

***ATTACHMENT ONE** (Compiled using materials contained in the Spirit Filled life Bible and written by Paul Walker and teachings supplied by Conrad Fenton)*

THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

The Spirit-filled experience is more than just “speaking in tongues.” In reality it is coming into the fullness of the gifts and fruit of the Spirit as outlined in the New Testament. **(1 Corinthians 12:7-11) (Galatians 5:22-23)**

The Bible reveals that the Person of the Holy Spirit has been the primary agent in all of the ministry of the Word throughout the centuries. The Scriptures show the Holy Spirit uniquely and distinctly at work in all of the following roles:

- 1) He is the Author of the Old Testament** (2 Samuel 23:2; Isaiah 59:21; Jeremiah 1:9; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:21)

- 2) He is the Author of the New Testament** (John 14:25-26; 1 Corinthians 2:13; 1 Thessalonians 4:15; Revelation 1:10-11; Revelation 2:7)

- 3) He is the Old Testament Anointer.** The Scriptures name no less than sixteen of the Old Testament leaders in Israel who received this anointing. These leaders were as follows: **Joseph** (Genesis 41:38); **Moses** (Numbers 11:17); **Joshua** (Numbers 27:18); **Othniel** (Judges 3:10); **Gideon** (Judges 6:34); **Jephthah** (Judges 11:29); **Samson** (Judges 14:6, Judges 14:19) (Judges 15:14-15); **Saul** (1 Samuel 10:10) (1 Samuel 11:6); **David** (1 Samuel 16:13); **Elijah** (1 Kings 18:12) (2 Kings 2:16); **Elisha** (2 Kings 2:15); **Azariah** (2 Chronicles 15:1); **Zechariah** (2 Chronicles 24:20); **Ezekiel** (Ezekiel 2:2); **Daniel** (Daniel 4:9) (Daniel 5:11) (Daniel 6:3); **Micah** (Micah 3:8).

- 4) The Holy Spirit Has empowered Believers in the Church age** (Acts 1:8) (1 Corinthians 2:3-5) (1 Thessalonians 1:5) (1 Corinthians 12:7-11)

RECEIVING THE FULLNESS OR INFILLING OR BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Book of Acts provides five accounts of people receiving the fullness or infilling or baptism in the Holy Spirit. **(Acts 2:4) (Acts 8:14-25) (Acts 9:17-20) (Acts 10:44-48) (Acts 19:1-7)** In these accounts five factors are manifest.

FIVE OUTWORKINGS OF THE FULLNESS OF THE SPIRIT AS RECORDED IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

- 1) There was an overwhelming inbreaking of God's presence experienced by all who were present.
- 2) There was an evident transformation in the lives and witness of the disciples who were filled.
- 3) That which was experienced became the impetus for the growth of the church, as "daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ." (**Acts 5:42**)
- 4) The immediate evidence in three of the five accounts was speaking in tongues and magnifying God. (**Acts 10:46**) (**Acts 2:4**) (**Acts 2:11**)
- 5) The ultimate purpose of this experience was empowered witnessing (**Acts 1:8**) and a deeper dimension of Christian commitment for the achievement of happiness (**Ephesians 5:19**), gratitude (**Ephesians 5:20**), humility (**Ephesians 5:21**), and fruitfulness. (**Galatians 5:22-23**)

Thus speaking with tongues is a properly expected sign, affirming the Holy Spirit's abiding presence and assuring the believer of an invigorated living witness. It is not viewed as a qualification for fullness of the Holy Spirit, but as one indication of that fullness.

THE TWOFOLD FUNCTION OF THE GIFT OF TONGUES

The Bible describes two basic functions of "tongues." Firstly, it is for personal edification and secondly, for public exhortation. In the experience of the baptism in or infilling of the Holy Spirit, "tongues" functions as a sign of the Holy Spirit's presence. Jesus prophesied it as a sign (**Mark 16:17**), Paul referred to it as a sign (**1 Corinthians 14:22**), and Peter noted its uniformity as a sign-gift in confirming the validity of the Gentiles' experience in the Holy Spirit. (**Acts 10:44-46**) (**Acts 11:16-17**) (**Acts 15:7-9**)

TONGUES FOR PERSONAL EDIFICATION

First, “speaking in tongues” is a private affair for self-edification, (**1 Corinthians 14:2-4**) and is practiced devotionally by the believer during his most intimate moments of communication with God as he is moved upon by the Holy Spirit. In line with this understanding the following reasons are propounded for speaking with tongues.

- 1) Speaking with tongues as the Holy Spirit gives utterance is the unique spiritual gift which can be identified with the church. All other gifts, miracles and spiritual manifestations were evident during the Old Testament times, before the Day of Pentecost. This new phenomenon of speaking with tongues was ordained by God for the church. (**1 Corinthians 12:28; 14:21**)
- 2) Speaking with tongues is a specific fulfilment of prophecies by Isaiah and Jesus. Compare (**Isaiah 28:11**) with (**1 Corinthians 14:21**) and also (**Mark 16:17**) with (**Acts 2:4**) (**Acts 10:46**) and (**Acts 19:6**)
- 3) Speaking with tongues is also a proof of the resurrection and glorification of Jesus Christ. (**John 16:7**) (**Acts 2:26**)
- 4) Speaking in tongues is also an evidence of the baptism in or infilling of the Holy Spirit. (**Acts 2:4**) (**Acts 10:45-46**) and (**Acts 19:6**)
- 5) Speaking in tongues is also a spiritual gift for self-edification. (**1 Corinthians 14:4**) (**Jude 20**)
- 6) Speaking with tongues is a means by which the Holy Spirit intercedes through us in prayer. (**Romans 8:26**) (**1 Corinthians 14:14**) (**Ephesians 6:18**)
- 7) Speaking with tongues is a spiritual gift for communication with God in private worship. (**1 Corinthians 14:15**)
- 8) Tongues are one of the signs that follow and confirm the Word of God when it is preached. (**Mark 16:17**) (**Mark 16:20**) (**1 Corinthians 14:22**)
- 9) Speaking with tongues is a spiritual means for rejoicing. (**1 Corinthians 14:15**) (**Ephesians 5:18-19**)
- 10) The Apostle Paul’s application of Isaiah’s prophecy also would tend to suggest that speaking with tongues also brings “rest” or “refreshing” into our lives. (**Isaiah 28:12**) (**1 Corinthians 14:21**)
- 11) Speaking with tongues is also a spiritual gift for the spiritual edification of the church when accompanied by interpretation. (**1 Corinthians 14:5**)

TONGUES FOR PUBLIC EXHORTATION

Turning to the second function of “tongues” – public exhortation – *1 Corinthians 14* bases the gifts of the Spirit on the one sure foundation of love. (**1 Corinthians 14:1**) Public “tongues” also calls for integrity in practice to help ensure the preservation of order in our fellowship and worship services.

Although in the past some may have abused this gift as an occasion for fleshly pride, we must recognise that it can be a vital and valuable part of our worship meetings when placed in its proper setting, for the edification of the Body of Christ. (**1 Corinthians 14:12-13**)

The sincere Spirit-filled believer will not be preoccupied with this gift alone for he or she sees it as only one of many gifts given for the “wholeness” of the church. The spiritually sensitive believer recognises the following New Testament guidelines regarding the spiritual gift of speaking in tongues for public exhortation.

- 1) Speaking in “tongues” only edifies public worship when it is interpreted.** The worshipper is to pray for the interpretation and if it is withheld, he keeps silent, unless someone who functions in the gift of interpretation is known to be present. (**1 Corinthians 14:5, 28**)
- 2) The exercise of tongues is to be limited to a sequence of two or three at the most.** (*1 Corinthians 14:27*) While many hold this to be a rigid number, others understand it to be a guideline to keep the worship service in balance. In actuality, the Holy Spirit rarely moves beyond these limitations; however, on occasions, for special reasons to meet special needs, there may be more than one sequence of two or three tongues for public exhortation, appropriately spaced apart in a given service. The overriding guideline however is, “Let all things be done decently and in order.” (**1 Corinthians 14:40**)

Before giving a description of the nine gifts of the Spirit, it is good to consider the importance of having a right heart attitude and the right motivation when using our spiritual gifts. Five important things to consider when using our spiritual gifts will now be considered in turn.

1) THE BASIS FOR EXERCISING ALL GIFTS SHOULD BE LOVE

For those who exercise spiritual gifts, the qualifying factor should always be love and not the experience of a gift. Having love for others and caring for others in the body of Christ is clearly emphasised in the Bible as being the motive for all ministry. Jesus Himself said in John 3:16, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...” and in John 15:12-13, “This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.”

Ministry to others should always be motivated by love, even when strong discipline needs to be given to members within the body of Christ.

The Apostle Paul wrote on the imperative of love in his epistle to the church in Corinth.

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.”
(1 Corinthians 13:1-2)

“that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another.” **(1 Corinthians 12:25)**

2) WE MUST AVOID ALL FORMS OF PRIDE

(THE AUTHOR AND DISPENSER OF ALL GIFTS IS THE HOLY SPIRIT)

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

The Apostle Paul wrote, “Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God,”
(2 Corinthians 3:5)

“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.” **(Colossians 3:23-24)**

“Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” **(1 Corinthians 10:31)**

“But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.” **(Galatians 6:14)**

“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.” **(Philippians 2:3)**

John the Baptist said, “He (Jesus) must increase, I must decrease. (John 3:30)

3) THE SPIRIT WORKS ONLY TO EDIFY (THE USE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS SHOULD NOT CREATE DISORDER IN OUR CHURCH MEETINGS)

The Holy Spirit works only to edify. **(1 Corinthians 14:26)** For this reason whenever the gifts of the Spirit are in operation, there will be order in our meetings and no one will feel embarrassed or uneasy. **(1 Corinthians 14:40)**

The Apostle Paul wrote, “But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.” **(1 Corinthians 14:3)**

The “spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets” **(1 Corinthians 14:32)** The divine gift of prophetic utterance is put under the control and responsibility of the possessor. Each Spirit-filled person can exercise self-control. For this reason confusion can and should be avoided so that decency and unity may prevail in all of our church meetings. **(1 Corinthians 14:33)**

As speaking in “tongues” in a public worship meeting only edifies those attending when it is interpreted, the worshipper is to pray for the interpretation before using this gift. If the interpretation is withheld, he should keep silent unless someone who functions in the gift of interpretation is known to be present. **(1 Corinthians 14:5) (1 Corinthians 14:28)**

4) THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES BELIEVERS GIFTS TO USE SO AS TO BUILD UP AND ENCOURAGE THE BODY OF CHRIST AND TO HELP SEE GOD’S KINGDOM EXPANDED. (JESUS ALSO EMPHASISED THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A SERVANT HEART)

“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:” **(1 Corinthians 12:7)**

“Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel.” **(1 Corinthians 14:12)**

Apart from those times when we pray in tongues for self-edification and for building ourselves up in our own faith **(Jude 20)** exercising our spiritual gifts which the Holy Spirit has distributed to us, is to be for the building up, edification and restoration of others. Having a humble servant heart will help to safeguard us against any pride that may try to arise as we begin to exercise the gifts of the Spirit that have been entrusted to us.

Jesus Himself said, “Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” **(Matthew 20:26-28)**

5) THE IMPORTANCE OF GROWING IN CHARACTER

The bible say much about the importance of growing in character as Christians (**Romans 8:29**) and living a life which reflects the nature of Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul wrote, “Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfil its lusts.” (**Romans 13:13-14**)

Jesus Himself said, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” (**Matthew 5:16**)

It is so important as Christians that our life reflects what we preach and share with others. (**Colossians 3:12-16**) For many people the only bible that they will ever read will be our lives. The bible says much about the importance of walking in the Spirit as Believers. (**Romans 8:14**) (**Galatians 5:16**) (**Galatians 5:25-26**) As we learn to walk in the Spirit our lives will reflect the character of Christ more and more. “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...” (**Galatians 5:22-23**)

Whilst it is important to desire spiritual gifts (**1 Corinthians 14:1**) so that our witness will also be attested to by supernatural manifestations of God, we must also balance this with a desire to glorify God with our own lives. The bible says that as we humble ourselves before God, He will raise us up into greater levels of ministry. “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.” (**James 4:10**) Jesus Himself also said, “...he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.” (**John 14:12**)

How important it is in these last days that people in the world can see, both the power of God operating in and through our lives and our lives reflecting more and more the character of Christ, as we learn to walk in the Spirit. To conclude this teaching, a definition of each of the nine gifts of the Spirit will now be given.

THE NINE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

- 1) **The word of wisdom** – is a spiritual utterance at a given moment *through the Spirit*, supernaturally disclosing the mind, purpose and will of God as applied to a *specific* situation.
- 2) **The word of knowledge** – is a supernatural revelation of information pertaining to a person or an event, given for a *specific purpose*, usually having to do with an *immediate need*.
- 3) **The gift of faith** – is a *unique form of faith* that goes beyond natural faith and saving faith. It supernaturally trusts and does not doubt with reference to the specific matters involved.
- 4) **Gifts of healings** – are those healings that God performs *supernaturally by the Spirit*. The plural suggests that as there are many sicknesses and diseases, the gift is related to healings of many disorders.
- 5) **The working of miracles** – is a manifestation of power beyond the ordinary course of natural law. It is a *divine enablement* to do something that *could not be done naturally*.
- 6) **Prophecy** – is a *divine disclosure* on behalf of the Spirit, an edifying revelation of the Spirit for the moment, a sudden insight of the Spirit, prompting exhortation or comfort.
- 7) **Discerning of spirits** – is the ability to *discern the spirit world*, and especially to detect the *true source* of *circumstances* or *motives* of people.
- 8) **Different kinds of tongues** – is the gift of speaking supernaturally in a *language not known to the individual*. The plural allows different forms, possibly harmonizing the known spoken languages of Acts 2:4-6 and the unknown utterances in Corinthians, designed particularly for praying and singing in the Spirit, mostly for private worship.
- 9) **The interpretation of tongues** – is the gift of making the unknown (transrational) message of the Spirit *meaningful to others* when exercised in public. It is not the translation of a foreign language.