

"For a spiritual warfare against mighty but unseen spiritual foes,
nothing less than supernatural spiritual gifts will suffice."

2 Cor 10:4

1 Cor 12:1 - power

Loss of Divine power
drives us to human resources

Bible only objective part
of our faith - not what
we've experienced, seen in
others, documented but what
the Word says.

The church - spiritual &
supernatural origin - intended to
be that way in operation - "I will not
leave you helpless orphans - Gift & life
- X rejected Divine Resources
are " " "
X has made power = Church to be self-contained.

Lesson #5

THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

Scriptures: Eph. 4:7-13; Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:1-31 - 1 Peter 4:10, 11

Introduction: This is one of the most marvelous and misunderstood truths
of Scripture: Paul says he would not have us to be ignorant concerning
the things coming from the Spirit - But we are.

When Christ ascended He gave gifts to men and to the church. The
existence and exercise of gifts lifts the church out of the category of
organizations and institutions. It is a living organism, supernatural
in origin and operation.

In 1 Cor. 12:1 Paul uses a Greek word ^{pneumatika} that signifies that which
comes from the Spirit. So these gifts are from the Spirit.

In 1 Cor. 12:4 he uses a Greek word for gifts, ^{charismata} which has as its
root, Grace. So, these are gifts of Grace - they are unmerited gifts,
bestowed by the Spirit.

Distinguish between Gift & gifts; between gifts & fruit ^{service character}

I. THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT ARE SALVATION GIFTS v. 7; Eph. 4:7

1. Every believer at the moment of his conversion receives a
spiritual gift. Every Christian has a gift - there is no exception.

2. These gifts are bestowed regardless of spiritual condition.

The gifts are not the reward of spirituality, nor are they proof of
spirituality!

the Corinthians came behind in no gift, but they were carnal.

(1) Some say the gift of tongues is evidence of spirituality -
but the Corinthians spoke in tongues and Paul says they were
carnal - you may exercise the gift of Evangelism and win people
to Christ and be carnal.

(2) The evidence and proof of spirituality is the fruit of
the Spirit, not the gifts of the Spirit.

3. These Gifts Differ - v. 8 "to one... to another ..."

Not everyone has the same gift. The tongue advocates are unscriptural
when they insist on everyone seeking that gift.

Discuss "the
Baptism of the
Spirit"
not one is a matter
of character.

Women don't to
speak in tongues in Church 14:34,35 -
Get she can pray & prophesy 11:3-10

Sovereignly Bestowed: The Xian who desires a certain gift & sets himself to seek it opens way for 1 - Failure, resulting in frustration & despair - discouragement - a defeated life because he thinks I must have something against him

- to surrender the will to "an experience" or "manifestation" is to give Satan gilt edged invitation to deceive & ensnare

see wife from Wodridge who screamed in pain when told her "experience was not Scriptural" - page 2 - experience, resulting in bondage to Satan.

II. THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT ARE SUPERNATURAL GIFTS 1 Cor. 12:7-9

I must have it!
I must believe it - I
can't believe I love me
w/out it!"

1. These do not refer to a natural talent or ability.
 - (1) Abundance of natural ability doesn't equip you for service.
Absence of natural ability doesn't eliminate you from service.
 - (2) These are supernatural enablements sovereignly bestowed by the Spirit to equip us for service.
2. These are Sovereignly Bestowed Gifts - 1 Cor. 12:11 "as he will."

It is useless to seek after or pray for certain gifts, i.e., tongues. We are nowhere in scripture commanded or encouraged to seek specific gifts.

Eph. 4:12

III. THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT ARE SERVICE GIFTS 1 Cor. 12:7; Eph. 4:11 ff.

1. These are not bestowed for our personal satisfaction but for practical service.

2. How can I discover my gift?

- (1) Personal inclination
- (2) Public recognition

a. God blesses

b. Church uses.

They are never bestowed for self glory, advancement, or as an evidence of special endowment of the Spirit.

1 Peter 4:10, 11
Possession commands
not see a man who had his talent



Sovereign Gifts = we wonder why we don't see the miracle gifts today. But all these gifts are supernatural, miraculous gifts because they come from the Spirit.

- The cause of absence not only man's unbelief but will of God. If otherwise, why should Spirit unceasingly give certain gifts why failing to bestow others.

- In O & N Test. I increased the number of miracles at certain given moments, for reasons which are easily recognized.

2nd - John Bytest performed no miracles

- The fleshly desire to see miracles gives Satan his greatest opportunity in these last days. Matt. 24:24, II Thess. 2:9, 10; Rev. 13:13, 14
Matt 7:22, 23

- our age craves for sensations & enjoyment even in field of religion. it isn't the most spiritual gifts that are sought after, but those that appeal to the senses, that bring physical advantage & which give rise to ecstasies & make much of feeling