

MODULE 10 The Gifts of the Holy Spirit: Week 1

Answering cessationism, and the purpose of the Gifts

Reading suggestion: I Cor 2:1-5; John 14; Matthew 12:22-37; Acts 3:6-16; 4:7-14; 2:1-4, 40; Mark 16:14-20, Jude 17-21; 1 Cor 12, 13, 14 Ephesians 4:7-16, Psalm 68:18, Romans 12:3-9, I Peter 4:8-10.

If you asked the average Christian “Do you know what the gifts of the Holy Spirit are, and what they are for?” would they be able to answer you Biblically? If someone told you the gifts of the Spirit and speaking in tongues was something only for the founding apostles, how would you answer them?



Cessationism: the gifts of the Holy Spirit ceased after the apostles died. Ignorance, a refusal to believe all of the New Testament as applicable to every believer, a misunderstanding of the purpose of the Holy Spirit with the Church, blasphemy, or a religious spirit.

It's the Church's fault for straying away from the supernatural manifestation of the Holy Spirit. As a result, many of the younger generation have pulled away, seeking the supernatural and the spiritual power through occult means. II Cor. 11:14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

Even Paul taught that the true Church is not built on just preaching alone. We have to have the power of the Holy Spirit in demonstration. Jesus taught, and demonstrated the power character, and will of God. Throughout the Bible, every time you see the Holy Spirit at work there was a manifestation of power and glory, as well as guidance and direction. Why would that cease after Jesus left here? I Cor 2:1-5, Acts 1:1-2, John 10:37-38

Ignorance is lack of knowledge, and lack of knowledge will shortchange us of the good things available from God, and often leads to destruction. I Cor. 12:1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant... Hosea 4:6

How could you just take chunks of the New Testament out and say they do not apply to every Christian? Who decided tongues and prophecy and so forth is not for today? It certainly was not God. Jesus is the Word, from Genesis to Revelation, and He is the same yesterday, today and forever. Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Not just the apostles --Jesus did not say the power of the Holy Spirit was only for the apostles. There were 70 others He sent out casting out demons and preaching the gospel before He went to the cross. There were 120 in the upper room who were filled with the power of the Holy Spirit to be witnesses for Him. Stephen worked many miracles and cast out demons, and he was not an apostle. Paul was teaching the believers at the Church of Corinth about the gifts of the Spirit. Jesus spoke "he who believes in Me." He did not say just 'you twelve.' What sense would that make that only twelve men who would soon die would be the only ones working the miracles and moving in these gifts of the Spirit?

Luke 24:49 "Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high." Matthew 10:8 "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give."

Acts 2:38-39, John 17:20-23, John 10:16, Mark 16:15-20, Acts 2:1-4, Jude 17-21

Jude was not one of the 12 disciples, yet he was admonishing all believers to pray in the Holy Ghost, that is tongues, to build up our spirit man and strengthen our faith. He warned of mockers, people who were led by the flesh and not led by the Spirit, who would cause divisions. There is division in the Church over tongues, the use of the gifts of the Spirit, casting out demons, and doing the powerful works of Christ. That division is not of God! In fact, dissensions are listed as one of the works of the flesh in Galatians 5. Dissensions means disagreements that lead to discord. This is one of the things the Lord HATES. Proverbs 6:16-19

Acts 3:6-16, Acts 4:7-14 Peter and John simply moved in the power of the Holy Spirit to do what Jesus did, in faith. And because of it, a man was freed and healed. But the religious spirit was puffed up, and persecution stirred against them. When the people tried to look at them like they had some kind of power no one else had, Peter and John turned it right back to Jesus, and explained He is the power source through His Spirit.

Knowing what the Word says and rejecting it, making excuses for not believing it or applying it, and worst of all saying it is a work of the devil, is all sin! That is blasphemy. It is a prideful and spiritually blind spirit of religion that denies the gifts of the Holy Spirit, deliverance from demons, healing, or any supernatural work of God.

Matthew 12:22-37. Once people started to talk like this Man could be the Messiah, the jealous religious spirit rose up and sought to squelch the idea. This stinks of Satan, who wanted to be God, and therefore cannot stand the Son of God who has been exalted. What sense does it make for Satan to cast himself out of someone? There is a clash of kingdoms here. A dark kingdom is not going to work against itself. But this same argument is still going on today: 'oh stay away from that demon stuff and that crazy talking in tongues stuff. That is bizarre, and that's not God. That tongues stuff is of the devil. That demon stuff is of the devil.' Of course demon stuff is of the devil! That's why we contend with it! 31 "Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven

men. 32 Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.” The religious spirit is never with Jesus. Jesus is with the Holy Spirit and the will of the Father. They cannot be separated. He is not with the will and opinion of man. Notice the connection. Jesus said saying a work of God is a work of the devil is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, and will not be forgiven. Be very careful before you flippantly judge something as not a work of the Holy Spirit. Jesus equated that kind of thinking with that of the serpent. Do not be like those who mocked the believers on the day of Pentecost and said they were drunk because they were speaking in tongues the mighty works of God (Acts 2). Look to the Word, judge it for the fruit and the character of God, pray, be humble and submissive, wait on the Lord before you immediately judge or get on board with others who have erroneously judged. Get the facts first, and do not take things said out of context. See how He connects the true state of the heart with the words that come out? The serpent speaks lies, blasphemy, evil, pride, anger, and selfishness. The work of the Holy Spirit produces good fruit in us, which will come out in our words and actions. Jesus did good works, working together with the Holy Spirit, and He said we would continue that. It was a good work to free someone of the devil's torment, and heal their body as well as their soul. But religion will find fault and ignore the good fruit, because it is threatened, jealous, full of pride and selfishness, man-made ideas and doctrines, unteachableness, and stubbornness. The ungodly spirit behind it is threatened and fearful, so will throw up any wall it can.

Acts 10:38 ...how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

People in this category are misunderstanding the Holy Spirit's purpose for being in the earth after Jesus ascended to heaven. Jesus was clear on what the Holy Spirit was here to do, and He said it would be better for Him to come be with the believers rather than Jesus to stay on earth with His believers. What does He know that we are not seeing then? John 16:7, Acts 1:8. The Holy Spirit is here for empowerment of the believers in Christ to do the work of the ministry of His gospel until Jesus comes again. He equips us for every good work. That includes prophecy, healing, deliverance, and much more. (Counsel, guidance, correction, and teaching in the Word and the will of God. To remind us of what Jesus said. To lead us in the truth. He is the one who reveals the understanding of God's Word and makes it relevant to us at any time. For comfort, since we are still in a fallen world full of sin and demons. To convict the world of sin and unbelief, and draw sinners to Jesus. To intercede for us and through us the will of God. He will tell us of things to come. He helps us as we grow in our walk with Christ, becoming more like Him. John 14:12-17, John 16:8-13).

Jesus gave authority and power to all those who believe in Him, until He comes again. He sent the Holy Spirit to every believer, and gave gifts through Him to every child of God to do

the work of the Kingdom. Ephes. 4:7-8, 11-13 , Luke 10:19-20, Matt. 28:18-20, John 14:12-21.

They are called gifts because we do not earn them, obtain them through any effort of our own, or even deserve them. They are simply given out of love from our Lord. You can either receive a gift with thankfulness, or reject it with any excuse you choose to give.

Luke 11:9-13. They are given to His children at His will and discretion, when and how He chooses. We are just available. But we can ask, and desire, and seek after Him to give us those gifts so we can use them to love people with His love. Like we give a parent our Christmas list of what we would really like to have. Then when He does give it, it is up to us to exercise those gifts in faith and obedience, like any other aspect of our faith.



The Purpose of the Gifts: To build up, edify, exhort, comfort, lead, strengthen, encourage, and bring healing to the Church, His body. To equip His believers to do what Jesus did, which was restore people to the Father, teach, heal, deliver, and love. The motivation is always love for others. Love is why we do anything in the Kingdom of God. We love people by leading them to Jesus, bringing the power of God into their lives for healing and deliverance and help, and being instruments of justice for Him against His enemies and ours—Satan and his demons. We love them because He loves them, and if He is in us, that love will extend to others. God’s love shares, it is never selfish.

We must never let hidden pride creep in, ‘look how special I am, how spiritual, how God uses me more than others, how powerful I am, how much revelation I have, how much I do to please Him...’ Neither should we abuse a gift to bring condemnation on another, or for some means to our own benefit.



The Gifts described: Paul wrote about the gifts of the Spirit when he wrote to the Corinthian church. Chapters 12, 13, and 14 of Corinthians carry the bulk of the information about the gifts. The believers at Corinth were zealously pursuing,

desiring, and operating in the gifts, but they also had a lot of moral failures, carnality, doctrinal error, and immaturity in the faith. Corinth was a very pagan city, and a lot of Gentile believers who had come out of serious paganism and sin into Christianity needed correction and guidance in the Truth. They were used to seeking the supernatural in pagan ways. Paul had to remind them that love was the basis for all the supernatural work of the Spirit, not spirituality or supernatural experience.

I Cor 12:4-31 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

That means every believer has a gift or gifts for ministry to others. The gifts are MANIFESTATIONS of the Spirit, something you can see and experience. Manifest means to visibly show. God made the Church to be a mosaic reflection of Him, full of variety, individual and collective purpose. Every member has specific gifts and valuable purpose and importance.

28 And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? 30 Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? 31 But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

What is the more excellent way? LOVE

Paul is saying the best gifts are the ones who help another in Christ to be healed, loved, encouraged, and set free. Showing the love of God. Also of note, the five-fold ministry are seen as gifts, not just callings. Pastoring is a gift. Evangelizing is a gift. Do we all preach and evangelize, yes, because we are all to speak and share the gospel wherever we go, but for the full-time called out pastor or evangelist, that is a specific gift given by the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 4:7-16 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men." 9 (Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) 11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to

the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

I Cor 13:1-10 At the end of the age when Jesus comes again, we will not need these works of the Kingdom for the Church anymore. The perfect will come. Prophecies will not be needed, or spiritual tongues/languages. Right now, tongues are the mysteries of God. When He comes again and we are in new glorious bodies, and spiritual change occurs, there will be no more mystery. These are for the Church purpose in the age of grace when we are drawing all to faith in Christ. Love however, remains constant. Right now, we can only prophesy in part because we do not see the whole picture yet. We are not in the fully manifested Kingdom age yet of when Christ comes. So, when prophecy is given, it is in part, and therefore must be judged. Some may prophesy more accurately than others, and some may get more details than others, but it is still just in part.