

Session 16

The Gifts of the Spirit

1. Discipleship Scenario

2. Discussion Questions

- a. "*Gifts of the Holy Spirit (I): General Questions*", (Bible Doctrine chap. 29)

Review Questions

- What is the purpose of the spiritual gifts in the New Testament age?
How do spiritual gifts relate to the age to come after Christ's return?
- Refer to the list of spiritual gifts on p.398:
What differences do you observe between the lists?

What gifts are repeated on more than one list?

What inferences do you draw from these observations?

- What evidence is there that spiritual gifts vary in strength from person to person?
- Do we have scriptural warrant for desiring and seeking spiritual gifts? (support your answer from Scripture) List four recommendations as to how a person should go about this.

- Did some spiritual gifts cease after the apostolic age? Support your answer from Scripture.
- Was the purpose of miracles only to accompany the giving of Scripture? What other purpose do miracles serve?

Questions for Personal Application

- Before reading this chapter, what spiritual gift(s) do you think you had? Has your understanding of your own spiritual gifts changed after studying this chapter? In what ways?
- What can you do to stir up or strengthen the spiritual gifts in you that need strengthening? Are there some gifts that you have been given but have neglected? Why do you think you have neglected them?
- As you think about your own church, what spiritual gifts do you think are most effectively functioning at present? Which are most needed in your church? Is there anything you can do to help meet those needs?
- What do you think could be done to help churches avoid having controversies and divisions over the question of spiritual gifts? Are there tensions in your own church with regard to these questions today? If so, what can you do to help alleviate these tensions?

- Do you think that some spiritual gifts mentioned in the New Testament ceased earlier in the history of the church and are no longer valid for today? Has your opinion of this question changed as a result of reading this chapter?

b. *"Gifts of the Holy Spirit (II): Specific Gifts", (Bible Doctrine chap. 30)*

Review Questions

- Did prophets in the New Testament speak with the same authority as that as Scripture? Give scriptural support for your answer.
- If prophecy is not equal to Scripture in authority, in what sense may we say that it is from God? Distinguish between a "revelation" (as defined in this chapter) and a prophecy.
- How is the gift of teaching different from prophecy? Which is to carry greater authority in the church? Why?
- What is the relationship between the gift of healing in the church and the resurrection bodies Christians will receive upon Christ's return?
- Name at least four purposes for healing.

- Define “speaking in tongues”. To whom is speaking in tongues directed?
- In a public setting, what other spiritual gifts accompany the gift of speaking in tongues? Can a person speak in tongues in private? Support your answer from Scripture.

Questions for Personal Application

- Have you ever experienced a gift of prophecy as defined in this chapter? What have you called it? Has this gift (or something like it) functioned in your church? If so, what have been the benefits – and dangers? If not, do you think this gift might be of help to your church? Why or why not?
- Does the gift of teaching function effectively in your church? Who uses this gift in addition to the pastor or elders? Do you think your church adequately appreciates sound Biblical teaching? In what areas (if any) do you think your church needs to grow in its knowledge and love of the teachings of Scripture?
- Of the other gifts discussed in this chapter, have you ever used any of them yourself? Are there any that you think your church needs but does not have at this time? What do you think would be best for you to do in response to this need?

3. Scripture Memory Verses

1 Peter 4:10-11 ¹⁰ As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹ whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies- in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1 Corinthians 12:7-11 ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

4. Assignment for Next Time

Read chapters 2-3 in Reforming Marriage, by Douglas Wilson. Next meeting is
