

The Holy Spirit

Session # 4 / Wednesday, July 31, 2007

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (Part Three)

- Brief Review

Pentecostals are probably best known for their dependence upon those nine gifts of the Holy Spirit listed in I Corinthians 12:

1. The Word of Wisdom
2. The Word of Knowledge
3. Faith
4. The Gifts of Healing
5. The Working of Miracles
6. Prophecy

We come now to the final three gifts of the Holy Spirit (we have taken three separate nights to deal with those gifts found in I Corinthians 12).

7. Discerning of Spirits
8. Gift of Tongues
9. Interpretation of Tongues

DISCERNING OF SPIRITS

1 Cor. 12:10

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:

In this pastor's opinion, outside of faith, I cannot think of any ministry gift of the Holy Spirit more CRUCIAL to us in these days than that of discerning of spirits because (Ephes. 6:12) **"... we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."**

Our world is currently under satanic administration - that is, the spirit of Antichrist pervades today's world in everything from politics to show business - and, at times, even the church world.

As Paul properly prophesied, we are inundated today with false teachers, erroneous doctrines and deceiving spirits.

1 **Matthew 24:5**

2 **For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.**

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4 **1 Cor. 14:29**

5 **Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.**

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7 **1 John 4:1**

8 **Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God:**
9 **because many false prophets are gone out into the world.**

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11 **1 John 4:6**

12 **We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not**
13 **us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.**

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15 **1 Tim. 4:1**

16 **Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from**
17 **the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;**

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19 **DEFINITION OF THE GIFT: Discerning of spirits is a special ability given by the**
20 **Holy Spirit to look beyond what ordinary people see when a spirit is manifesting itself.**
21 **It is the ability to know by which spirit a man is speaking or acting.**

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23 **PRINCIPLES YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THIS GIFT:**

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25 1. Satan is the master counterfeiter! He has never had an original thought in his entire
26 existence. He attempts to copy what the Holy Spirit does. He also tries to make
27 people believe that when he manifests himself it is God's Holy Spirit. Unfortunately,
28 sometimes even believers are fooled.

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30 So on occasion, the spirit we are told is from God is, in fact, not from Him but from
31 Satan instead.

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33 2. You and I as human beings also have a spirit. On many occasions that which is
34 presented as the Spirit of God is, in fact, the spirit of a person. This error probably
35 causes as many on-going problems in Christianity as Satan's counterfeit spirit.

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37 How can this human-spirit be so conflicting in the Body of Christ? BECAUSE:
38 FAR TOO MANY PROFESSING BELIEVERS DO NOT KNOW WHAT
39 SCRIPTURES ACTUALLY TEACH!

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Let me say this again - emphatically: you cannot possibly be any stronger believer and follower of Christ than your knowledge of God's Word!

**** Even if a believers does not possess this particular gift of the Holy Spirit, that of discerning of spirits, his or her knowledge of God's Word should be a strong bulwark against the non-truths so prolific in these days!**

DISCERNING OF SPIRITS IN JESUS' MINISTRY

We are told in the Gospels that Jesus was filled with the Spirit of His Father, God. John 3:34 tells us that God gave Jesus the fullness of His Spirit. This made it possible for Jesus (in His earthly form) to rightly discern both good and evil spirits.

1. Jesus' quick appreciation of Nathaniel: John 1:47 **Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!**

How could Jesus make such a quick appraisal of one He had never met before? The gift of discerning of spirits made it possible.

2. Jesus quickly discerned a carnal spirit in James and John who wanted to call down fire from heaven and destroy those who didn't follow Jesus: Luke 9:55 **But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of.**

Sometimes in our passion to serve the Lord we do not use God's judgement - or even His words. We need to know the difference between human passion and God's purity.

3. Jesus often discerned evil spirits. In Luke 13 we are given a fascinating case of a woman who had been ill for 18 years. Her condition had left her with a twisted useless body. Jesus immediately recognized that there was an evil spirit at work in her (not ALWAYS the case, by any means, but it was in this instance):

Luke 13:10-17

And he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath.

[11] And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself. [12] And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity. [13] And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. [14] And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Jesus had healed on the sabbath day, and said unto the people, There are six days in which men ought to work: in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the sabbath day. [15] The Lord then answered him, and said,

1 **Thou hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the sabbath loose his ox or his ass from**
2 **the stall, and lead him away to watering? [16] And ought not this woman, being a**
3 **daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed**
4 **from this bond on the sabbath day? [17] And when he had said these things, all his**
5 **adversaries were ashamed: and all the people rejoiced for all the glorious things that**
6 **were done by him.**

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8 Jesus' actions here make it clear that the gift of discerning of spirits can be most helpful
9 in ministering to people who are bound physically, mentally or spiritually by some
10 tormenting spirit OTHER THAN a normal situation.

11 **DISCERNING OF SPIRITS IN THE MINISTRY OF OTHERS**

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14 1. Peter was prompted by the Holy Spirit in his encounter with lying Ananias and
15 Sapphira. Acts 5:3 tells us that Peter knew they were lying to the Holy Spirit. *There is*
16 *a point here that sometimes discerning of spirits and the word of knowledge go-mingle in*
17 *achieving God's purposes.*

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19 2. In Acts 16 we read the dramatic encounter of Paul and Silas in Philippi with the
20 demon-possessed girl. While her words seemed to be helpful, "These men are servants
21 of the most high God!", in reality it was an evil spirit setting up the crowd for a fall.
22 Paul knew it and in the 18th verse, he cried out, "In the name of Jesus Christ I order you
23 to come out of her." The spirit left her that very moment.

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Robert Brandt: "One of the things evil spirits do is to try to get believers to accept false teaching. The gift of discerning of spirits makes the believer able to recognize what is the teaching of the Holy Spirit and what is the teaching of evil spirits. **1 John 2:26-27** **These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you. [27] But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.** We must learn to listen carefully to the Holy Spirit. He will let us know what teachers are trying to give us false teaching." (Spiritual Gifts / ICI / page 155)

26 **THE GIFT OF TONGUES**

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From Life in the Spirit Study Bible (page 1803)

A) Tongues may be an existing spoken language (Acts 2:4-6) or a language unknown on earth, e.. “tongues...of angels” (I Cor. 13:1)

B) Speaking in tongues involves THE HUMAN SPIRIT and THE SPIRIT OF GOD, intermingling so that the believer communicates directly to God (e.g., in prayer, praise, blessing or thanksgiving, giving expression or utterance at the level of one’s spirit that than the mind (I Cor. 14:2, 14) and praying for oneself or others under the direct influence of the Holy Spirit apart from the activity of the mind.

C) Tongues in the congregation must be accompanied by a Spirit-given interpretation that communicates the content and meaning of the utterance to the community of believers (I Cor. 14: 3, 27-28). It may contain a revelation, knowledge, prophecy or teaching for the assembly. However, the message will ALWAYS spotlight and honor the Lord Jesus Christ.

D) Speaking in tongues within the congregation must be regulated. The speaker may never be “in ecstasy” or “out of control.”

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1. Pentecostals believe that the initial (first) physical evidence of the receiving the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is speaking in tongues. New Testament Christians also believed this premise.

Acts 2:4

And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Pastor’s note: While I believe and preach that speaking in tongues is the initial physical evidence of the baptism, I believe from scripture that supernatural power is the spiritual evidence. Jesus promised in Acts 1:8 that we would receive power - the ability to do whatever God has called us to do with His efficiency.

Speaking in tongues is an inspired utterance whereby the believer’s spirit and the Holy Spirit join in verbal praise or supplication. Tongues are not only the initial physical evidence of the baptism but they are a gift to the believer for a 2-fold purpose:

1) There may be a God-given message during worship for the congregation but it should be followed by an interpretation in the known-language of those people so that the message has a benefit to all.

2) Speaking in tongues may also be used by the individual believer to speak to God during personal devotions - for praying, for worshiping or for supplication.

1 certain disciples, [2] He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye
2 believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be
3 any Holy Ghost. [3] And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And
4 they said, Unto John's baptism. [4] Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the
5 baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him
6 which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. [5] When they heard this, they
7 were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. [6] And when Paul had laid his hands
8 upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and
9 prophesied.

11 SCRIPTURAL WARNINGS ABOUT SPEAKING IN TONGUES

- 13 1. Speaking in tongues must not be given paramount importance in a service. Read I
14 Corinthians 14:6 and 14:26. There must be a time and place for things other than
15 tongues in the service – primarily the exposition of scripture or preaching.
- 17 2. Speaking in tongues is to be limited to two or three utterances (at the most) in a
18 service. 1 Cor. 14:27 **If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two,**
19 **or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret.**
- 21 3. Speaking in tongues in the public service must be interpreted. I Cor 14:27
- 23 4. Those who speak in tongues in the public service are to keep silent if no one is
24 present to interpret it. I Cor. 14:28
- 26 5. Those who speak in tongues in the public service are to pray that they may also
27 interpret. I Corinthians 14:13
- 29 6. Speaking in tongues is not to be forbidden. I Cor. 14:39
- 31 7. Speaking in tongues is not to create confusion. I Cor. 14:40

34 THE INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

36 **1 Cor. 12:10**

37 **To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning**
38 **of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of**
39 **tongues:**

41 Interpretation does not mean “translation” - that is, word for word. It means explaining.

1 Question: What if you feel in your spirit to give a message in tongues in a public
2 service and no one interprets. Were you in error? Not necessarily. It could have been
3 lack of faith on the part of the one to whom God gave the interpretation who did not obey
4 God in the matter. Romans 8:5 **For they that are after the flesh do mind the**
5 **things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.**
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Robert Brandt: How can I know the Holy Spirit wants to manifest the gift of interpretation through me? The answer is much the same as what we suggest with the other gifts. In your spirit you will feel a great urge, a sort of bubbling up, after someone has spoken in a tongue, to burst forth in worship, prayer, blessing, or in thanksgiving to God. Then you should speak forth clearly what the Holy Spirit gives you to say. You may have received only a few words at the beginning. As you speak out in faith, more words will come. Soon you will have given the whole meaning of the message. (Spiritual Gifts / I C I / page 166)

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10 The PURPOSE of interpretation is to build up Christ's church by giving the meaning of
11 what is being spoken in tongues in a public service. The edification comes to the body
12 as the members understand what was spoken in the strange tongue. In this way they are
13 lifted to new heights of worship, prayer, faith, blessings and giving thanks to God. The
14 whole church is strengthened as the members unite in this Holy Spirit-inspired reaching
15 unto God.