jesus promised a baptism. Which baptism did He promise?

4. Read **1 Corinthians 12:13** and tell if this baptism was for individuals or a body of believers.

5. On the day of Pentecost when the 120 were filled with the Holy Ghost, what did they do? **Acts 2:4, 6, 11**

6. If you have the “gift of prophecy,” but do not have love, what does the Bible say about this? **1 Corinthians 13:2**

7. Describe how the “gift of discerning of spirits” was used in **Acts 13:6-12**.

8. Describe how the “gift of discerning of spirits” operated when Jesus met Nathanael. **John 1:45-51**

9. You want to understand spiritual truths. What will enable you to do so? **1 Corinthians 2:10, 13-14**

10. In **1 Corinthians 14:6**, the Apostle Paul is talking about the “interpretation of tongues.” He mentions four things that should accompany the “gift of tongues.” What are they?

11. In this lesson you were given a Scripture that tells you the “gifts of the Holy Spirit” are for you, your children and for the generations to come. Can you find this verse?

PLEASE FILL IN THE BLANKS AND TELL WHICH REFERENCE GOES WITH WHAT SCRIPTURE:

1. Now eagerly _____ the _____. And yet I will show you the most _____ way.” “If I _____ in the _____ of men or of _____, but do not have _____, I am only a resounding _____ or a clanging _____.” **1 Corinthians 12:31 and 1 Corinthians 13:1**
2. “All of _____ were filled with the _____ and began to _____ in other tongues as the _____ them.” “When _____ placed his _____ on them, the _____ came on them, and they spoke in _____ and _____.” **Acts 2:4 and Acts 19:6**
3. “_____ replied, “_____ and be _____, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the _____ of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the _____

_____. The _____ is for you and your children and for all who are far off— _____ whom the Lord our God will call.” “ _____ the one who _____ in a _____ should pray that they may _____ what they say.” **Acts 2:38-39 and 1 Corinthians 14:13.**

4. “If anyone _____ in a _____, two—or at the most three—should speak, one at a time, and someone must _____.” “In the same way, the _____ helps us in our _____. We do not know what we _____ to pray for, but the _____ himself _____ for us through wordless _____. And he who _____ our _____ knows the _____ of the _____, because the Spirit intercedes for _____ in accordance with the will of _____.” **1 Corinthians 14:27 and Romans 8:26-27**

5. “Anyone who _____ in a _____ edifies themselves, but the one who _____ edifies the _____.” “But you will receive _____ when the _____ comes on you; and you will be my _____ in _____, and in all _____ and _____, and to the _____ of the _____.” **1 Corinthians 14:4 and Acts 1:8**

6. “These people are not _____, as you suppose. It’s only _____ in the _____! No, _____ was spoken by the prophet _____: “In the _____ days, God says, I will _____ out my _____ on all _____. Your sons and daughters will _____, your young men will see _____, your old men will _____. Even on my servants, both _____ and _____, I will pour out my _____ in those days, and they will _____.” “Follow the way of _____ and eagerly desire _____ of the _____, especially _____.” **Acts 2:15-18 and 1 Corinthians 14:1**

7. Would you like for these spiritual gifts that we have studied in this lesson to operate through your life? Why do you believe this would be important, and why would you desire these gifts?

8. Define: Intercession, infirmity.

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9. What do you think is meant by “sounding brass and tinkling cymbal”? **1 Corinthians 13:1**

PLEASE MEMORIZE THIS VERSE: *“speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord,”* Ephesians 5:19

THE STUDY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

It seems that each time we study about the Holy Spirit; He is illuminated in a greater measure within our life. The greatest thing I know about our God, His Son, and His Spirit is that you can never exhaust Him or His Word!

There is always new depths, greater heights, fresh anointing, and delightful illumination of His Word as you walk with Him!

