

The Nine Gifts of the Spirit

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Love must cover all

Lesson 1

Introduction

Before speaking about the many wonderful manifestations of the Spirit, it is important to know that there is one of them that make all the others valuable and powerful. Without that one, the rest are useless.

Illustration: It is like yeast in the bread, it must be everywhere. Without it the bread would be as hard as a stone **and** useless.

Question: What manifestation is that?

Answer: It is love.

A divine warning: 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

If I had all these wonderful gifts and performed all these powerful things, but did not have love, it would profit nothing. I would just be a useless "noise maker".

Question: What kind of love is that?

Answer: Divine love – also called fruit of the Spirit.

A. The fruit of the Spirit is love – Galatians 5:22

1. The word is singular.

Because true, divine love contains all these other eight qualities:

The fruit of the Spirit Galatians 5:22-23

Divine "agape" love 1 Corinthians 13:1-8

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1) Joy | "rejoices with the truth" |
| 2) Peace | "not easily angered"/"always trusts" |
| 3) Patience | "love is patient" |
| 4) Kindness | "love is kind" |
| 5) Goodness | "keeps no record of wrongs, delights not in evil" |
| 6) Faithfulness | "always trusts, hopes, perseveres" |
| 7) Gentleness | "is not proud, rude or egotistic" |
| 8) Self-control | "is patient, not easily angered" |

Illustration: Like an orange is one, yet contains eight distinct pieces.

2. The fruit of the Spirit is love.

- a) It is not a product of our own human nature.
 - i) Our nature is evil. Romans 3:10-18.
 - ii) It can only produce evil fruit. Galatians 5:19-21.
 - iii) It is very good at disguising things, so that evil looks good, but the deepest motive is always selfish.
- b) Fruit of the Spirit.

When He is given control, He will produce this fruit in us and through us. Romans 5:5, "The love of God is poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit".
- c) Fruit develops.

Illustration: The more sap that flows through a tree the better, as it will cause the tree to produce more fruit as well as bigger and better fruit.

Likewise with a Christian – the more he allows the Holy Spirit to take control and flow through him, the more this wonderful fruit of the Spirit will develop in his life.

3. The inner conflict.

- a) The sinful nature and the Spirit are in conflict with each other. Galatians 5:17. They both want to produce their fruit.
- b) The will of the person constantly has to choose whom to flow with. Galatians 5:16, "... live by the Spirit and you will not fulfil the lust of the sinful nature". Ephesians 4:22, 24, "... put off the 'old man' which grows corrupt" "... put on the 'new man'".

Illustration: A man had an old deadbeat car that gave him a lot of trouble. One day he was given a brand new car and was told, "Don't drive that old deadbeat car any more, use the new one". He was so used to the old, however, that he drove it now and then but it was so messed up that nothing worked properly and so he just caused more damage.

Do not "drive" this old nature any more, it is corrupt. Use the brand new nature.

B. The result of love

1. You will fulfil all God's requirements.

- a) Matthew 22:37-40, "... love the Lord your God" "... love your neighbour as yourself". "On these two commands hang all the Law and the Prophets".
- b) Galatians 5:14, "... all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: you shall love your neighbour as yourself". The word used in these two Scriptures is "agape" – divine love.

2. You will bear the mark of a true servant of the Lord.

- a) Matthew 7:15-17, "You will know them by their fruit".
- b) Not by their words or powerful deeds. Matthew 7:21-23, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,'...." ".... have we not prophesied have we not driven out demons?"

3. Your life will glorify God.

John 15:8-12, "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit ..." The fruit; divine "agape" love, verses 9-12, which is the fruit of the Spirit, will glorify God.

4. You will be blessed with a wonderful, powerful life and ministry.

- a) 1 Corinthians 13:1-3. If all the activities are worthless without agape love, then if they are produced through real agape love, they would be extremely valuable and effective.
- b) The most excellent way. 1 Corinthians 12:31. Love is the most excellent way to function in all the spiritual gifts mentioned in chapter 14.

Memory verse

1 Corinthians 14:1, *"Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts ..."*

Teacher's notes

Divine love is the highest form of love. Only the Holy Spirit, who is God, can pour it into and through our lives.

The Greek language used in the Bible has three words for love:

- 1. Phileo — Soulsh love
- 2. Eros — Physical love
- 3. Agape — Divine love

In Galatians 5:22 and 1 Corinthians 13 the word "agape" is used.

Introduction to the gifts of the Spirit

Lesson 2

Introduction

Illustration: A general would never send his army out empty handed, but he equips them with all the weapons and tools needed for their task. So the Holy Spirit will equip the Church for its wonderful task.

A. A divine encouragement

1. ".... I do not want you to be ignorant". 1 Corinthians 12:1.

In many Christian circles there is a fear and apprehension about the spiritual gifts, even to the point of despising them, because they have heard about so much misuse and disorder among certain people and also because the devil wants to keep this important gift away from the Church. This attitude has created great neglect and ignorance in these matters, but God does not want you and I to be ignorant and He has given us several chapters of scripture to enlighten us.

2. ".... Earnestly desire the spiritual gifts" 1 Corinthians 12:31, 14:1, 39.

Let it be something we are very eager to get hold of. 1 Corinthians 14:12.

a) God asks us to make it a first priority to get hold of His wonderful gifts.

b) Why?

i) They will break our human limitations:

They are called "supernatural gifts".

That means they cannot operate in their true form by any human power, skill or cleverness.

Illustration: Flying is not one of man's natural abilities; it takes another power for him to do so. That is how it is with the 9 gifts; it takes the power of the Holy Spirit for them to function in our lives. We cannot do any miracles, speak languages we have never learned, reveal something we never knew, etc., by human skills and cleverness. That can only be done by the supernatural gifts of the Spirit.

ii) They are tools – weapons for our ministry.

To show the way: Revelation gifts: Acts 13:1-3, 16:6-10.

To purify the Church: Acts 20:29-31, 5:1-6.

To confirm the Word and the ministry and draw men to Christ:

Power gifts: Mark 16:17, Acts 5:12-16.

To comfort and build the Church: Inspirational gifts: Acts 15:32, 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18.

iii) They will glorify God. 1 Peter 4:11.

B. Who is the Giver?

The Holy Spirit, the third person in the Godhead, is the Giver and promoter of these wonderful gifts. 1 Corinthians 12:11.

C. Who can receive the spiritual gifts?

1. They are for every believer who is born of and filled with the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:7, "...for the manifestation of the Spirit is given to **each one**"

1 Corinthians 14:26, "Now then, when you come together, **each one of you** has got something"

2. Who will determine what gift I should have?

We desire – seek for – pray for a particular gift. 1 Corinthians 12:31, 14:1. But the Holy Spirit distributes to each one **as He determines – 1 Corinthians 12:11.**

Illustration: Would you ever give your child something he could not handle at a certain age that could damage him and others? **Neither will the Holy Spirit.**

3. Can I have more than one of the gifts?

We are called to excel in the gifts. 1 Corinthians 14:12-13, "... **therefore the one who speaks in a tongue** should pray that he may **interpret**". The great men in the early Church operated in several of the gifts. (Peter, Paul – revelation, healing, miracles, tongues and more).

4. Will the gift(s) be permanently in/with me?

Gifts are gifts – not just something we can borrow for a specific situation.

a) They are given:

1 Timothy 4:14. The gift is **in** you. "... **given** to you by prophecy and laying on of hands".

2 Timothy 1:6, "... stir up the gift that is **in** you"

Romans 1:11. Paul writes to the church in Rome, "I long to see you, that I may **impart to you** some spiritual gift"

b) God never "regrets" or takes back the gift He has given. Romans 11:29.

Not even if a person starts to live in sin and rebellion – a gift is a gift!

2 Peter 2:14-15 – Balaam

Judges 16:1-3 – Samson

D. The 9 spiritual gifts can be classified into three categories

1. Revelation gifts. (The gifts to know)

a) A word of wisdom.

- b) A word of knowledge.
 - c) Discerning of spirits.
2. **Inspiration gifts.** (The gifts to speak)
- a) Prophecy.
 - b) Speaking in tongues.
 - c) Interpretation of tongues.
3. **Power gifts.** (The gifts to act)
- a) Faith.
 - b) Miracles.
 - c) Healings.

In the following lessons we will consider these gifts one by one.

Memory verse

1 Corinthians 12:11, *“But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He will”.*

Teacher’s notes

Here we are only dealing with the spiritual (supernatural) gifts given by the Holy Spirit.

A variety of gifts

God is the great Giver – Scripture reveals so many gifts.

1. **First of all, the greatest gift, His Son, Jesus Christ. John 3:16.**
2. **The gifts of God to the repented sinner.**
 - a) Mercy and grace. Ephesians 2:8.
 - b) Righteousness. Romans 5:1.
 - c) The new birth (the Spirit). John 3:8.
3. **The natural, motivational gifts purified and set alight by the Holy Spirit.**
 - a) Helps, giving, showing mercy – Romans 12:6-8.
 - b) Administration, leadership – 1 Corinthians 12:28.
 - c) Speaking (preaching), exhortation – 1 Peter 4:11, Romans 12:8.
 - d) Music, song and praise, etc. – 2 Samuel 23:1-2.
4. **The ministerial gifts, given by Jesus to His Church.**
Ephesians 4:11-16. Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers. These are 5 leadership ministries that should get each member to function in his/her particular gifts.
5. **The 9 gifts of the Spirit.**
The ones we are dealing with in this book.

The word of wisdom and the word of knowledge

Lesson 3

Introduction

The dictionary tells us that wisdom is the ability to apply learned knowledge in the right way. We use that wisdom every day right throughout our lives, but that kind of human wisdom is very limited and totally dependent on our intelligence.

But when the Word speaks about "the word of wisdom" and "the word of knowledge" as gifts the Holy Spirit will give to believers, we are in a completely different realm.

A. The word of wisdom

1. What it is not.

- a) It is not wisdom that can be learned.

This wisdom cannot be gained from studying in the best learning institutions. It cannot be learned from any practical experiences.

- b) It is not natural wisdom.

Some people are born extraordinarily intelligent and can give wise answers in any matter - that is not what it is. God often uses the unintelligent people in this gift. 1 Corinthians 1:26-29.

- c) It is not even God-given wisdom for guidance in everyday life.

James 1:5, "If anyone lacks wisdom, let him ask it of God". That wisdom is available for anyone at any time; to make right decisions, to pass examinations, to cope with the job, etc.

- d) It is not good, sound advice.

Mature people can normally give good, sound advice and, because of a long walk with God, they can even advise in spiritual matters with great wisdom. However, that does not necessarily mean that this is the gift of the word of wisdom.

2. What it is.

- a) Definition: The word of wisdom is part of God's wisdom, supernaturally imparted by the Spirit to a believer.

- b) A bottomless well.

God's wisdom is unlimited. He knows the end from the beginning. He has the full picture and all the details of any situation. Romans 11:33-36; Colossians 2:3; 1 Corinthians 2:7-12.

- c) Given for a specific purpose.
Sufficient wisdom is given to solve a particular situation.

Given when?

- i) When problems arise in the Church and there seems to be no answer and no solution.
 - ii) When important decisions have to be taken.
 - iii) When counselling people in difficult situations.
 - iv) When attacked by the enemy.
- d) It is called: "the word of wisdom".
It is inspired words spoken out, which immediately solve and relax a tense situation. It goes right to the centre of the problem and releases the knot. The Holy Spirit gives someone the specific ability to make a wise comment at the right time, maybe a short sentence or a precise statement or a clear suggestion, but everyone senses that a higher wisdom has been shared.

B. Examples from scripture

- 1. **1 Kings 3:23-28** Solomon: the two women and one baby.
- 2. **John 8:3-11** The woman caught in adultery.
- 3. **Matthew 22:15-22** The tax coin.
- 4. **Genesis 41:15-16** Joseph interprets the dream.
- 5. **Luke 4:3-13** At the temptation of Jesus.

C. How should a word of wisdom be brought forth?

- 1. Just let it come forth in the natural flow of the talk or discussion.
- 2. Do not pressurize or force people by saying, "God has shown me what we must do". If it is a real word of wisdom it will simply be clear to everyone present.
- 3. When the problem is solved by the word you gave, remember to give God the glory – the word came from Him by the Holy Spirit.

D. The word of knowledge

1. What it is not.

- a) It is not natural human knowledge.

Today this is growing in an ever-increasing measure. Daniel 12:4 – one of the signs of the last days.

- b) It is not even gathered spiritual knowledge.

This comes from knowing God personally, studying His Word, "growing in grace and knowledge". 2 Peter 3:18.

- c) It is not spiritual knowledge received by "mysterious" means.

This kind of information can often be **right** and **true** but it is from the **occult**, and an abomination to God. Deuteronomy 18:10-12.

This knowledge can come through:

Spiritism	}	It can come in the form of a wolf in sheep's clothing. Acts 20:29-30
Witchcraft		
Fortune-telling		
Mind reading		
False prophecy, etc.		

It is from the devil and his demons; they too can communicate knowledge to man. Acts 16:16-17; 8:9-11.

2. What it is.

- a) Definition: "It is part of God's knowledge – supernaturally given to us by the Spirit. He gives us facts and information we otherwise could not know".
- b) It is spiritual revelation.
Can be from the past, present or future.
Can be about persons, places, objects, events, etc.
- c) The word of knowledge.
The Holy Spirit clearly reveals some facts into the person's spirit (mind) and he/she will have to speak it out. This information will have to be handled with great wisdom, love and care.

E. How does a word of knowledge come to a person?

1. As a powerful conviction in our spirit.

As Jesus experienced in Mark 2:8.

As Paul experienced in Acts 14:9.

2. God speaking "with a clear voice".

To Peter – Acts 10:13,15,19.

To Paul – Acts 22:7-10.

3. Through angels.

To Paul – Acts 27:23-24.

To Phillip – Acts 8:26.

To David – Daniel 8:16.

To John – Revelation 1:1.

4. **Through visions and dreams.**

- To Ananias – Acts 9:10.
- To Paul – Acts 9:12, 18:9-10.
- To Cornelius – Acts 10:3.
- To Daniel – Daniel 7:1.
- To Joseph – Genesis 37:5.

F. **What is the purpose of the word of knowledge?**

1. **It gives a sense of God's presence and interest in our lives.**

Example: A visiting American teacher, who had never been in our church before, suddenly stood up in the meeting and said, "There is a woman here tonight with cancer of the tongue. She has a big sore on the left side of her tongue and if she will come up here, the Lord will heal her". She came up and was wonderfully healed. Later, in the same meeting, this man said, "There is a man here who cut his finger on a tin can two years ago. Infection came into the wound that later affected the bone. He is now suffering from a serious bone disease. The Lord is going to heal this person tonight". Very surprised the man came forward and God healed him. When this gift functions correctly, a fear of God will fall upon the people.

2. **It will protect and cleanse the church.**

- a) In Acts 5:1-11 Ananias and Sapphira had sold some land. Many in the church gave their possessions to the church. Ananias and Sapphira held back part of the price they had received for the land, but tried to make out that they had given all. Peter received a word of knowledge - which shocked them because nobody knew. It had a great cleansing effect on the church.

Example: F.B. Meyer relates how, at a meeting where he was preaching, he was suddenly inspired to say, "There is a young man here who owes his employer R9.20 and unless that is repaid he will never get peace with God". After the meeting a young man came up and said, "How can you know? The remarkable thing is that three years ago I took R9.20 from my employer. I am a Christian and it has been on my heart ever since, but I didn't like the exposure of returning it". Right there and then, he wrote a letter to this employer and enclosed a cheque, and God's peace flooded his soul.

- b) The word of knowledge exposes deceitfulness and sin.

Example: William Branham often ministered with the word of knowledge. In one meeting he pointed to a young man and said, "The Lord tells me you are living in sin. You are not only smoking, but also drinking heavily. Long ago God gave you a call to the ministry but you ignored it. You are now suffering from serious T.B. and you wonder if you will ever get healed **is that right?**" "Yes sir," the young man replied promptly. "Come and repent, and God will heal you". The man did and was immediately healed.

3. **It can expose the enemy.**

- a) 2 Kings 6:8-12. Elisha tells the king of Israel, "... the words that you speak in your bedroom".

- b) Paul was warned about what would happen to him in Jerusalem. Acts 20:23; 21:11.

4. In counselling it can expose the real problem.

Example: It would save so much time if the word of knowledge functioned, as it should:

Pastor Don Double tells of an occasion when a woman arrived 25 minutes late for an appointment for counselling. The pastor now only had a few minutes before his next appointment. As she entered, he spoke what the Spirit had just told him, "You live like a prostitute and the reason you are late is that your last customer would not let you go in time". The woman dropped to her knees and cried out for mercy and was gloriously delivered by the grace of God. **All of it took only five minutes.**

G. Other examples from the Word of God

1. 1 Samuel 9:15-20 – to recover lost property.
2. 2 Samuel 12:7-13 – revealing David's sin to Nathan.
3. 2 Kings 5:20-27 – to expose Gehazi's sin.
4. John 1:47-50 – to convince Nathanael.
5. John 4:17-18, 29 – to convince the woman at the well.
6. Acts 10:17-23 – Peter received knowledge about the three men from Cornelius' house.
7. Acts 9:11-12, 17 – Ananias received information about Paul.
8. Acts 27:22-24 – about the outcome of the shipwreck.

H. How to give a word of knowledge.

1. Just speak out naturally and say:

"The Lord has shown me"

"I see in a vision"

or just, "There is a person here today that"

2. The address:

- a) Be careful to address the word correctly. Is it to the whole congregation or just to one person?
- b) Don't "hang" a person publicly, for sin or other faults. Remember that all gifts must operate in love otherwise they are worthless.

Memory verse

1 Corinthians 13:1, *"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal".*

The discerning of spirits – The gift of faith

Lesson 4

Introduction

The discerning of spirits is a very important gift. Today there is a real increase in the occult and in demonic activity. People who are involved in different occult practices are sometimes also churchgoers. Their presence gives the devil an opportunity to work amongst the believers and to deceive, if possible, even God's elect.

Before defining this important gift, it is probably good to see what it is not.

A. The discerning of spirits

1. It is not just spiritual discernment.

- a) Which springs from growing in grace and the knowledge of God and His Word; as described in Hebrews 5:13-14.
- b) Or people who can test what spirit it is, by using the Word.

There are several tests mentioned in the Word.

- i) Test their proper understanding and relationship to Jesus. 1 Corinthians 12:3; 1 John 4:1-3.
- ii) Test their fruits. Matthew 7:15-17.

But these things are not the spiritual gift of discernment.

2. It is not an ability to point out faults in others.

Often people, once they have had some sort of experience in God, begin to point out what is wrong with other people and every other ministry they listen to. They claim to have the gift of discernment, but it is more often a critical, envious spirit that they have. The gift of discerning is not discernment of character or ability **but of spirits**.

B. What is the gift of discerning of spirits?

1. There are four types of spirits:

- a) The human spirit. 1 Thessalonians 5:23.
Man consists of body, soul and **spirit**.
- b) The Holy Spirit. Acts 1:5.
- c) Ministering spirits. (Angels) Hebrews 1:4, 14.
- d) Evil spirits. (Demons) Acts 19:15-16.

2. **This gift gives a supernatural insight into the spirit realm.**

- a) Ability to discern the kind of spirit.
He will be able to discern the source of a spiritual manifestation, or what kind of spirit a ministering person operates in.
- b) Given in a moment when needed.
It is not a constant ability to measure everyone, but it is an ability given by the Spirit when needed.

C. The purpose of the gift

1. **To keep the church from being deceived.**

- a) By destructive heresies:
It has been a constant danger right from the start of the church to this very day. 2 Peter 2:1; Acts 20:29-30.
There is even a special warning for the last days. 2 Timothy 4:3-4.
False prophets – wolves "in sheep's clothing" – they look so right. We need this gift to expose who they really are.
By "demons' doctrine". 1 Timothy 4:1-2.
- b) By demon activity:
 - i) Evil spirits always want to deceive and hide themselves, even behind religion. Many people would think that the girl in Acts 16:17-18 was under conviction or even moved by the Holy Spirit – but no – it was the wrong spirit.
 - ii) Many sicknesses are purely physical, but some are caused by demons. Matthew 12:22; 17:15-18; Luke 13:11. Through the gift of discerning of spirits, we can be shown the origin of a sickness.

2. **The gift is useful in intercession and spiritual warfare.**

To determine what evil forces we are up against.
Ephesians 6:12 lists some of the evil forces:

- a) Principalities.
- b) Powers.
- c) Rulers.
- d) A spiritual host of wickedness.

There also seems to be a terrible line of demonic characters:

- a) Spirit of lust.
- b) Spirit of suicide.
- c) Spirit of religion.
- d) Spirit of murder etc.

3. **This gift is very useful when other gifts are exercised.**

Sometimes the enemy can use people with counterfeit manifestations to disturb meetings.

- a) **It can** be merely soulish – people working themselves up in their emotions.
- b) **It can** also be genuinely demonic. Acts 16:17-18; 1 Timothy 4:1.

D. How to operate in the gift of discernment

1. **In love.**

All the gifts must operate in love; otherwise they are useless. With this one, there must be a special emphasis on love, since it often results in stopping or correcting people. Do not embarrass people publicly if it is not necessary.

2. **In close co-operation with the leadership.**

When God reveals something, just inform the leadership and let them take action.

3. **In counselling, speak straight to the person.**

Often people are deceived and they do not know the problem themselves. The gift of discernment can **gently reveal the root cause**.

E. The gift of faith

1. **What is faith?**

"Faith is the **assurance** of things hoped for, a **conviction** of things not seen".

2. **There are three realms (types) of faith.**

Natural faith. Saving faith. The gift of faith.

a) **Natural faith.**

Illustration: Everybody has got this kind of faith, it does not depend on whether you believe in God or not. It often depends on previous experiences. You go down to the bus station because **you believe** the bus will arrive. You open the tap; switch the light on; turn the switch on the radio – **you believe** without doubting it will work. **That is natural faith.**

b) **Saving faith.**

Acts 16:31, "... **believe** on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved".

- i) Faith is an absolute necessity in finding God.

Hebrews 11:6, "... without faith it is impossible to please God, for

whoever comes to God **must believe**"

- ii) Saving faith is active faith!

James 2:26, "... faith without action is dead".

Acts 2:21, "... **whoever calls** on the name of the Lord shall be saved".

- iii) The Holy Spirit brings about saving faith during the "preaching" of the Word. Romans 10:14, 17, "... faith comes by hearing the Word of God".

- c) **The gift of faith.**

Definition: A Holy Spirit inspired supernatural faith in God, in a humanly speaking completely impossible situation. **A total absence of any doubt.**

3. **The purpose of this gift.**

- a) **To solve impossible problems.**

Mark 11:23, "*Whoever shall say to this mountain*". It can be any "mountain" – any problem.

- b) **To stir up faith for action.**

A person with this gift will stir up God's people to move forward and take "the promised land" – like Joshua did.

4. **How does this gift work?**

- a) It comes as an inspiration, an anointing in a specific situation. It is not just a constant great measure of faith, but it comes as an anointing to speak and act as God inspires in an impossible situation or in the face of a great challenge.

- b) It must always be in God's direction. It is hearing and acting on God's "rhema" word. Be careful to not just develop "faith in faith", but let it be faith in God's clear direction. Romans 10:17, "... *faith comes by hearing the Word of God*".

The gift of faith will often result in different kinds of miracles – in that way the gifts overlap each other.

5. **Some scripture examples of the use of this gift:**

Joshua 10:12-13	Commanded the sun and moon to stand still.
2 Kings 20:11	Commanded the sun to go back 10 degrees.
1 Kings 17:1	Elijah controlled the weather.
Acts 9:40	Peter raised a dead girl.
Acts 13:8-11	Paul silenced Elymas.

6. **A present day example:** (from Christian Life magazine)

J. McCurdy was waiting for a taxi outside an airport when a frightened young boy ran up to him and pleaded for help, "My daddy is dying". They ran down the road to a car in a ditch. The driver, a middle-aged man, was obviously dead; he had had a heart attack about 45 minutes before. They did everything they could to bring him back to life, but to no avail. The corpse was already stiff and cold, but as he stood there, McCurdy was anointed and the Lord said to him, "Lay your hand on the corpse and command death to depart and life to return". With complete assurance, he did as commanded and the man instantly returned to life and also to perfect health. The whole family got saved and God was glorified.

Memory verse

Hebrews 11:1, *"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see"*.

Teacher's notes

Remember the devil is a deceiver.

Jesus said: "The devil is a liar, even the father of lies". John 8:44.

We need the gift of discernment to expose him.

How does the devil try to deceive us?

1. How does he come?

- a) As an "angel of light". 2 Corinthians 11:14.
- b) With the Word of God. Luke 4:9-11.
- c) In another person. John 13:2, 27.
- d) Even the closest friend. Matthew 16:23.
- e) As a roaring lion. 1 Peter 5:8.

2. What weapons does he use?

- | | | |
|------------------------------|---|--------------------|
| Spiritual blindness | – | 2 Corinthians 4:3. |
| Traps | – | 2 Timothy 2:26. |
| Flaming missiles | – | Ephesians 6:16. |
| Temptations | – | Genesis 3:4. |
| Accusations and condemnation | – | Revelation 12:10. |
| Lies (false teaching) | – | John 8:44. |
| Things (witchcraft) | – | Acts 8:9-10. |
| Theft | – | John 10:10. |
| Demonic influence | – | Luke 13:16. |

3. We have a clear call to overcome him in every way. Ephesians 6:10-13.

The working of miracles and the gifts of healing

Lesson 5

Introduction

Jesus said in John 14:12 that His followers will do the things He did. They will do even greater things. Jesus assures us that His miraculous power would continue and would be available for all the future believers.

A. The working of miracles

1. A definition of the gift.

- a) What is a miracle?

A miracle is when God intervenes and changes the normal course of nature. God, through His servants, breaks into the normal order of things (the laws of nature) to accomplish His purposes.

- b) Working of miracles (plural).

This implies that each miracle is a separate, God-appointed operation. No one can just work miracles at his own will, but only as the Holy Spirit speaks and inspires in each particular situation.

2. The purpose of miracles.

- a) To bring glory to God.

John 2:11. This was the beginning of His miracles and He revealed His glory. Psalm 150:2, "Praise Him for His mighty acts".

- b) To meet our needs in a practical way.

Miracles always arise out of the compassion and concern of God:

- i) Water from the rock. Exodus 17:6.
- ii) Bread and meat from the sky. Exodus 16:4.
- iii) Feeding the multitude. John 6:5-12.

- c) To deliver people out of danger and the hand of the enemy.

- i) The plagues in Egypt. Exodus 7:12 - chapter 11.
- ii) Dividing the Red Sea. Exodus 14:21-22.
- iii) The three men in the furnace. Daniel 3:19-25.
- iv) Calming the storm. Matthew 8:23-27.

- d) To confirm the preaching of the Word.

Mark 16:17, "*These signs shall follow*". John 14:11; Acts 14:3.

- e) To bring God's judgement.
 - i) Moses before Pharaoh. Exodus 7.
 - ii) Paul silences Elymas. Acts 13:8-11.

Teacher's notes

The gift of working of miracles, in relation to the gift of faith.

Although the gift of faith often results in miracles, **the two are not the same**. The gift of faith will often work to inspire God's people to action. The gift of working of miracles will always work in a situation where the normal course of nature will be overridden or contradicted.

1. The dividing of the Red Sea. Exodus 14:21-22.
2. Turning water to wine. John 2:1-11.
3. Walking on water. Matthew 14:28-33.
4. Peter released from prison. Acts 12:5-10.

The gift of working of miracles, in relation to the gifts of healing:

The gifts of healing are always to do with driving sickness away from the human body. The gift of working of miracles can include any objects or situation. With regard to the human body, a creative healing or raising a dead body back to life would be a miracle.

Illustration: When Jesus put Malchus' ear back on, it was the gift of healing operating, but if it had involved the creation of a new ear, it would have been the working of miracles.

3. Some other scriptural examples:

- a) The fall of the Jericho wall. Joshua 6:5.
- b) Elijah's contest on Mt. Carmel. 1 Kings 18:20.
- c) Iron floating on the water. 2 Kings 6:1-7.
- d) Jesus calming the storm. Matthew 8:26.
- e) Peter raising a dead girl. Acts 9:40-41.

Examples from today:

In the Indonesian revival many powerful miracles were recorded:

- i) Miraculous feeding of thousands with very little food.
 - ii) Groups of people walking on the water across a river.
 - iii) People were raised from the dead.
- (From the book: "As a Mighty Wind" by Mel Tari)

B. The gifts of healing

Introduction: Sickness is a product of the curse and corruption that resulted because of the terrible fall of man. Healing and perfect health was won for us on the Cross of Calvary. Isaiah 53:5; 1 Peter 2:24.

1. The Lord is your healer.

- a) One of the names God gave Himself is "Jehovah Rapha" – I am the Lord your Healer. Exodus 15:26. That is what God wants to be for all of us.
- b) When Jesus proclaimed His ministry programme, it clearly aimed at releasing the whole person; spirit, soul and body – Luke 4:18.
- c) When He extended His ministry through His followers, He commanded them in His name to care for the whole person; body, soul and spirit. Matthew 10:1; Mark 16:15-18.

2. Healing methods given in the New Testament.

- a) Healing by anointing with oil and prayer. James 5:14-16.
 - i) It is mainly a church practice (for the believers). "Is any sick **among you**"
 - ii) To be performed by the church leadership. "Call **the elders** of the church"
 - iii) The initiative should come from the sick person. "**He** shall call"
 - iv) We find the 12 apostles using this method when praying for the Jews. Mark 6:12-13.

Teacher's notes

The **prayer and oil**

1. Why oil?

The oil is only used as a symbol of the Holy Spirit. (It can be any kind of oil.) There is no healing virtue in the oil itself. The Bible says, "**The prayer of faith** will raise the sick".

2. They must confess their sin – James 5:16.

Because sin is always an obstacle for the work of the Holy Spirit to take place, it needs to be confessed.

3. Although we see examples in the Bible of God healing through means such as mud and the garment in the case of Jesus, the shadow of Peter and the handkerchiefs of Paul, the Word of God has not specifically instructed us to use these methods. We have been given two methods:

- a) Anointing with oil and prayer by the elders.
- b) Laying on of hands by the believers.

We must, of course, always be open to the Holy Spirit telling us what to do, but let us not start new methods (doctrines) that are not biblically advised.

- b) Healing through the laying on of hands. Mark 16:17-18.
- i) To be used in evangelism. Mark 16:15.
This is for both Christians and non-Christians if they request prayer.
 - ii) All believers are permitted to lay hands on the sick (verse 17) in the name of Jesus.

Teacher's notes

1. In the laying on of hands, be guided by the Spirit. Do not lay hands on just any one, Paul warns. 1 Timothy 5:22.
2. Preferably lay your hands on their head and not just anywhere on the body. (From the head, the whole body is controlled.)
3. The Bible says, "**lay hands**". Do not "grab", "shake" or "push" the person. It is not your power, but God's power that will raise the sick.

- c) The gifts of healing.

- i) Definition:

The gifts of healing are for the supernatural healing of diseases, injuries and handicaps, without the aid of any natural means or human skills. They are the manifestation of the power of the Holy Spirit working through compassionate human channels to meet the person in need.

- ii) The plurality of the gift.

"Gifts of healing" – gifts is plural.

Why?

- Probably because the Spirit gives different gifts to meet different needs; people can be sick in body, soul, mind and emotions.
- Some think the reason is that there are specialized gifts for meeting the needs of special parts of the body, i.e. some for deafness, others for blindness, others for sore backs, etc.
But there is no support in scripture for this interpretation.
- Could it be that each healing is given as a gift of the Holy Spirit? If it was not so, we could go and empty the hospitals – not even Jesus did that. John 5:1-9.

- iii) The gifts are entirely supernatural.

There is no need for any outer means or manipulation.

iv) How to use these gifts:

- Listen to the prompting of the Holy Spirit.
- Build up the sick person's faith in Jesus.
- Lay your hands on the person, pray in faith in the name of Jesus.
- If prompted by the Spirit, speak with His authority to the sick person and help him to act in faith. Acts 3:1-6.

v) The purpose of these gifts:

- That we may enjoy healing and good health. John 10:10.
- To destroy the works of the devil.
- To bring people into the kingdom. Acts 9:32-35.
- To glorify God. Acts 3:13-16.
- **To inspire faith in other people.**
As people see God heal, their faith will be strengthened and they will reach out and trust God for themselves.

Memory verse

1 John 3:8b, *"For this purpose the Son of God was manifest, that He might destroy the works of the devil".*

Teacher's notes

Perhaps it is wise to work in teams where a group of people pray together for the sick person, so no "honour" can be taken by any one.

Gifts of healing – many gifts work together.

Different kinds of tongues and interpretation of tongues

Lesson 6

Introduction

Although speaking in tongues is a wonderful gift, it is the most misunderstood and rejected of all the gifts, probably because:

1. It does not appeal to the carnal-minded Christian.
2. It can easily be counterfeited.
3. As in the church of Corinth, this gift has in some cases been used in a disorderly and uncontrolled way.

But still it is named among the greatest gifts. 1 Corinthians 14:1, 5. The Bible goes to great lengths to explain this gift.

A. Different kinds of tongues

A definition:

Speaking in tongues is a manifestation of the Holy Spirit which enables the person to speak in languages he has never learned and which, at the time of speaking, are not understood by himself.

1. Different languages.

- a) 1 Corinthians 13:1, "If I speak **in the tongues of men**". That means different kinds of human languages from anywhere in the world. On the day of Pentecost they heard them speak in 16 to 17 different languages. Acts 2:8-11.
- b) "Or in the **tongues of angels**".
Could it also sometimes be in heavenly languages?

2. Different purposes. ("different kinds")

- a) A personal prayer language (the first kind).

The person is praying **to God** in the Spirit. 1 Corinthians 14:2, "... for he that speaks in an unknown tongue, speaks not to man, **but to God**". 1 Corinthians 14:14, "... if I pray in tongues".

Praying – speaking – singing **to God** in the Spirit (in tongues). This is for personal use **not for public use**. 1 Corinthians 14:18-19. This ability is for all Spirit-filled believers. 1 Corinthians 14:5, "I wish you all spoke with tongues".

The purpose of this kind:

- i) Speaking mysteries to God in the Spirit. 1 Corinthians 14:2.

- ii) He will build himself up. 1 Corinthians 14:4.
- iii) He ministers to God in the Spirit. 1 Corinthians 14:15.

Teacher's notes

Although we say that tongues is not for public worship except if it can be interpreted, there can be situations where the whole congregation sings or praises God in the Spirit (in tongues) very harmoniously, a beautiful praise to God.

- b) Ministering to the church (the second kind).

This is a message in tongues **from God** to the church. This must always be interpreted; otherwise the person should not speak. 1 Corinthians 14:28.

This ministry will edify the church. 1 Corinthians 14:5.

- c) For use in evangelism (the third kind).

- i) **Mark 16:15-18.** Here the gift of speaking in tongues is put in an evangelistic setting. Could it be a "secret" line of communication to God in spiritual warfare?

- ii) In 1 Corinthians 14:22 we are told that speaking in tongues is a sign for the unbelievers. At the same time, Paul is saying that if an unbeliever comes into the church and all are speaking in tongues, he will say: "You are out of your mind", verse 23. At first it looks like a contradiction. The sign for the unbelievers could be in evangelistic outreaches, as on the day of Pentecost.

Example: It is recorded that a missionary, H.B. Garlock, who in 1922 was used to bring the Gospel to a tribe of cannibals, was captured and dragged before the chief and all the people and there he spoke for 20 minutes in tongues. He did not understand a word of what he was saying, but the cannibals did and responded by setting him free and treating him well. Later they turned to Christ. Garlock could not speak their language again before he learned it in the natural way.

Tongues with clear interpretation can, of course, also convict an unbeliever.

B. Biblical rules for speaking in tongues

1. 1 Corinthians 14:39, "... do not forbid speaking in tongues". (Many church leaders disobey this word.)
2. Everything must be done with decency and order.

Decently means: Do not lose control of yourself.

Order: In an orderly way.

- a) Only two, at the most three, should speak. (One tongue each.) 1 Corinthians 14:27.
- b) There should be an interpretation after each tongue. ("Someone should interpret".) 1 Corinthians 14:27-28.
- c) If no interpreter is present they should not use their gifts, or else one of the tongue speakers should pray that he might interpret. 1 Corinthians 14:13.

Teacher's notes

Different phrases used in the Bible for this gift:

1. **New tongues.** Mark 16:17.
(A language new to the speaker)
2. **Other tongues.** Acts 2:4-8.
(A language they do not normally use)
3. **Different kinds of tongues.** 1 Corinthians 12:10.
(A person can be inspired to speak different languages)
4. **Unknown tongues.** 1 Corinthians 14:2, 4.
(Unknown to any human present, but the Holy Spirit will reveal the true meaning)

C. How does speaking in tongues work?

1. **Is it the Holy Spirit who takes control of our tongue and "forces" it to bring forth those new, strange sounds?**

No – the Bible says

We speak, as the Spirit gives utterance.

It cannot be learned or **imitated from other people** who are speaking in tongues.

We speak as the Spirit gives.

Memory verse

Acts 2:4, "*And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and they began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance*".

2. **Watch out for false manifestations.**

- a) There can be "soulish" manifestations.
These manifestations are often from people who do not know better. They need to be taught and guided into the real thing.
- b) There can be demonic manifestations.

- i) A possessed person who speaks something that is not understandable.
- ii) Satanic pop-groups often sing what sounds like nonsense, but when the record is played backwards, it is often praise to Satan.

3. **Immature manifestation.**

It often puts people off that some people speaking in tongues say the same few "words" over and over again, very monotonously – is that real? It can be; but they have never developed a proper language – only a few words in the Spirit that they repeat over and over.

Conclusion: 1 Corinthians 14:39, "Do not forbid speaking in tongues", verse 18. Paul: "I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you".

D. **Interpretation of tongues**

This is the close companion of the gift of speaking in tongues.

1. **Definition:** When a message is given in tongues in a meeting, it is to be followed by the gift of interpretation of tongues. The possessor of this gift will be inspired by the Spirit to interpret the spoken language into the language of those present. The message will edify the church and the gift of tongues becomes equal to the gift of prophecy. 1 Corinthians 14:5.
2. **It is interpretation, not translation.**
It gives the general meaning and is therefore not limited to a word for word translation, hence the reason why sometimes an interpretation may be longer than the tongue or vice-versa.
3. **Does the interpreter understand the tongue?** (the language)
No, but he receives the interpretation from the Holy Spirit.
4. **How should he deliver the interpretation?**
Let the people understand who is speaking.
Begin by saying: "God is saying", or "the Spirit is saying", or ".... thus says the Lord", and then go on to tell what the Spirit is revealing.

The gift of prophecy

Lesson 7

Introduction

Prophecy has always been one of God's powerful ways of speaking to man. The New Testament points out that prophecy is amongst the greatest spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:31; 14:1, 5) and encourages us to desire earnestly this particular gift. 1 Corinthians 14:39.

A. Definition

Prophecy is to speak the mind of God by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. It is not from our own thoughts; it is supernatural speech in a known language.

B. Who can receive this gift?

This gift can be received by all believers, but according to the Holy Spirit's appointment. 1 Corinthians 12:11.

1. Paul's wish for the church: "I wish you all prophesied". 1 Corinthians 14:5.
2. The gift is also for the **young** men. Acts 2:16-17.
3. The gift is also for the **young** girls. Acts 2:16; 21:9; 1 Corinthians 11:5.

C. What the gift of prophecy is not

1. It is not to be confused with the ministry of a prophet.

- a) Because people receive a prophetic gift, it does not mean that they become prophets.
- b) In Ephesians 4:11, 1 Corinthians 12:28 and Acts 13:1, we read about prophets. These were men whose ministry was that of being prophets, one of the five leading ministries in the Church.
- c) The difference between the two is seen in Acts 21:9-10, where God wanted to predict Paul's future. He did not use the four girls with the prophetic gift, but He called a prophet to come down from Judea.

2. It is not preaching.

Some Bible translations translate the word "prophecy" as "inspired preaching". Preaching is a planned, well prepared speech, whereas a prophetic utterance comes as an impulse of sudden revelation or inspiration and it flows and grows as the prophet or person with a prophetic gift speaks forth. 2 Peter 1:21. However, this does not exclude the message that is prophetically inspired.

Teacher's notes

Four types of prophecy:

Scripture gives us four types of prophetic utterances.

1. **The Spirit of prophecy.**

This happens in situations when God's Spirit moves in a mighty way. Where everyone who comes near feels inspired to prophesy; it may be the only time in their lives – you may never hear them prophesy again. 1 Samuel 19:20-24; Acts 19:6.

2. **The gift of prophecy.**

1 Corinthians 12:10; 14:1.
This is the gift we are dealing with in this lesson.

3. **The ministry of a prophet.**

This is one of the five leading ministries in the Church.
Ephesians 4:11; Acts 13:1; Ephesians 2:20.

4. **The false prophet.**

Of which the scripture constantly warns us. Matthew 24:11; 2 Peter 2:1.

D. The purpose of the gift of prophecy

The purpose and the limits of the gift.

These are clearly stated in 1 Corinthians 14:3. There are three elements given here and the gift of prophecy should not operate outside those "limits". They are: "Edification, exhortation and comfort".

Memory verse

1 Corinthians 14:3, *"But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men".*

1. **Edification:** Means to build up, to promote spiritual growth. The gift of prophecy is not for negative breaking down, but for positive building up of the people. It never brings people into bondage, fear and condemnation, but will bring hope and encouragement. It gives us a vision of God's desire for us and all His wonderful provisions available to us.
2. **Exhortation:** Means appeal, encouragement, consolation. An appeal to leave "Egypt" behind and enter into God's "promised land".

3. **Comfort:** The Holy Spirit is called "the Comforter". This is a ministry He wants to exercise through this gift. The devil is called "the accuser" and he is good at it and many fall into condemnation and despair. This gift can wonderfully reveal God's grace, mercy and love and drive out all condemnation.

E. How should a prophetic message be delivered?

1. Know to whom the message is addressed.

It is generally a message to the church – 1 Corinthians 14:4 – but it could be that the Spirit wants to address:

- a special group in the church.
- a family in the church.
- a person.
- a particular situation.

The inspired person must be very sensitive to the guidance of the Spirit.

2. The gift should be used under proper oversight.

- a) The Bible requires that all prophecy be tested. 1 Corinthians 14:29.
- b) Therefore, when the gift is used between two people only, where the one prophesies to the other; or between husband and wife, where the one prophesies to the other, then the words can be recorded (written down, or taped) and brought before the elders of the church for testing.

3. Let everybody know that it is a prophetic message.

- a) This can be done by saying: "God is saying", or "the Holy Spirit is saying", or "thus says the Lord".
- b) This divine "signature" puts strong emphasis on the message.
- c) It also makes the person bringing the message take it more seriously.

F. All prophecy must be tested

1. Notice that scripture says that ALL prophecy must be tested.

1 Thessalonians 5:21.

2. Who should test it?

- a) The church leadership:
In Acts 11:1-18 Peter got his revelation from God "tested" by the leadership in Jerusalem.
- b) Other prophets:
Other people in the church with the same gift. 1 Corinthians 14:29.
- c) Also people with the gift of discerning of spirits.

3. How should it be tested?

- a) There can be three different sources from which a message comes and sometimes there is even a mixture of them.

The three sources:

- From God.
- From the human mind.
- From demons.

1 Thessalonians 5:21, "Test everything. Hold on to the good".

- b) Tests to be used.

i) **The Word of God.**

The question to be put to the message: "Does this completely correspond with the Word of God?"

Example: If someone prophesies and says: "You must divorce your wife and marry that one". We can easily discard that, because it does not correspond with the Word. But sometimes it is subtler.

ii) **The test of the spirit of the message.**

Remember 1 Corinthians 13:1-3. If there is a wrong spirit behind the message, it is worth nothing.

iii) **The inner witness by the Holy Spirit.**

He will guide us into all truth. John 16:13. A "tuned ear" can hear when the Spirit is speaking. Revelation 2:7.

- c) How to react?

- i) The leader could stand up after the prophetic message has been delivered and he could comment on, and emphasize, what he senses is of the Spirit. If something is not of the Spirit he could lovingly put it aside.

- ii) 1 Thessalonians 5:21, "**Hold fast** that which is good". Write it down, so that you do not forget it.

G. **Biblical rules for the gift**

1. It must function in an orderly way. 1 Corinthians 14:39-40.
2. Two, at the most three, must speak. They must be sensitive to one another. 1 Corinthians 14:29-30.
3. The person speaking must keep himself under control. Do not get "wild" and scream at the top of your voice. Although the gift is supernatural, it is still under the full control of the person who has the gift. 1 Corinthians 14:32.

Conclusion: "Therefore my brethren, earnestly desire to prophesy". 1 Corinthians 14:39.

Purpose of the gifts of the Spirit

Lesson 8

Introduction

When God calls, He will provide the means to fulfil the calling. The Christian Church has a mighty calling: "To be the body of Christ on earth". That means we should reveal Christ in all His glory and fullness and continue to do the very work and deeds He did.

A. What did Jesus look like?

1. Bodily.

Although many pictures and paintings have been made of Christ, nobody knows what He really looked like.

2. His nature.

Through the perfect account in scripture we are fully acquainted with His wonderful nature and character.

3. His deeds and actions.

The Apostle John writes: "I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written if all Jesus did had been written down". John 21:25. Although we only have a very limited description of His powerful actions and deeds we still have enough for us as His Church to follow in His footsteps.

B. But how are we able to reveal Christ, His wonderful nature and His powerful deeds?

1. Only if we allow the Holy Spirit to produce His nature and His deeds through us.

Illustration: As a boy, I saw an artist who had formed the most beautiful sculptures out of stone (marble). He had formed angels, the twelve Apostles, Jesus and many other things. When I came home I asked my father if I could have a piece of marble he had standing behind the workshop, because I also wanted to make an angel.

As I started to work with a hammer and chisel, the big piece of stone broke in two. Well, I had to make a smaller angel now. Soon it broke again and after a while I was just sitting with a big heap of small pieces. No angel came out of it. If it had been possible for the spirit of that artist to enter me, my father would have had a beautiful angel standing in his garden – but that is not possible!

But it is possible that the Spirit of the Lord can enter you and I, and that is the only way we will be able to do His works.

2. Together with all the saints, we can portray Jesus.

- a) It takes the whole Church to portray Jesus in all His fullness.
Ephesians 4:13, "Until we **all** come to the measure of the fullness of God".

Ephesians 3:17-19, "... together with **all** the saints ... that you may be filled with all the fullness of Christ".

- b) It takes the Spirit (the fruit of the Spirit) to unite the Church.
1 Corinthians 12:13, "By one Spirit we were all baptised into one body".

The fruit of the Spirit (Love) is the perfect bond to join and keep people together. Colossians 3:14, "... put on love, which is the bond of perfection".

Teacher's notes

The unity of the Spirit:

(Unity of the Spirit – where the fruit of the Spirit joins saints together in harmony.)
That seems to be the right atmosphere for the gifts of the Spirit to function in.

This was the trademark of the early Church right from the first day:

We constantly find the expression: "in one accord". That is a musical expression and it means **in perfect harmony**, and every time we find it, there is a manifestation of God's power and different spiritual gifts.

1. **On the day of Pentecost. Acts 2:1**, they were all together **in one accord** in one place. We all know the powerful result.
2. **The following days. Acts 2:46-47**, they continued daily **with one accord** and daily people were joined to them.
3. **Acts 4:24**, they raised their voice **with one accord** and the place trembled under God's power.
4. **Acts 5:12**, they were all gathered **in one accord** and mighty signs and miracles happened.

Only when the saints are joined together in His love, and are manifesting the fruit and the gifts of the Spirit, can we really be the body of Christ (the instrument through which He can reveal Himself).

C. **The spiritual gifts make the Church effective**

1. **Inwardly.** (In the fellowship of the believers)

The gifts are a powerful instrument for the Holy Spirit to work amongst the believers.

- a) The gifts will edify and strengthen the fellowship. 1 Corinthians 14:12; Acts 9:31.

- b) The gifts will sanctify and purify the believers. Acts 5:1-11.
- c) The gifts will restore and bring healing and deliverance to the people of God. Acts 9:40-41; 9:34.
- d) The gifts will give the Church revelation and direction. 2 Peter 1:21.
- e) The gifts will change the church from a religious "one-man show" to a dynamic multi-ministry where many are involved. 1 Corinthians 14:26.

Memory verse

1 Corinthians 14:26, *"When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church".*

2. Outwardly. (To the unbelieving world)

The gifts are necessary tools to reach the unbelieving world and convince them that Jesus has risen and is alive today.

- a) The Great Commission to the Church. According to Mark 16:15-18.
 - i) "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation".
 - ii) "They will drive out demons".
 - iii) "They will speak in new tongues".
 - iv) "They will pick up snakes drink deadly poison it will not hurt them". (do miracles)
 - v) "They will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well".
To fulfil this commission is completely impossible without the spiritual gifts.
- b) That was the secret of the early Church.

Acts 5:12-16, they performed miraculous signs, wonders, healings, deliverance.

Result: verse 14, "... more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to the church".

Acts 8:6-7, Philip performed miraculous signs, healings and driving out of evil spirits.

Result: Acts 8:12, "...when they believed Philip as he preached the good news they were baptised, both men and women".

Acts 9:33-35, Peter healed Aeneas.

Result: verse 35, "All those who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord".

We could go on with hundreds of examples.

c) This is also the secret of successful outreaches today.

Many examples could be given, but let me give just one:

Example: A missionary to one of the North African Muslim countries worked for many years without one convert. They said to him, "Mohammed is as good as Jesus, what is the difference?" He was at the point of giving up, when the Spirit spoke to him and said, "Show them that Jesus is alive. Ask if there is a blind man in the crowd". They brought a blind man to him, the Spirit said, "Lay your hands upon his eyes in the name of Jesus". The miracle happened and that was the start of a wonderful revival.

The fruit and the gifts of the Spirit will make the Church wonderfully effective in its Great Commission.

Conclusion

"Follow the way of **Love** and eagerly desire **the spiritual gifts**". 1 Corinthians 14:1.