



**DHM**  
Divine Healing  
MINISTRIES

# **The Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

**By Joan Weir**

When Jesus arrived in glory after His resurrection, we might imagine Him saying to His Father ‘The channel is now open between earth and heaven – let’s send the Holy Spirit’.

John the Baptist preached baptism for repentance, but spoke about another baptism, that of the Holy Spirit and Fire. For the disciples, this happened at Pentecost when the Holy Spirit fell on the gathered disciples and empowered them for Ministry, and opened the door to the gifts.

When the Holy Spirit comes at salvation, as He must, He comes to dwell within us. Because He is a person, He cannot just pour in a bit of Himself, but comes completely and all of His nature comes with Him including His gifts.

In 1 Corinthians 12 and in Romans 12 and Ephesians 4 we find lists of the gifts. We can all find our place in one or another of these gifts because we read in 1 Corinthians 12:7 ‘To each one is given the manifestation of the Holy Spirit’ and in 1 Corinthians 7:7 ‘Each man has his own gift from God’, so none can say they have no gift. No two gifts are exactly the same but are all given for the building up of the body of Christ and as a witness to the unbeliever.

Who can have these gifts? All who have been born again. I suppose the 9 gifts of 1 Corinthians 12 are the ones we know best. They are: wisdom, knowledge and faith,

healing, miracles and prophecy, and discernment, tongues and interpretation of tongues.

### **Wisdom**

This is not giving advice, but rather a word that God imparts for a particular situation. It can clarify or help solve a problem to the Glory of God. Since it is an insight into truth, there is no wisdom in disobedience. This is the gift Solomon asked for. It enabled him to lead a nation. It is always connected with the fear or reverence of the Lord.

### **Knowledge**

This is not natural knowledge, rather insight into facts or information without having been told. When praying with someone it is not unusual for God to put a thought into your mind or give a mental picture, often causing surprise and enabling something to be brought to the surface and dealt with. Wisdom and knowledge often work together.

### **Faith**

This is a strong conviction or certainty not reached by reasoning – trusting God even against all probability. People of faith ‘see things that are not as though they are’. They exude confidence. The word comes from the Greek ‘pistos’ meaning ‘With God all things are possible’. It carries great authority as in the life of Elijah for example. A wonderful gift.

## **Healing or healings**

This includes physical, emotional and spiritual healing. Sometimes this gift seems to be communicated by the laying on of hands. The point of contact seems to release the healing. When we pray for someone who is ill, we need to remember that God does the healing.

We are His instruments and ultimately have to surrender the person into His hands. Sadly, sometimes people still die. However, when God touches someone, something always happens – comfort, peace, freedom from fear, freedom from pain. Why there is not more widespread healing today remains a mystery. The Lord does continue to heal. We are called to be obedient.

## **Discernment**

This is like an early warning system. The gift makes clear the hidden source of good or bad where spirits are concerned, so is very valuable in the Deliverance Ministry. People with discernment seem able to spot someone who is lying, perhaps because they are bound inside, especially if they have been involved in the occult, or if they have been touched with situations in the past. They ‘know’ but don’t know how they know. It is a supernatural gift.

## **Miracles**

These are exceptional happenings that can suspend natural laws to show God's power. When we think of miracles, we are inclined to remember the wonderful stories of the Old Testament and the easy way Jesus performed a miracle just by a word or touch. However, miracles still happen today, and in the Ministry we have been privileged to see them occasionally. We are praying for many more.

## **Prophecy**

Prophecy has several interpretations. In the church at Corinth it seems to mean speaking forth the word of God, but sometimes there is a word from God about the future for the church, and the individual. Examples are Abraham and Sarah promised Isaac, or Mary being told she would bear Jesus, or Isaiah writing about the promised Messiah. Sometimes the answer is there when we look back.

## **Tongues**

This is the most controversial of the gifts, but it is a beautiful one. I like to think of it as an angelic language – a personal way of communication with God. What a privilege! It is not something worked up but rather given by the Spirit especially in private devotion. When I hear someone saying, 'Must I pray like that?' I feel like

answering – the question is ‘May I pray like that?’. It is a gift not to be belittled.

### **Interpretation of tongues**

This is for use in the church. When someone gives a message in tongues in the church, there should be an interpretation, so there needs to be a period of silence and waiting until God reveals what He wants to say. It can be very powerful.

There are other gifts listed – teaching, exhorting, giving, showing mercy, pastoring, evangelising and hospitality.

Each of the ministries represents facets of Jesus’ own ministry. No one person can truly represent Jesus, so He divides up His unique and full ministry and distributes grace to different members of His body. None of the insights He gives, or the power the Holy Spirit bestows or any new initiative will ever go against scripture or discredit the name of Jesus. He will distribute His gifts as He sees fit. We just need to be willing and open to receive them.

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