



Sermon Series Notes

“The Gifts of the Holy Spirit, Part 2” (Selected Scriptures)

Danny Hodges – TS2469

Intro: We are talking about the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, and His wonderful ministry to and through us. If you have not been able to be with us for our first two messages, I hope you will go online, download a podcast, or pick up a CD from our bookstore.

Last week we looked at the gifts listed in Romans 12. These have been dubbed the “motivational gifts,” and I think rightly so. Every Christian has a basic motivation in connection with these gifts. Show power point example of spilled drink...

I believe we have “control” over the motivational gifts. For example, I control the gift of teaching by how diligently I prepare, as well as my willingness to stand here week after week and exercise this gift.

Next we began to look at the gifts listed in I Corinthians 12:7-11. These have been dubbed the “manifestation gifts,” and I think rightly so. I do not believe we have “control” over these particular gifts. For example, we cannot control the gift of healing or miracles. If we could, wouldn’t there be lots more miracles and a whole lot more people healed?

We noted last week that one gift appears in both lists (Rom.12 & I Cor.12), and that is the gift of prophecy/prophesying. I believe it is in both places because while I exercise a gift of prophesying every time I preach/teach the Word of God, and we all prophesy when we share the truth of the Word, there is a moment in time we may prophesy as a manifestation gift, and we are not in control of our prophesying (Randy Almquist, etc.).

Now, before we continue looking at the manifestation gifts one at a time, let me take a moment to say why I believe these gifts are still available today. After I became the pastor of this church (some 30 years ago!) I began to ask God to help me let the Word speak for itself, and not to read into it based on any presupposition or influence. God answered that prayer, and I began to see things in a fresh light. My experience was the same as Jack Deere, former professor at Dallas Theological Seminary, who I quoted from last week. Let me once again read an excerpt from that quote:

Surprised By The Power Of The Spirit, p.23: “This shift in my thinking was not the result of an experience with any sort of supernatural phenomena. It was the result of a patient and intense study of the Scriptures.”

I was taught based on I Corinthians 13 that certain gifts were no longer available today. See I Cor.13:1-13.

I believe in these gifts, not because I have experienced or witnessed them, but because I find nothing in the Word of God that says they have ceased.

I had a renewed desire this past weekend to desire other manifestation gifts...story of Audra's wheel cover; show wheel cover I found...Wendy said immediately: "Guess that'll teach us to pray specifically." Story of the orange Plymouth Cricket....

Jack Deere's comments about stepping out in faith and "failing"....Peter walking on water, then sinking...other stories of people not experiencing the miraculous without stepping out of the boat in faith...

If you are not sure, just simply say, "I feel the Lord wants me to _____" and if it doesn't happen, learn from it....

I Cor.12:31 says that we should eagerly desire these gifts. I Cor.14:1 says that of these, the gift of prophecy is to be a priority. Since we gave examples last week of this gift, let's now move on to the next gift in our list.

- Word of wisdom
 - Not a reservoir of wisdom, but a word given at a specific time – supernaturally! See Matt.10:16-20; Acts 6:8-10; John 8:7; Mark 12:34; I Kings 3:16-28.
- Word of knowledge
 - Not knowledge from study or based on one's IQ, but supernatural knowledge that could never have been gained by human intellect. See Acts 5:1-5; John 4:17-18; II Kings 6:8-12; Acts 27:10-25.
- Faith
 - This is faith to believe the impossible; This kind of faith and the gifts of healing and miracles are many times linked together. This faith is not worked up, but rather received from the Spirit. Even though it is a gift, it must nevertheless be exercised. See Matt.14:27-31; Heb.11:24-26, 35-39; I Kings 17:7-16; Luke 4:24-27.
- Healing
 - Not through medicine or by a doctor's hand, but supernatural. See Acts 3:1-8ff; 5:15-16; 9:32-35; 14:8-11; 19:11-12; 28:7-10; II Kings 5:1-14.
- Miracles
 - Events and happenings that defy the laws of nature. See Acts 9:36-42; 20:7-12; Feeding of four and five thousand, raising Lazarus and others from the dead, water to wine, Paul's snakebite on Malta...

- Jon Courson commentary, p.1071; "...these wonderful, miraculous operations and expressions were all in connection with the Great Commission (Mark16:15). Therefore, I believe one of the best ways to see the miraculous happen to a greater degree is to be involved in radical evangelism. The miracles of Mark 16 are not intended for us to huddle together in the sanctuary so we can see a miracle. No, it's as we're going into the jungles, into the inner city, throughout the community sharing the Lord that He will confirm our message with miracles. As you study the book of Acts, you see the operation of miracles most closely associated with...evangelism because the operation of miracles is primarily for the unbeliever..."

- Discerning of spirits

- Supernaturally discerning what is of God and what is not.

- Judas; Acts 8:9-23; 13:6-12; 16:16-18

- Tongues

- The gift of tongues is a communication heavenward, not earthward (I Cor.14:2). It is primarily for personal edification (I Cor.14:4). Paul desires that every believer have the gift of tongues, but his greater desire is that every believer prophesy (I Cor.14:4b-5a). If tongues is ever to be exercised in a church service, there must be interpretation (I Cor.14:5b, 27-28). Paul seems to imply that he rarely if ever spoke in tongues in the public assembly (I Cor.14:13-19). Note that the context here is speaking in tongues in the public meeting of the church, not privately. If you read the whole chapter carefully, it clearly does not teach that one speaking, singing, or praying in tongues privately must always have an interpretation of what they are saying.

- Tongues as a sign to unbelievers; See I Cor.14:21-22. This is from Isaiah 28:11-12. What is the context of that verse? The unbelievers of Isaiah 28 were Jews who, despite their religious heritage and habits, were not submitted to the God they believed in. As a result, he sent people of foreign tongues (the Assyrians) against them in order to discipline them and hopefully lead them to repentance. When the Assyrians came, Israel could not understand their language, and this was a sign of judgment against them. The tongues at Pentecost were a blessing to those speaking in tongues, and at the same time a sign to the multitude of Jews gathered there. It was a sign of their stubborn refusal to believe in and accept Jesus as Messiah; The tongues gift upon those at the house of Cornelius (Acts 10) was a sign to Peter and the other circumcised believers that the gift of salvation was not dependent upon one being circumcised. Peter and those with him were unbelievers in this situation only in the fact that they could not believe God would pour out His Spirit on uncircumcised Gentiles in the same way the Spirit had been poured out on the Jews in the upper room at Pentecost. Peter and the others with him, as well as all Jewish believers in that day, needed to be stripped of any self-righteous pride that made them feel they deserved salvation more than Gentiles. And with this they needed a complete and deep understanding that salvation for all men was completely by grace through faith (see Acts 15:5-11; Gal.2:11-16). v.23 Paul implies here that tongues speaking in the church at Corinth was something that happened regularly, and pretty much everyone took part in, and there was no interpretation of any of the tongues being spoken. A

meeting like this would seem like insanity to an unbeliever, or to a visiting believer. As a result, their tongues speaking did not edify the church, nor was it a sign to unbelievers. Instead, it caused unbelievers and those who did not understand to think they were "out of their mind."

- Interpretation of tongues
 - This is just as miraculous as any of the other manifestation gifts. I believe the interpretation should be a word directed to God, not man. I have been in meetings where the interpretation was directed to man, and I believe the one given the interpretation was sincere, just misdirected. I believe in many of those situations the "interpreter" had a prophecy and they mistook it for an interpretation of the tongue that was spoken.

CONCLUSION

- How do I receive all that the Holy Spirit has for me?
 1. Desire (I Cor.14:1)
 2. Divine Power (Matthew 3:13-17, Jesus' baptism by the Spirit; Luke 3:21-22; Luke 24:29; Acts 1:4-8; 2:1-4).
 3. Different Ways
 - Acts 2 - They had to wait; Acts 8 - They waited for the apostles to lay hands on them (Why couldn't Philip do this?); Acts 10 - The Holy Spirit fell upon them as Peter preached; Acts 19 - Paul laid his hands on them.
 - See D.L. Moody, Oswald Chambers, etc.
 4. By Faith
 - Gal.3: 5 Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard?