

Exploring the Holy Spirit

Point of Light Group

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Week 4: Other Gifts of the Spirit (Wisdom, Knowledge, Faith, Healing, Miracles, Discernment)

What are the gifts of knowledge and wisdom?

The supernatural gift of knowledge comes from the Holy Spirit. (1st Corinthians 12:7-8)

- It is of my opinion that believers with this gift can tap into the Holy Spirit's knowledge of the scriptures, retain the info and recite it later. This is not a very observable gift, however I would argue that those with this gift make great teachers within the church according to Ephesians 4:11

The supernatural gift of wisdom is meant to strengthen the church

- Believers with this gift can counsel others while using the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. Their words are always subject to scripture, however, the Holy Spirit gives them the clarity to help others in their unique situations. Those with this gift typically make great Pastors.

What is the difference between faith and the gift of faith?

There is both "Saving Faith" and "The Gift of Faith"

- "Saving Faith" is found in Ephesians 2:8-9. This Faith, held by all believers, is that Jesus died for our sins and that He will one day establish His Kingdom on the earth.
- The gift of faith is the ability to trust deeply in God's promises for us today. It is the faith that moves mountains, casts out devils and supernaturally perseveres through trials. Those with this gift make great pastors, missionaries and evangelists.

Does God use us to heal others? What is the gift of Healing?

The gift of healing used for Evangelism

- Acts 3:1-9 shows us how this gift can be used as a sign to unbelievers that they may surrender their lives to Jesus. One of the most successful methods of evangelism is the testimony of healing. This may explain why most stories of God healing someone can be found on the mission field.
- There is room for the gift of healing to be practiced within the church. I believe a good approach for the believer is to ask God for this gift in prayer and then pray for others with the expectation that God can and will heal them.
- There are many factors as to why God heals certain people and why He does not for others. I would recommend this article by Dr. Gregory Boyd for an introduction on how to approach this issue:
 - o <http://reknew.org/2015/07/why-doesnt-god-heal-when-we-ask/>

What is the gift of miracles? Can the Church perform miracles?

Jesus claimed that the Church would do greater works than Him so that the gospel would spread across the earth. (John 14:12-14)

- Acts 19:11, Acts 9:36-42 are perfect examples of the disciples operating in miracles by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- This gift is primarily used for evangelism in the scriptures, however there is a place for it in the Church (1st Corinthians 12:27-31). Many believers with this gift can help those who are afflicted by demonic oppression. In some cases, there have been miraculous works done by God using believers: raising the dead, escaping imprisonment for the gospel and casting out demons.

Can believers exercise their spiritual gift at will, or is there a prompting of the Holy Spirit?

It is of my opinion that the Holy Spirit prompts us in our gift. I do not believe that a Christian can prophecy whenever they want or perform a miracle at will. Exercising each gift comes from a posture of the heart that says "I am open to whatever you ask, Holy Spirit". It is like Phillip who hears the Holy Spirit say "Walk beside the carriage" in Acts 8 that leads to the conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch. I believe each of these gifts comes from listening. As we listen, God will speak to us and use us in our gift to benefit the Church.

Questions or Notes:
