The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Introduction: God gives us many gifts – life, salvation, eternal life, health, prosperity, relationships, families, our natural abilities and talents to name a few. This teaching is specifically about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, what they are and how to move in them.

Our main verse is: 1Co 12:1-11 (read)

I. What are the gifts of the Spirit?

A. vs. 1 - "spiritual gifts" comes from the Greek work "pneumatika" meaning "spirituals" or "things of the Spirit"
B. vs. 4 – "kinds of gifts" comes from the Greek word "charisma" with a root word of "charis" which means "grace". According to the *Foundation of Pentecostal Theology* (pg 328):

"A 'charisma', then, is an enablement, an endowment or a blessing bestowed freely by God."

A spiritual gift cannot be bought, earned or merited. It is a gift!

II. What is the purpose of spiritual gifts?

A. vs. 5 – "service" comes from the Greek word "diakoniai" meaning "ministries". The purpose of the gifts is to minister to the Body of Christ.
B. vs. 7 – the gifts are to be used for the "common good"

III. What happens when the gifts are exercised?

A. vs. 6 – "working" comes from the Greek word "energemata" which means "active principle" or "effect". Our English word "energy" comes from the same root word. So, there is a spiritual power or energy that is released.
B. vs. 7 – "manifestation" comes from the Greek word "phanerosis" meaning "outward evidence". In other words, something tangible happens that we can see or experience.

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IV. Who gets which gifts?

A. vs. 11 – "gives" comes from the Greek word "diaireo-" which means "to divide, distribute or apportion". So the Holy Spirit decides how to distribute the gifts among people.
B. vs. 6 – "God works all of them in **all men**." "all men" means "everyone". Think about hunches, women's intuition, gut feeling and envisioned.

V. The Gifts of the Spirit (as listed in 1 Co 12:1-11)

A. Word of Wisdom – seeing things from God's perspective - usually in connection with a decision in the church where God's heavenly wisdom and insight are needed. This is usually in a practical application.

1. Acts 15 – Judaizers were claiming the new Gentile believers needed to be circumcised and follow the law. Through a Word of Wisdom through James, it was decided that the Gentiles only needed to abstain from sexual immorality and from eating the meat of animals that were sacrificed to idols.
2. Acts 6:10 It is said of Stephen that "they could not stand up against his wisdom".
3. Luke 2:40 Even as a boy, Jesus was "filled with wisdom".
4. My experience – in Russia – a discussion was ensuing about "all roads lead to heaven". I prayed for wisdom to respond and the Holy Spirit gave me an answer - "when I called out to God, it was Jesus Christ who answered me."

B. Word of Knowledge – revealing of facts about a person or situation – this gift will often be used in conjunction with healing. These can be revealed in the form of an impression, a single word repeated in your thoughts, a picture, an unusual pain in your body or a word seen written on the person's forehead or body.

1. Acts 5 – Ananias and Sapphira – Peter had a word of knowledge that they had held back some of the money from a sale of property.
2. John 4 – Woman at the well – Jesus knew how many husbands she had been married to.
3. My experience – a woman with heart problems – the word "stress" came to me – it was not physical but emotional and about unforgiveness.
4. My experience – I had severe pain in feet – after I released the word, a woman responded and her feet were healed from painful arthritis.

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C. Faith – supernatural belief that an event will happen.

1. Mt 14 – Jesus was walking on the water and beckoned Peter to come out to him. Peter stepped out in faith.
2. Mt 11:23 – Jesus declared that by faith we can move mountains. This is usually interpreted to be that obstacles to the move of God will be removed.
3. Bakers don't solicit donations – they pray and God brings in the funds.

D. Gifts of Healings – in the Greek, both gifts and healings are plural, indicating that there are many types of healings and healing anointing.

1. Luke 5:17 states that the "power of the Lord was present for him to heal the sick". Even Jesus needed God's anointing for releasing healings.
2. Healings often come through the "laying on of hands".
3. Healing can be mental, emotional, physical or spiritual (inner healing and deliverance from demonic oppression or possession).
4. Sometimes healing can even come through clothing (the woman with the issue of blood who touched the hem of Jesus' garment Lk 8:43-44) or the handkerchiefs anointed and send to sick people (Paul in Acts 19:11-12).
5. **Some (**not all**)** physical healings come when demons are cast out – Lk 11:14 a mute demon was driven out. Generational curses sometimes cause diseases as well.

E. Miracles – from the Greek, the meaning is "operations of supernatural powers". Miracles are things that occur for which there is no natural explanation. Signs and wonders also fall in this category.

1. Jesus' death, burial, resurrection and ascension are the greatest miracle that ever happened.
2. Other miracles of Jesus: The multiplication of bread in Mk 8, the calming of the sea in Mk 4:39, creative miracles like the blind seeing, the deaf hearing, limbs being restored, and people being raised from the dead.
3. Jesus' disciples also walked in miracles: Peter's miraculous escape from prison Acts 12, crippled man healed Acts 14:10, Eutychus raised from the dead Acts 20, to name a few
4. Signs, wonders and miracles mark an Apostle – 2 Co 12:12

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F. Prophecy – A prophet is "one who predicts". This kind of prophecy is different than the office of prophet. This kind of prophecy is given to build up and encourage individuals and the church. Prophesying as a gift of the Holy Spirit is available to all believers.

1. Purpose - 1 Co 14:3a "But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their **strengthening, encouragement and comfort**."
2. We can all prophesy - Rev 19:10b "For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."
3. To be desired - 1 Co 14:1 "Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy." It's a good thing to seek God for this gift and all the gifts.
4. To be judged – 1Co 14:29
5. Prophecy comes from the movement of the Holy Spirit upon a person but they are still in control of their tongue. 2 Pet 1:21, 1 Co 14:32
6. Prophecy is for believers – 1 Co 14:22
7. Prophecy will expose the secrets of the heart – 1 Co 14:25

G. Discernment of Spirits – The Bible speaks of a number of different kinds of spirits – angelic, demonic, the Holy Spirit of God, a person's spirit and a life force spirit. (All people and animals have a spirit and "breath" that gives us life through God. When we die, it returns to God. Ecc 3:18-21)

1. 1 Co 2:6-16 speaks about "the things that come from the Spirit of God … are spiritually discerned".
2. God gives us the Mind of Christ so that we can discern whether an issue at hand is coming from God, ourselves or is demonic.
3. This gift is especially important when ministering to people who are demon oppressed or possessed.

H. Tongues – This is a supernatural ability to speak or sing in another language, whether human or angelic in nature.

1. A sign – 1 Co 14:22 "Tongues, then are **a sign**, not for believers but for unbelievers …"
2. Tongues build up the believer - 1 Co 14:4 "He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself …"
3. It is an effective prayer weapon. Rom 8:26-27
4. Paul exhorts us to pray in the Spirit often – Eph 6:18
5. It is not to be forbidden – 1 Co 14:39

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I. Interpretation of Tongues – In a corporate church setting, a "tongue" given as a prophetic message must be interpreted (1 Co 14:27). A tongue with an interpretation following is just another type of prophetic word.

1. The interpretation of tongues is also for the strengthening of the church – 1Co 14:26

J. Other notes: Many other gifts are mentioned in the Scriptures – for example, church governmental offices, ministry gifts and the fruit of the Spirit.

VI. How can I operate in the gifts of the Spirit?

A. **Ask** the Holy Spirit to give you gifts.
B. Be sure you ask with right motives. Ja 4:1-3
C. The exercise of any of God's gifts must be motivated by love. 1 Co 13
D. Have those who operate in the gifts lay hands on you and pray for the anointing to come upon you. 1 Ti 4:14

Conclusion: The gifts are to be eagerly desired, not to puff up ourselves but to encourage and bless God's people. Signs, wonders, miracles and all the gifts of the Spirit are ways that God gets the attention of the unbeliever to draw them closer. Many times in Scripture when Jesus or the disciples performed a miracle or healing, the people where amazed and gave God praise. Many turned and followed Jesus after observing his miraculous ministry. Go and do likewise!

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