

# *SPIRITUAL GIFTS*

*KNOWING  
THE  
VOICE OF GOD*

*Through the  
Gifts of the Holy Spirit*

*By*

*Pastor Gene Applegate*

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*You may order this booklet*

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*Christian Living 101*  
*P.O. Box 72150*  
*Phoenix, AZ 85050*

*E-Mail: [gene@christianliving101.org](mailto:gene@christianliving101.org)*

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***This booklet is  
DEDICATED***

***To Beth,  
my lovely wife  
who has spent many hours  
assisting me with the  
layout, editing and typing.***

***Her support  
continues to be a tremendous blessing,  
both spiritually and tangibly,  
throughout our many years of  
Ministry.***

# **Preface**

*The work of the Holy Spirit is multiple in ministry. His initial work is the revealing and conviction of sin upon those whom are drawn to Jesus Christ as Lord and Redeemer.*

*Upon our conversion, He transforms us into a new creation giving us the righteousness of Jesus and the continual presence of the Holy Spirit. He abides within to guide us in life's many challenges; always directing us in the righteous pathway of God's will.*

*The Holy Spirit becomes our personal guide and instructor who empowers us to turn our back upon our sinful nature and live freely beyond the law of sin and death.*

*The gifts of the Holy Spirit are special abilities and tools which empower the believer to function in the same ability that Jesus had while ministering here on earth.*

*This experience is normally referred to as "The Baptism in the Holy Spirit.". The book of Acts, Chapter 2; gives vivid description of His miraculous outpouring upon those who had waited and prayed in the "upper room".*

*The Scriptures give very ridged rules for their proper use!*

*Most Christians seem to have no clue concerning God's instructions. Many in the "Pentecostal Movement", violate the scriptures which give specific directives concerning the use of these powerful tools which are given for ministry and witnessing. They focus almost entirely of the "Tongues and Interpretation" area, and rarely speak of the other seven gifts.*

*Many mis-use them out of ignorance or errant teachings; while others have infiltrated the kingdom of God and deliberately spread confusion and chaos*

***in efforts to discredit and ridicule those who are authentic and pure in the use of these spiritual gifts.***

***\*satan hates and fears anyone who uses these miraculous abilities. He has blasphemed, counterfeited, distorted, mimicked and ridiculed these gifts, especially the gift of “Tongues” and “Interpretation” of Tongues; trying to intimidate and discourage their use. He hates anyone who uses these gifts properly.***

***This booklet is intended to bring understanding of the nine gifts and call the true believer back to proper use of these God given supernatural tools that empower us through the Holy Spirit.***

***\*NOTE: we refuse to give satan the dignity of capitalizing his name!***

## **SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

### **“KNOWING THE VOICE OF GOD”**

#### ***Through Gifts of the Holy Spirit***

#### ***God speaks through men:***

God has poured out his Spirit upon us. As anointed people of God, we have been equipped by the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit, enabling us to minister in the same power and ability as Jesus. We are not limited to our own intellect or wisdom. Let us be the kind of yielded vessel that can be easily directed and mightily used in fulfilling our call to service.

Joel 2:28 KJV *“It shall come to pass that in the last days I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh.”*

Acts 2:16: *“This is that which was spoken of by the prophet, Joel.”*

I Corinthians 12:7-10: *“The manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit in all. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.”*

#### ***God speaks through His Spirit:***

When Jesus ascended to be with the Father, he sent the Holy Spirit to convict, empower, direct, and teach His people. Jesus made it very plain that the Spirit would enable and support all that he had done in earthly ministry.

Men should have every confidence that God has given everything that is needed to those whom he has appointed, enabling them to have successful ministries. One, who is in the service of the Lord, never stands alone. The Holy Spirit always continues to equip the anointed of the Lord.

Let us appropriate the abilities given us to do His work. It is ours for the taking by faith.

*“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” (John 14:26)*

*“And when they bring you unto the synagogues, and unto magistrates, and powers, take ye no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say: 12 For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say.” (Luke 12:11-12)*

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***There are nine (9) gifts of the Holy Spirit:***

**The nine gifts of the Holy Spirit are commonly recognized as “empowerment gifts”. They are provided to benefit the Kingdom of God by empowering His chosen vessels to perform the works that Jesus did in the Father’s name. Through these, we have the ability, through the name of Jesus, to do things that he did; plus even greater things than he, just as he promised.**

*“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.” (John 14:12-13)*

**These gifts specifically provide supernatural ability to God’s people of today. They are an added anointing in the Holy Spirit. The initial outpouring of this empowerment was given to approximately 120 souls who were waiting in the upper room as Jesus had directed.**

*“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” (Acts 2:1-4)*

They provide natural men with supernatural ability and power for unlimited Kingdom ministry. Many have been taught that these gifts came to an end upon the death of the Apostles. This is not true. Peter declared that these gifts were now given as prophesied in the book of Joel.

Acts 2:17-39, which makes it clear that this new outpouring of the Holy Spirit was to last until the great “Day of the Lord”, speaking of the return of Jesus to earth. The

conditions prophesied concerning the days of His return are also recorded throughout the book of Revelation.

This was an outpouring of spiritual power that is available to empower the whole House of Israel for ministry. It was given after the ascension of Jesus and is to last until His return. The work of the Holy Spirit was given to abide and minister through his body (the Church) in his absence.

These gifts provide power and authority to His Remnant. In fact, we are promised a new, much more abundant outpouring of the Spirit in the latter days.

*“Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month. And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the fats shall overflow with wine and oil. And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.”* (Joel 2:23-26)

Church History records numerous events of the Spirit’s presence and activity within the Kingdom. When the body of Christ is sensitive to God’s work, the gifts of the Spirit flow freely.

When there were times of apostasy, they waned for a season. When God’s people would repent and seek him, renewed outpouring of His supernatural gifts would reappear. Every genuine renewal or revival has featured evidence of the functioning gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Learning to minister in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit can be challenging to most believers. This problem is usually the result of a lack of teaching, or commitment and dedication to His purpose.

God communicates with us on a personal level. He desires to give different, gifted ministries to specific men whom he has ordained for his ministry.

The gifts are bestowed upon those who are Godly, dedicated to His kingdom and yielded to the direction of His Spirit. One must be diligent about “walking in the Spirit” to have effective ministry in this supernatural realm. (1 Corinthians 12)

We must recognize the work and ministry of The Holy Spirit and look carefully at each gift and its application for today’s Remnant.

All of the gifts of the Spirit may reside within everyone who has been “Filled with the Spirit” (empowered), as demonstrated in the original outpouring recorded in Acts,

Chapter 2. However, their use in ministry is separately assigned or designated to different individuals according to God's plan and/or purpose in life.

God may use only one of these gifts in your ministry. *“And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.”* (Corinthians 12: 28-30)

Should a need arise and there is no one else available; it may be that the Holy Spirit will direct a rarely used gift to be displayed in your ministry.

However, many have experienced multiple gifts working in their ministry as unusual need presents itself. Hopefully, the following explanations will assist you in seeking and receiving the gifts best suited for your place of service.

### ***Word of Wisdom:***

This gift involves the ability of men to analyze, and apply the wisdom of God as needed in ministry. It is not continually present in the understanding of men. The “Word of Wisdom” cannot be attained through experience or intellectual prowess. Men cannot use it at will. It is imparted as needed, to do the work of the ministry.

The gift of the “Word of Wisdom” becomes evident as the Holy Spirit “anoints” the vessel of use. It is often used to assist in directing both individual and congregational decision making.

Listed as the first of nine gifts of the Holy Spirit, it obviously carries great importance. This gift is for the purpose of exercising wisdom in given situations. It does not give blanket wisdom for every problem and event of life. In other words, this gift does not make men wise but rather funnels the wisdom of God through them for his purpose, in any given situation.

The Word of Wisdom is just that, a “word”. It is to be offered (spoken) as direction or instruction in many differing situations. The Word of Wisdom imparts the insight and direction of God as he would use it. This gift rarely functions alone. It often works in combination with the other gifts of the Spirit.

### ***Word of Knowledge:***

Since this gift is known as the “Word of Knowledge” it obviously involves speech. Like the “Word of Wisdom” it is to be audibly expressed. God uses it to address

specific ministry for his unique purpose.

Wisdom may often dictate the timing in speaking the Word of Knowledge. We may have the revelation of knowledge given in advance of its wisest application. In other words you may be aware of what God wants spoken for some period of time before opportunity is given to speak it.

Again, this gift does not impart blanket knowledge to certain men. It is a gift of specific use. It is not to be flaunted before others, but should be used with great care. The Spirit uses this gift to reveal certain truth that is neither heard, seen, or learned, but imparted by the Holy Spirit.

It is often used to inform of specific situations or conditions that God wishes to deal with in another's life. You may suddenly know the truth of a situation that the object of ministry does not recognize, or, a revelation of hidden truth in the face of a lie might be revealed.

Knowledge without wisdom can be very destructive. Any man who begins to see special revelations by the Spirit should urgently seek the Word of Wisdom. These two gifts really work best when used together.

### ***Gift of Faith:***

We are familiar with the element of faith. Jesus spoke of it often. We know that without faith it is impossible to please God.

Hebrews 11, also known as the "faith chapter", gives great insight into commonly used faith. "*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*" (Hebrews 11:1) Another description of faith is "Faith is the constancy that brings hope into tangible reality."

The "Gift of Faith" is different. It by-passes hope and acts spontaneously as a strong, absolute faith, specifically extended to the user in times of supernatural necessity. It is the impartation of the same faith that Jesus walked in during his earthly ministry.

When Jesus spoke; he knew that his action would bring absolute results. Hope was not present. Only the certainty that what was spoken was in fact already done.

God grants this gift and all others, to whom he pleases, according to his purpose. There are those who obviously live in this realm more successfully than others. They will continually be used in the performance of supernatural necessities, as God chooses.

This gift is most often seen in separate, individual situations. When a work of

such magnitude is necessary to the plan of God, faith as a gift, used under the direction of the Holy Spirit, will function. It is a unique ability to believe God when our normal exercise of faith is limited. The Holy Spirit actually extends the Lord's faith, which is absolute, to perform the otherwise impossible work.

### ***Gifts of Healing:***

Notice that this is the only gift listed in plural form. It is a multiplicity of gifts, all residing in the one. There are those who seem to have the ability to extend healing to all. These men are obviously anointed and set apart by the Holy Spirit to bring 'Redemptive Healing' to all who are in need.

Others seem to be anointed for a healing ministry dealing with specific infirmities or sickness. They will be recognized as having faith to heal the same disease found in multiples of people. Some may have ministry in two or three infirmities. They seem to be "specialists" in their gift to heal. While others seem to be gifted "general practitioners" in their ability to grant multiple kinds of healing

This gift seems to go beyond the instructions found in James 5:14-15 where we are instructed to call for the elders of the church to pray and anoint with oil.

*"Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him ."* (James 5:14-15)

These Gifts of Healing are applied by spoken demand. The vessel of use, simply commands the infirm and afflicted to be healed. They receive healing upon such declaration. Peter commanded the lame man at the temple gate to walk. He did!

*"Then Peter said, 'Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk'. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God."* (Acts 3:6-8)

### **Working of Miracles:**

A miracle may best be described as an event or situation that is accomplished in contradiction and beyond the ability of the normal laws of nature, or the natural ability of man. Perhaps this gift is self explanatory. A miracle is an element, either physical or spiritual that requires supernatural impetus. Its origin must be from greater power and authority than man's limited ability.

God has ordained that his people have ministering gifts to initiate and sustain their efforts through his supernatural ability. We know that our natural ability comes up short. We are incapable of doing the work of Jesus with human intellect and strength.

We are all familiar with Jesus' feeding of the five thousand, "*And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full. And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children.*" (Matthew 14:17)

We read of Jesus stilling the storm; "*And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, 'Peace, be still'. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.*" (Mark 4:39)

These are but two of the many miracles performed by Jesus. They took the power of God to perform them, but he obviously performed them in total faith. His speech immediately produced results.

God has given this gift to selected men. These have the miracle working power of the Holy Spirit available to them at His direction. This gift does not function upon the whims of human desire or purpose. It is a gift for God's work, *in His timing*. Its use is controlled and directed by the Holy Spirit.

Men who have this gift must walk in the Spirit constantly. They must be humble men of faith. God is to receive all glory for his mighty works. Obviously the gift of miracles must work through men of unwavering faith and spiritual sensitivity to the mind and purpose of God.

### ***Gift of Prophecy:***

The gifts of wisdom or knowledge are often construed to be the "Gift of Prophecy" because they are declared verbally. If we feel compelled to label every expression of the Holy Spirit's ministry to us, then we should have some knowledge as to how we identify His presentation. Content always identifies the gift being used! Prophecy most often deals with future events. It may contain a message of edification, exhortation, correction, consolation, or judgment.

The Old Testament prophets were used to reveal God's directives to His people, or to warn them of approaching judgment and/or disaster.

God is not full of unexpected surprises. He has a history of unveiling his plans to man long before they come to pass. Let us ALWAYS REMEMBER! The message is far more important than speculating on which gift is being used, or, who might be the messenger. The Holy Spirit often uses those that we least expect to be qualified to dispense these awesome gifts.

*The message is what we should focus on! It is the mind of God being revealed to his people!* The prophetic gift has a two-fold purpose. The foretelling of future conditions, events, happenings and situations is best recognized. The prophet may be used to unveil hidden mysteries of God's Word, or to declare the current working of the Holy Spirit.

God reveals his plan to man, anoints and empowers him to declare those things which only God can know about the present, the future, and sometimes the past. These revelations are often used to expose and certify the authenticity of God and his supernatural plan.

We can trace the promise of redemptive deliverance by Jesus, through out the entire Old Testament, beginning with Geneses 3:15. *“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”*

God's commitment to restore the people of Israel is repeated by the Prophets in nearly every book of the Old Testament.

The Prophet was also used to declare the impending chastisement, coming danger, or judgment of God. His message often included warning of sin and its consequences. God's blessing and outpouring of his Covenant promises to his people was declared by the Prophets.

Jesus prophesied many things concerning his death, resurrection and eventual return to the earth at the end of the age. John the Revelator foretold world conditions of the future. Some have already been fulfilled. Others are yet to happen.

God uses the Prophet to keep his people informed of his actions. He never hides his will from those who serve him.

Anointed preaching or teaching is another form of Prophecy. God has given

selected men the ability to speak with powerful, explicit truth that is actually the thought and message of God, being directed to his people. These use the gift of prophecy to express the mind of God to others.

The Apostle Paul gives very clear instruction about the use of this gift under the New Covenant. (1 Corinthians, Chapter 14) God uses this gift today to give His people direction and guidance. He may reveal unknown, misunderstood events to either nations or an individual through this prophetic gift. God is not limited in the use of prophetic utterance.

Prophecy is often confused with the gift of the Word of Knowledge, which deals with factual truth, past or present, in its experience.

Prophecy deals with the future and present implementation of truth. It may involve correction or instruction according to God's purpose. This type of prophesy is often used to exhort and warn of impending disaster or judgment. It may also be used to inform and prepare His Kingdom People for wonderful events yet to come.

### ***Discerning of spirits:***

“Discerning of spirits” is often misunderstood. This gift is given as an instrument of protection to the Remnant. It is intended to keep unwholesome, unclean, or demonic spirits from invading the Christian fellowship.

This gift is of particular importance to those in positions of spiritual leadership. God knows the deceiving nature of the human heart. Men in leadership can easily be deceived by those in the enemy's control.

The gift of “Discerning of spirits” enables those who are directed by the Holy Spirit to discern “evil spirits” which try to infiltrate the Remnant. These spirits try to distort the Word of God or the message that is being presented from it.

They creep into the circle of fellowship, pretending to be dedicated Christian sheep. They are really goats and wolves, snakes if you please, disguised in sheep clothing. Their purpose is to rend, tear and destroy as many as they can.

These creatures will be in tune with the language and culture of the Kingdom, disguising themselves as very dedicated Christian adherents and workers. “Peace and love” is their cover. Once discovered, their quiet and seductive spirit will become abrasive, even violent. Cursing and vile language is common.

One of their tricks is to falsely accuse others of doing or being responsible for the

activities that they themselves are performing. They will do anything to discredit the one who exposes them.

These evil spirits may actually dwell within a person. We call this “demon possession”. They may control a person’s motivation and thought process from without. This is often referred to as “oppressive control”.

The gift of “Discerning of spirits” provides great advantage to the Son’s of God. When the evil forces try to deceive or lie, The Holy Spirit reveals the truth which cannot be denied or distorted by the enemy.

“Discerning of spirits” also enables the spiritual leader or counselor to recognize *carnal or ungodly* characteristics in the human spirit. This is that natural spirit of man, often referred to as “the flesh”. It is not demonic in origin, but functions in the realm of our fallen, dead in sin, nature. This spirit is contrary to the righteousness of God. It functions through the effect of the “law of sin and death.”

Man’s natural spirit, in its fallen nature, functions in the “lust of the flesh.” This is more than the craving for immoral activity and sexual impropriety. The lust of the flesh actually includes the desire to let our fallen nature (sinful ways) operate without restraint in our lives.

*“Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”* (Galatians 5:19)

The degenerate lifestyle of man’s carnal nature demands self satisfaction regardless of cost or consequence. It is filled with self gratification at others expense. Bitterness, criticism, division, malice and rebellion, as well as greed, jealousy and unforgiveness are examples of our fallen human nature. The enemy uses these characteristics to maim and cripple the Sons of God. The gift of “Discerning of Spirits” exposes them so they can be brought into control and/or disciplined.

We have all encountered those who pretend to be a friend, only to flatter with praise while plunging a knife in the back. Certainly, we have faced the one who can look you in the eye, lie to you without blinking, in order to deceive and take advantage.

“Discerning of spirits” enables us to see through the deception of those who pass themselves off as children of light, but are really of satan’s empire of sin and death. These spiritual con-artists are exposed to our understanding, through the “Discerning of spirits”. We are not deceived. Their influence is broken, and destructive motivations

revealed.

It is written that satan seeks whom he may devour. He often influences the carnal spirit of man to do his dirty work.

*“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9 Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.” (1 Peter 5:8-9)*

What a blessing we have in the gift of “Discerning of spirits” through the work of the Holy Spirit. Every minister or teacher of the Gospel should diligently seek this gift, especially if they are overseers of the body of Christ.

### ***Gift of Various kinds of tongues :***

This outpouring of differing tongues was given in volume on the day of Pentecost. *“And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost (Spirit), and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” (Acts 2:4)*

This allowed the disciples to speak the Gospel to the multitude of ethnic groups who had gathered in Jerusalem. It enabled those of differing language to hear the Gospel and the declaration of the Kingdom of God in their native tongue.

*“Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. And they were all amazed and marveled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.” (Acts 2:6-11)*

They were so astonished by this supernatural display and the power of its message that three thousand (3,000) were converted. This same gift still functions in much the same manner today.

Tragically, this marvelous witness to the unbeliever has been all but lost in the confusion of undisciplined use.

Many Pentecostal groups have violated the directives of the Apostle Paul concerning the use of the “Gift of Tongues” as described in 1 Corinthians, Chapters 12

and 14.

Their actions are in direct violation of God's instruction concerning their use. Such misuse has spawned counterfeit pretenders and outright mockery of the genuine gift and its benefits. We must be careful to avoid discounting and refusing to participate in the genuine gift, because of the satanic imposter's efforts to discredit those who flow in the purity of purpose.

The abuse of this gift by many in the so called "Pentecostal" movement has caused many Christians to reject it as a valid ministry within the Kingdom today. We are so afraid of the counterfeit that we refuse to participate in the genuine gift.

Speaking in tongues is both valid and vital today, but only in proper use. It is for personal communication and edification only. It is not to be used publicly, unless interpreted, and then on a very limited basis. We can benefit immensely through its proper application.

Special spiritual edification for the believer is one of the great benefits of the gift of tongues. This is a language that allows the Holy Spirit to speak the mind of God through us as we pray. One is able to express prayer or praise to the Heavenly Father under the direction of his perfect will. It is to be used in private fellowship with the Father, only.

This is personal. Its purpose and ministry is personal. The speaker alone is edified. (Built up, strengthened) *"He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church."* (1 Corinthians 14:4)

**The following treatise is our position on the use of the "Gift of Tongues".**

### ***OUR POSITION ON THE HOLY SPIRIT'S GIFT OF TONGUES***

***We believe:***

The gifts and power of the Holy Spirit are desperately needed by every Christian to wage spiritual warfare against the powers of satan and his forces.

The Gift of Prophecy takes priority over all of the audible gifts of the Holy Spirit; the "Gift of Tongues" and the "Gift of interpretation of Tongues". *"He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church. I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that*

*prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.” (I Corinthians 14:4-5)*

The *baptism* in the Holy Spirit is an added work of empowerment, given to the believer, in addition to the work of salvation as described in Acts 2:38-39.

*“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.”*

Each of the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit, may reside singularly, or in multiples within the believer. Some, especially those in authority over the church, may experience the use of all of the gifts as the occasion may warrant.

John the Baptist prophesied that Jesus would baptize his followers with the baptism of the Holy Spirit. *“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.” (Matthew 3:11)*

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost was the initial empowerment given to the believer, as promised by Jesus.

*“For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” (Acts 1:5-8)*

It was given to enable the true believer to function in the same ability that Jesus ministered while here on earth.

This great event was described in Acts 2:1-4: *“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”*

This was the empowering force that gave birth to the Church, the body of Jesus Christ. Three thousand (3,000) souls were redeemed – saved as the Apostle Peter and the

other disciples preached that day.

The Holy Spirit is available to every “born - again” believer. Acts 2:38-39 states: *“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.”*

There are nine (9) gifts of the Holy Spirit, distributed separately to each person according to the purpose of Almighty God. One of these is the “Gift of Tongues”.

This gift provides ability to speak in other languages, which have not been learned; some are earthly, others are heavenly languages.

***We Believe:***

**There are three (3) specific types of tongues:**

**1. *Earthly Tongues:*** Tongues used to communicate the Gospel to those of a different language. The Gift of Tongues may be used to convey or certify God’s word to the unbeliever through His native language in a private or public setting. These are known, earthly dialects, identifiable by other hearers who are knowledgeable.

*“And they were all amazed and marveled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.” (Acts 2: 7-11)*

**2. *Unknown Tongues:*** Tongues used to speak and communicate with God.

*“For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.” (1 Corinthians 14:2)*

Unknown “Tongues” are to be used to pray, praise or worship God. They are **NEVER** to be used in a public setting where those who may be present cannot understand what is spoken. This use of unknown tongues is to be used in private, personal prayer that is exchanged between you and God.

This type of praying, using the Gift of Tongues is described in 1 Corinthians 14:14-15. “For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. 15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.”

Here, the Holy Spirit actually does the praying through us in perfect harmony with God’s will, which we may not know or understand but we speak the unknown tongue audibly. The Spirit may offer prayers of intercession, protection, provision or even blessing in behalf of people that we may or may not know personally. You may ask “Why is this?”

In many situations God’s hands are tied. He cannot violate His laws, or the sovereign will of others, unless someone prays for his intervention.

Remember the Covenant that He made with his people. When we pray, asking anything in His name, he will do it.

See John 14:13-14: “And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.”

This allows God to intervene in situations he could not otherwise address. The Holy Spirit, using the yielded vessel of one or more of his people whom he has given unknown tongues, actually allow God to intervene in behalf of others who may not be aware of their need or situation. Or, they may be yet unredeemed and ignorant of God’s plan for their life.

**3. Interpretable Tongues:** Tongues used to edify ones self and the church. These tongues should **NEVER** be used publicly unless they are interpreted, so that others may understand.

“There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification. Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me. Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church. Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret. For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.

What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.” (1 Corinthians 14: 10-15)

This is one of the most abused commandments concerning the use of unknown tongues. Modern day Pentecostalism, for the most part, totally ignores this directive.

On occasion the Holy Spirit may choose to give a message from the Heavenly Father to the entire Church congregation at a particular time or place. It may be a warning, correction, instruction, even encouragement or blessing extended to a particular portion of His body.

Someone will be led of the Holy Spirit to speak a “message” to the congregation. Normally, this is a person who has not yet received the gift of prophecy or interpretation of tongues.

Another within the meeting will then give the interpretation of the tongues that were spoken that all who heard, might come to understand what was spoken.

The speaker in unknown tongues is to remain silent if there is no interpreter present.

The Scripture makes a VERY absolute rule that this expression is to be limited to NO MORE than three times in any gathering. There are those who claim that they just can’t help it, if the Spirit moves they must respond right then. This is a lie and in total violation of the Scripture. The Bible makes it very clear. The gifts are subject to the control of the prophet.

1 Corinthians 14:27-33 gives adequate instruction: *“If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret. But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God. Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge. If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace. For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted. And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.”*

Any group that abuses such a directive is totally out of order, not in harmony with the Holy Spirit who never violates God’s directives. These are probably ruled by diabolical or carnal spirits that do not come from God. Many so-called Pentecostals will argue this point, but they have not one Bible verse on which to stand.

Various Scriptures reveal that in almost every instance, people who were filled (baptized) with the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands, did speak in tongues.

Many teach that speaking in tongues is the only evidence that one has been filled with the Holy Spirit. It is easy to draw this conclusion, but *there is no scripture to support* this theory as fact.

The scripture does indicate that everyone who is baptized in the Holy Spirit DOES NOT necessarily speak in tongues.

*“And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.” (1 Corinthians 12:28-31)*

Obviously the answer to these questions is “NO”!

In every case the gifts of the Holy Spirit are imparted to the believer by His indwelling presence. These are supernatural gifts provided by our Lord, Jesus Christ through the ministry of the Holy Spirit who resides within THE BELIEVER.

***The gift of tongues cannot be taught or learned:***

One’s ability to speak in tongues is totally dependant upon the Holy Spirit, not the intellect. None of the gifts of the Holy Spirit can be obtained through learning or favor. They are the spontaneous work of His indwelling presence as directed by our Heavenly Father.

Yes! One must yield their tongue to speak as the Holy Spirit gives (provides) the words to speak (utterance) but those words come to us by the Holy Spirit, not through our personal thought process (intellect). The Holy Spirit anoints our spirit, which speaks with our yielded tongue.

The Holy Spirit does the thinking, originating the words to be expressed through our lips, tongue, and vocal chords. *“And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance .” (Acts 2:4)*

***Use of the gift of tongues is extremely limited:***

Even the freshly anointed men of the early church were already abusing these holy gifts. See the Apostle Paul’s instruction:

1 Corinthians 14:19; 21-25: *“Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten*

*thousand words in an unknown tongue.*

*In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord. Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.*

*If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad? But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all: And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.”*

We cannot over stress this truth. Unknown “Tongues” used to edify the church, are *never* to be used publicly without being interpreted, and then never more than three (3) times in any gathering. (1 Corinthians 14:27-28)

### ***Do not be fearful!***

Those seeking the Baptism in the Holy Spirit do not need to fear receiving a counterfeit tongue. God will not permit the enemy to deceive you. Jesus said: *“If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?”* (Luke 11:11-13)

Again, we stress that the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is received within one’s spirit, not the intellect.

This is often accompanied by the utterance of new tongues which are strange to the recipient. They come forth from within, as a gushing spring of living water. Tongues erupt spontaneously as one yields the tongue to speak. ***They are not taught!***

It is not unusual to receive the “Baptism” in the presence of others who have been baptized in the Spirit. They may lay hands upon you and pray that you receive the Baptism as recorded in the book of Acts 8:15-17. *“Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.”*

Many have received the double portion of baptism in the Holy Spirit when they

arise from under the waters of baptism for the remission of sins. Others have received the “baptism” almost anywhere, and at anytime, without the “laying on of hands” and prayer by others. This usually occurs when they are alone and in deep fellowship or meditation with the Lord.

### ***Do not be deceived!***

The devil has a counterfeit for almost everything God does. He thrives on deception, and counterfeiting the gift of tongues. Such charades are never exercised in the order of God or by the directives of Scripture.

They have no anointing of the Holy Spirit and are as hollow as sounding brass and tinkling cymbals. They are uttered in mockery, producing confusion and chaos.

This diabolical deception is intended to discourage the true believer in seeking the added empowerment of the genuine “Baptism in the Holy Spirit,” leaving the true church inept and weak in combating the evil powers of satan.

### ***Interpretation of tongues:***

This gift is simply the revealed knowledge of what another has spoken in an unknown tongue. It is the exclusive work of the Holy Spirit, to be used in limited situations involving public gatherings, especially when unbelievers might be present. The message may involve a known, but not understood language, or a totally unknown language to anyone.

It is for the explicit purpose of interpreting the message delivered in the use of the “Gift of various Tongues”. The Holy Spirit simply reveals the meaning of what was spoken to the hearer’s understanding. We need to take note. *This is an interpretation, not a translation.*

The Holy Spirit will use an interpreter’s personal vocabulary and language skills that provide clarity to the audience. The meaning of the message is important, not the style of speech with which it is delivered.

All of our efforts to understand and recognize the voice of God in our daily walk and ministry will be in vain, if we fail to walk in His awesome love, as described in 1 Corinthians, Chapter 13.

It is impossible to accurately hear God’s voice and communication with us until we begin to experience a true spiritual love relationship with the Father. Walking in God’s love tunes the heart to receive the quiet communication of his Spirit.

Power extended without God’s love will most likely be harsh and insensitive to

the recipient. We must be very careful to remember that Jesus showed love and compassion when dealing with His People.

He dealt with the evil imposters harshly, but, even when reprimanding those who were in rebellion or disobedience, He used his power with careful control. This was a true sign of real power and strength, *AND THE REAL DEFINITION OF GENUINE MEEKNESS.*

*Love is not weak or compromising. Love functions with or without grace. Love never excuses or undermines the standard of God. Love is always present in the application of God's harshest reprimands of his Children.*

God's love must be applied from the gentle move of the Holy Spirit to the sternest reprimand of prophetic or corrective declaration. So, then, as we walk in loving fellowship with the Father, we place ourselves in position to hear his voice with clarity.

**In conclusion:**

We have a genuine desire for the added ability and empowerment available through "Baptism in the Holy Spirit" as recorded in the book of Acts, Chapter 2; to become an active tool of ministry for every Christian within our Lord's Kingdom.

To those in places of leadership: let us seek the use of all nine (9) gifts of the Spirit that we might properly lead and oversee those to whom we minister. Every effort is being made to prevent the evil work of the enemy, and his determination to distort the word of God with teachings unsupported by Scripture.

Remember: all Bible teaching must be supportable by the Scriptures; or it really has no place within us. Embrace that which is pure and holy, continuing in the power of His Spirit with all diligence. (2 Corinthians 8:7)

We pray that God's abundant blessing rests upon you, as you continue to seek the best gifts that God chooses to bestow upon you!

***TRUE LOVE CANNOT ALWAYS BE GENTLENESS! Sometimes it hurts.***

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