

Bible Doctrine

Essential Teachings of the Christian Faith

Lesson 46: Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Chapter 29

November 19, 2023

I. Definition.

A. "A spiritual gift is any ability that is empowered by the Holy Spirit and used in any ministry of the church."

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B. The special God-given capacity of every believer to carry out his/her function in the body of Christ.

II. Spiritual gifts throughout redemptive history.

Acts 2:1-4 - *When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

Acts 2:16-21 - *But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:*

¹⁷ *'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God,*

That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh;

Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,

Your young men shall see visions,

Your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸ *And on My menservants and on My maidservants*

I will pour out My Spirit in those days;

And they shall prophesy.

¹⁹ *I will show wonders in heaven above*

And signs in the earth beneath:

Blood and fire and vapor of smoke.

²⁰ *The sun shall be turned into darkness,*

And the moon into blood,

Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord.

²¹ *And it shall come to pass*

That whoever calls on the name of the Lord

Shall be saved.'

III. Distribution of the gifts.

A. Given by the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:7, 11 - *But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: ... But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.*

B. Every believer has a gift.

1 Corinthians 12:7, 11 - *But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: ... But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.*

Ephesians 4:7 - *But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.*

1 Peter 4:10 - *As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*

C. No believer has all the gifts.

Romans 12:4-5 - *For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, ⁵so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.*

1. We need to serve.

Ephesians 4:16 - *from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.*

1 Peter 4:10 - *As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*

2. We need to be served.

1 Corinthians 12:21 - *And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."*

3. Serving one another produces unity.

Ephesians 4:2-3 - *with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, ³endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

D. Gifts may vary in strength.

Romans 12:6 - *Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;*

1 Timothy 4:14 - *Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.*

2 Timothy 1:6 - *Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.*

IV. Purposes for the gifts.

A. God will be glorified.

1 Peter 4:11 - *If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

B. Others will be edified.

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

C. You will be satisfied.

1 Corinthians 1:4-9 - *I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus, ⁵that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge, ⁶even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, ⁷so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*