

# THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

## WEEK 2: THE GIFTS AND EXERCISING THEM



**Jesus, THE Gift, displayed and taught ALL of these gifts** (except we did not have account of Him speaking or praying in tongues, that was a purpose of the Holy Spirit after His ascension).

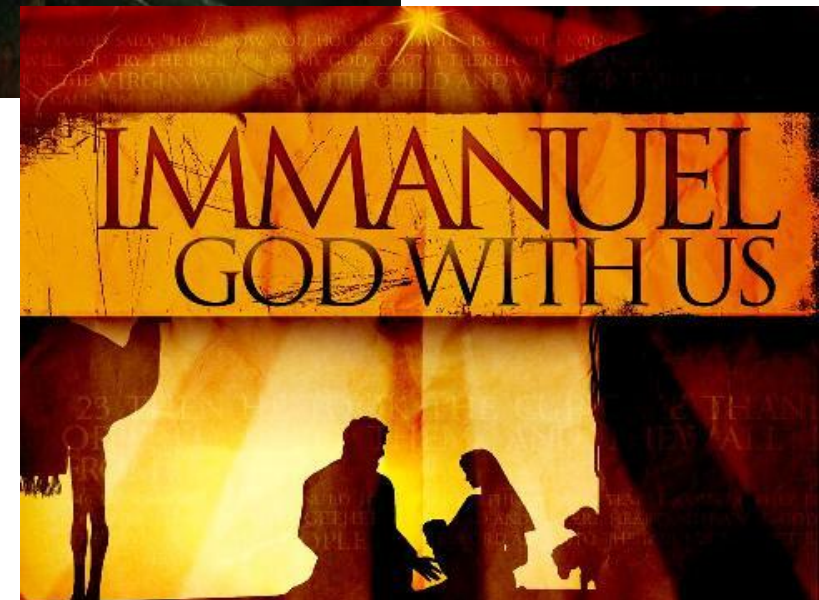
He is Apostle (Hebrews 3:1)

Prophet (Acts 3:22)

Evangelist (Matt. 4:23)

Pastor (John 10:14)

Teacher (John 3:2)



- **Word of Wisdom**- when you receive a word of guidance for someone or yourself about what they should do in a certain situation.
- The ability to discern works of the Holy Spirit and apply teaching and actions according to the Word of God.
- God given strategy or insight, or plans not yet revealed.
- May be a warning, a confirmation, a call to ministry, or understanding in how to advance His cause.
- It is not human reasoning, or revelation of the logos Word.
- It also may be conditional on the part of the hearer.
- **Examples:** Proverbs, Solomon (1 Kings 3:16-28), Joseph (Genesis 41), Daniel, Jesus' response to the Pharisees about paying taxes (Matthew 22:15-22), Paul's strategy on Mars Hill (Acts 17:22-34), Noah's preparation for the flood, Abigail's interaction with David (1 Samuel 25), the church preparing for a famine (Acts 11).

- **Word of Knowledge**—Knowledge about something or someone you would not have known any other way but God revealing it. This usually very personal to the person who hears it, meant to build their faith or bring them healing.
- **Examples:** Jesus and the Samaritan woman (John 4:16-19), Peter and Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11), Ananias to Saul (Acts 9:10-12), Elisha and Gehazi (2 Kings 5:20-27), Samuel's anointing of David (1 Samuel 16:1-13), II Kings 6:9-11 the warning to the king, finding the lost donkeys (I Samuel 9:3-6, 19-20), Paul's prediction of shipwreck (Acts 27:10, 21-26), Jesus foretells His death and resurrection (Matthew 16:21; Mark 8:31; Luke 9:22, Peter's vision (Acts 10).
- A word of knowledge is primarily **informative**. A word of wisdom is more **directional**. A word of knowledge literally gives you knowledge of a situation, circumstance, solution, person, etc. On the other hand, a word of wisdom is more about giving insight or wisdom for direction, what to do in a situation, or how to do something. WISDOM APPLIES KNOWLEDGE.

- **Prophecy**—a word about the future or the will of God in a situation, may give or confirm specific instruction to someone concerning God’s will for their life, offer encouragement and build faith.
- A messenger from the Lord.
- Never contradicts His Word or His character.
- Will have an inward witness that agrees with the Word.
- Must be judged.
- All may prophesy. Joel 2 and Acts 2 tell us that because of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on us, sons and daughters will prophesy. **Joel 2:28-29** *“And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. <sup>29</sup> And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.”*



***I Tim. 1:18-20** This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, <sup>19</sup> having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck...*

Prophecy is to be used in our prayer and faith arsenal to fight against enemy resistance in our lives.

**Prophet**- a calling in leadership, authority, and influence in ministry that moves in the prophetic acting as a spokesman for God.

-May be a man or a woman. Prophets and prophetesses were both mentioned in the Bible.

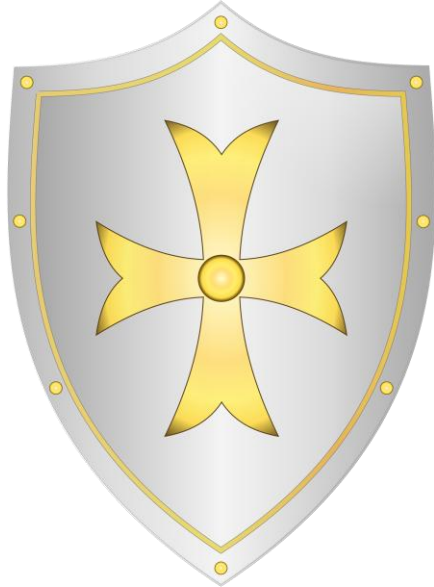
-Know gifts and callings in people.

-Give guidance, revelation, warning, rebuke, instruction. **Amos 3:7** Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.





- **Faith**—faith needed for a certain situation at a certain time, and this stirs faith in others. Every believer has saving faith, general faith in the Lord.
- **Healings**- specific healing for a specific person for a specific time. Anyone can pray for healing at any time, but sometimes the Holy Spirit moves in specific healing. It is a next level ministry of healing, an assignment to the healing ministry.
- **Working miracles**—certain miracles are worked through someone. A next level ministry assignment marked by miracles.



**Different kinds of tongues**—ability to speak fluently in another language supernaturally, or understood by people who speak that language, in order to communicate a message from the Lord to them.

-This is not the same as the speaking in tongues that comes when we are baptized in the Holy Spirit. That heavenly language is for us.

-It may be that another can understand it if it is actually in their language, but it is not always that way. On the day of Pentecost, the Lord used it this way to get the attention of the people in Jerusalem so that they could hear the gospel.

-The purpose of tongues is more for self than for ministry. We use tongues in prayer, and in building up our own spirit man, unless it is interpreted to others for strength and hope and direction.

-It is a war language of prayer and direction by the Holy Spirit. He knows what to pray when we do not. The enemy does not know it.

- **Interpretation of tongues**—ability to interpret in a known language what the Lord is saying after a message in heavenly tongues.





- **Leadership:** encouraging and helping others to build the kingdom of God, serving to help lead and direct them and any project toward that purpose
- **Administration:** helping with practical logistics of ministry
- **Teaching:** instructing in truths and doctrines of God's Word
- **Exhortation:** motivating others in God, encourage, to urge strongly, to admonish, to entreat, to call upon personally and plead with someone to take a specific course of action. To admonish means to speak truth to someone in the form of discipline, encouragement, affirmation, commendation, or correction.
- **Evangelism:** one who goes out traveling place to place to teach and preach the Word and call people to salvation, healing, and deliverance in Christ.



- **Apostleship:** motivators for the Church, church planters, missionaries, spiritual leaders over pastors and churches. Serve to help equip and send believers into ministry. Help call out gifts in others and foster them. Have a team under them.
- **Pastors:** lead over a specific congregation of believers. Tending the sheep. Your local pastor is a gift from Jesus to you the Body!
- **Service/Helps:** helping those in need of practical assistance
- **Mercy:** shows acts of compassion and mercy. A person with this gift is marked by mercy and grace in their interactions with people.
- **Giving:** will give freely and regularly with joy to further His Kingdom
- **Hospitality:** Making people feel welcome, appreciated, and wanted. Providing food and comfort for people in the church.



- **Discerning of spirits**—understanding of what spirit is at work in a certain situation; spirit of man, spirit of the devil, or Spirit of God (I Cor. 2:11-12) .
- Types of spirits at work in the demonic.
- To *discern* means to separate or distinguish between, to see and understand the difference.
- This is not just discernment, it is discerning of SPIRITS.
- There are three types of doctrines, or words also, with the three types of spirits behind them: The Word of God I Peter 1:23-23, doctrines and traditions of men Col. 2:22, Mark 7:7, Matt. 15:9, or doctrines of demons I Tim. 4:1.
- There are three types of wisdom: God-- I Cor. 1:30, man --I Cor. 1:20, 2:4-5, and demonic-- which includes the counsel of the ungodly-- Psalm 1:2 and James 3:10-16, Matthew 16:15-23.



### ***1 John 4:1-10***

Testing the spirits involves discernment. If any word comes forth that denies that Jesus came in the flesh as the Son of God, died for the sins of humanity and then rose again, then it is in a spirit of antichrist.

If it is antagonistic to Jesus, denies Jesus, or demeans Jesus, it is antichrist. The antichrist spirit is worldly, not Godly. The world will not hear the truth of the Word of God.

John teaches that the love of God marks a believer. If you are not seeing the love of God in someone, they are in error. Their words will then be tainted.

Jesus said “be wise as serpents and harmless as doves,” (Matthew 10:16). He told this to His disciples when He sent them out to minister.

Discernment looks at the intent and motive of something, the fruit of it, and weighs it against the Word and the character of God.



So how do we tell if someone speaking is speaking from God? **Jesus said look at the fruit.** Look at their life and the results of the things they say and teach and do.

Is there evidence of a walk with God?

Do you see them loving other people, putting others before themselves?

Is there evident faith? Do they believe even when it is hard?

Are people healed, saved, delivered in Jesus' name because of their ministry or teaching?

Is there growth, and increase to the kingdom of God?

Do you see humility or pride? Are they servant-hearted or selfish? Do you see the character of Christ in them? Do they remain in a teachable spirit?

Are the things of God taking precedent in their life?

Do they live with integrity to the Word of God?

Do people ridicule or persecute them for their faith? Do people try to talk bad about them but have unfounded claims?

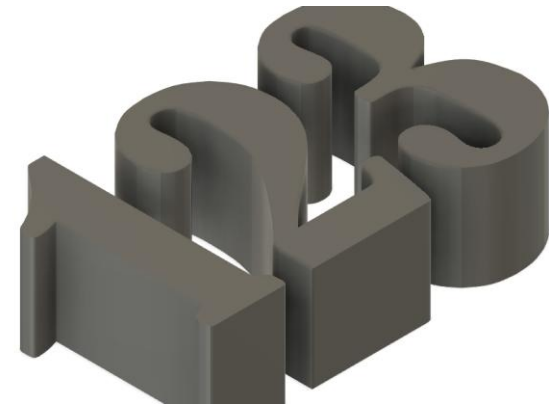
If they prophesy something, does it come to pass? Granted this may take many years in some cases because God often prophesies something far in the future, but not always.

The Word of God says out of the mouth of two or three witnesses a thing is established. Whatever word you hear, if it is from God, He will support it with more than one witness.

**Deut. 19:15** *“One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established.”*

**Matthew 18:15-16** *“Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. <sup>16</sup> But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that ‘by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.’”*

**II Cor. 13:1** *This will be the third time I am coming to you. “By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established.”*





As far as discerning what particular demonic spirit is at work, that takes Holy Ghost revelation, and experience.

Some will be more obvious than others. When you have experienced how a certain spirit works, and learned how to expose it and contend with it, then it is easier for you to pick up on it in someone or in a situation.

Sometimes it takes some prayer, time, and fasting, waiting on God to reveal what is really at work in a situation. Even Paul did not get it right away when the girl with the spirit of divination was following them around for *many* days (Acts 16:16-18).



**Exercising the Gifts:**

What do you like to do?

What are you good at?

What comes easy for you?

Where do you feel comfortable?

What have you overcome?

What in the Kingdom gets you excited, and you really enjoy?

What were you healed or delivered from?

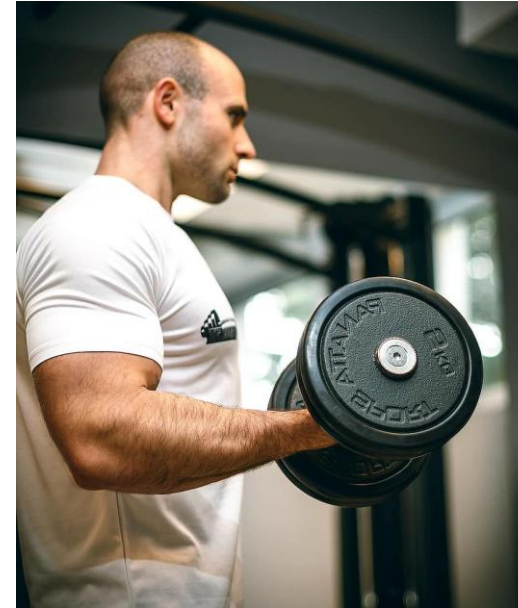
What has God shown you, or taught you specially that had the most impact on you?

What do you have dreams about?

Do you see visions or pictures?

Do you hear words in your mind when praying for people?

Do you feel impressions or feelings when you pray for someone?



Look through the list of gifts that we are told about in I Cor. 12 and 4, Romans 12, and Ephesians 4.

Even if you feel like none of those are your strong-suit, we all have personal gifts He has given us, and He will show you what it is and how you can use it for His Kingdom.

Start serving somehow, and go from there. It will unfold.

***Proverbs 16:3*** *Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established.*



***1 Tim 4:12-16*** Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. <sup>13</sup> Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. <sup>14</sup> Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. <sup>15</sup> Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. <sup>16</sup> Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

***1 Tim. 4:6-7*** Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.





## **Do not neglect the gift**

None of God's gifts should be put on a shelf and claimed, 'it's just not the season.' Gifts are used for occupying the Kingdom until He comes. That never stops. Don't bury your talent.

***Matthew 25:14-30***

***Romans 11:29*** For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.



### **Barriers to moving in the gifts:**

Doubt and unbelief

Self-doubt, unworthiness, misunderstanding of who one is in Christ

Fear

- With practice, it becomes easier to navigate those gifts.
- Gifts can evolve over time.
- New gifts can be added.
- Pray for opportunities to use it, then use it.
- Step out in faith, not fear. If you fumble around at first, there is grace. God just wants a step of faith. We all must learn to crawl or scoot before we stand and walk. It is no different in spiritual matters.
- We only really believe what we are willing to act upon.

***James 2:17-23***





**II Tim. 1:6-7** *Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. <sup>7</sup> For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*

**Hebrews 5:10-14** *For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. <sup>13</sup> For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. <sup>14</sup> But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

**Romans 12:6** *Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith...*



Gifts of the Spirit are given, and may be given to an immature Christian, but the fruit of the Spirit is grown, and that matures a Christian.

Fruit comes from relationship. Relationship is built by listening and communicating, loving, and spending time in the presence of someone.

Moving in the gifts requires love for people, faith, and action.

Grace will cover the gift when it is done this way. God will correct the character and understanding with time and discipleship.

We must not say we cannot move in a gift until we are spiritually mature, or we will fear ever moving in the gift at all.

Samuel was just a child when he spoke what he heard from the Lord the first time, but he did not recognize it was God at first. But as he grew, none of his words fell to the ground.

