

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

(Ruatangata C F Camp, 22-25 April, 1988 – Updated September 2006 -- EKB)

Introduction

1. **The Word and Work Gospel** The Gospel that Jesus preached was in word and deed, in word and power, not in word only, and the gospel preached by His disciples was also in both word and work, not in word only. See *Is 44:26*.
Mat 4:23 Teaching, preaching and healing - Gospel of the Kingdom.
Mat 9:35 Teaching, preaching, healing every sickness and disease.
Mat 10:7,8 Go, preach, heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons.
Mat 11:5 Blind and lame healed, lepers cleansed, deaf hear, dead raised, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.
Lk 24:19 Jesus - mighty in deed and word. *Jn 14:12* **He who believes in Me** the works that I do, shall he do also.
Mk 16:17 These signs shall follow those who believe in My Name.
Mk 16:20 They preached everywhere - God confirming the Word with signs following.
Ac 3:6 Lame man healed at the temple gate. Peter's preaching, 12-26.
Ac 5:16 All sick and tormented healed. Peter's preaching, 20,21.
Ac 8:7,13 Unclean spirits came out, many paralysed and lame healed. *Ac 8:5,6* Word preached. *Ac 9:34* Aeneas healed.
Ac 9:40 Dorcas raised up from the dead. *Rom 15:18,19* Word and deed, signs, wonders, power of the Spirit.
Gal 3:5 Those who work miracles do so by the hearing of faith. *1Thes 1:5* The Gospel in Word and power.
1Cor 2:4,5 Preaching in the demonstration of the Spirit and power. *1Cor 4:20* The Kingdom of God is in power.
2. **Healings, miracles and signs bring glory to God** and cause many to believe in Christ. *Mat 9:8, Lk 5:25, Mat 15:30,31, Lk 18:42,43, Lk 13:13,17, 7:16, 19:37, Ac 3:8,9, 9:35,42, 8:6-8, Jn 2:11, 2:23, 3:2, Jn 11:42-45, 12:10,11,*
3. **The "gifts" of the Spirit, 1Cor 12:7-11, are God-given channels for the Divine power of God to operate**, to do the works of Jesus, and to bear witness to the Word, that it is of God. *Is 44:26, Mk 16:20, Jn 20:30,31, 5:36, 10:25, 14:10,12,13.*

Word of knowledge	<i>Mk 2:8, Mat 9:4-6.</i>	Word of wisdom	<i>Mat 22:17-22.</i>
Discernment of spirits	<i>Mat 17:21, Mk 9:25,29.</i>	Gifts of miracles	<i>Jn 11:43, Mat 9:6,25, 12:9-14.</i>
Gifts of faith	<i>Mat 8:26, Jn 11:43.</i>	Gifts of healings	<i>Mat 8:3,13,15.</i>
Gift of prophecy	<i>Mat 24:4-44, Jn 16:5-15.</i>		
4. **Some Problem Areas**
 There has been contention in the years gone by about the gifts of the Spirit.
 - a. Do not confuse the gift with the person exercising the gift. An immature person may have a gift, (received by faith alone). An immature believer may think he is mature because of the gift.
 - b. Gifts are not rewards for maturity, but free gifts, received by faith.
 - c. Gifts are not under the control of the "gifted". Gifts are imparted by God. You do not "discover" your gift. Spirit-filled believers can not produce spiritual results at will. God remains the One in control. By faithfully exercising gifts faith grows and there is a greater likelihood of a positive result.
 - d. Some say that gifts ceased when the "canon" of scripture closed, or at the end of the "Apostolic Age". I do not believe this because: The early Church Fathers speak of their continuance. They reappeared in church history in times of revival. There are contemporary reports of their continuance.
 As I understand scripture, it indicates that the gifts will continue as long as **knowledge** continues, *1Cor 13:8,9,10.*

Baptism with the Holy Spirit (The doorway to the life in the Spirit and the gifts.)

1. **Some points of Testimony** - EKB - 1964
 Prior to 1964 we were very active in Christian outreach, in Sunday Schools, Bible Class, Crusaders, United Maori Mission, Church of England Home Groups in Kaitaia, Happy Hours etc. During 1963, I believed that the Holy Spirit indicated that it was time to draw back from all outreach activity and to find a new place in God. Therefore, at the beginning of 1964, outreach was laid aside and time was spent in seeking God. During January a young man visited us with the evidence and testimony of the Baptism with the Holy Spirit and immediately I knew this was the new place in God that we needed. I sought God earnestly until July 1964, striving to obtain the Baptism with the Spirit. Little progress was made until God revealed that it was a free "gift" to be received by faith in God's promises, *Lk 11:13*. Therefore I started to thank God for the gift He had given and at the end of one week I noticed big changes in my spiritual condition.
 - a. There was a whole new joy and expression of praise to God.
 - b. I received more from God's word in one night than in a month of previous reading and study.
 - c. Prayer became a joy and a reality, rather than a burden and a duty.
 - d. A new victory over sin was experienced.
 - e. There was a new ability and boldness to witness to others about the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
 Six months later, while assisting in a film outreach programme at Ahipara, I experienced the start of speaking in tongues. Since then many of the gifts of the Holy Spirit have occurred in my life, in various situations.
2. **Conditions for receiving the Baptism with the Holy Spirit.**
 - a. "You must be born again" and "be born of the Spirit of God" that is **CONVERTED**.

- b. Know that you are fully washed and cleansed from all known sin by the blood of Jesus Christ - that is **CLEANSED**.
- c. Determine and choose Jesus Christ as Lord in every area of life and service to God - that is **CONSECRATED**.
- d. Receive the gift by faith in the promises of God, *Ac 2:38,39, Lk 11:13, Lk 11:9-12* - that is **CLAIM**.

3. The Baptism with the Holy Spirit may occur at conversion, *Ac 10:45,46*, or some time later, *Ac 8:12,15*.

Attitude to spiritual gifts - have a positive attitude - ask for the gifts.

1. *1Cor 12:31* "earnestly desire the greater (NIV) gifts" i.e. those most appropriate to the situation, *Lk 11:13*.
2. *1Cor 14:1* "eagerly desire (NIV) spiritual gifts, especially to prophesy."
3. *1Cor 14:5,18*, "I wish you all spoke with tongues". *1Cor 14:13* "if you speak in a tongue pray that you may interpret".
4. *1Cor 14:31* "you can all prophesy one by one." Read *Rom 1:11, 1Tim 4:14, 2Tim 1:6*.

The Goals of Spiritual Gifts (not for selfish motives).

1. This is to edify and build up the church, *1Cor 14:12*. To act **in love** to another and seek another's highest good.
2. To bring a witness to God among the unsaved. *Rom 15:18,19, Ac 2:22, 1Thes 1:5, Heb 2:4, Jn 2:11, Ac 8:6*.
3. To glorify God, *1Cor 10:31*.

Gifts or Fruit of the Spirit, *1Cor 12,13,14*.

Gifts are the manifestations of the Holy Spirit enabling us to do the works of Jesus, *Jn 14:12, 1Cor 12:7-11*.

The Fruit of the Spirit is the character of Jesus, *1Cor 13, Gal 5:22,23*. Both are essential in the life of Christian service and witness. However **character**, or fruit, is always first and more important, and is called – "the more excellent way", *1Cor 12:31*. What **we are**, is always more important than what we say or do. Who would you rather employ? 1. a skilful, dishonest, unreliable worker.

2. an unskilful, honest, reliable worker. 3. a skilful, honest, reliable worker. We need both **LOVE** and **GIFTS**, but **LOVE** is **FIRST**.

The nine grace gifts of 1Cor 12:8-10, are in 3 categories

1. Discernment or revelation gifts which reveal something or cause us to know something. Word of knowledge, word of wisdom, discernment of spirits.
2. Power or ability gifts, which do something. Faith, miracles, healings.
3. Vocal gifts, which say something. Prophecy, tongues, interpretation of tongues.

Experience is crucial to understanding. e.g.

1. We have to experience conversion before we can understand it.
2. We have to experience prayer before we can understand it.
3. We have to experience the gifts of the Spirit before we can understand them.

Note that the early disciples experienced the gifts before they wrote a theology of Scripture about it, *Ac 2:1-4*. However our experience must be in accord with the Word.

Word of Wisdom.

A **word of wisdom** is a revelation by the Holy Spirit showing **how** to deal with a situation. A revelation inspired by God to impart wisdom into a situation. It is not perception from a human rational base. It is "seeing" what God sees in a situation and "saying it." It is applying God's specific wisdom to a situation. "How" to deal with a situation. For this reason it is not revealing present or past facts, (that is word of knowledge), but reveals what to do - which is future. e.g.

	<i>1Kings 3:16-28</i>	Problem 16-22, Word of wisdom 24-25, Result 26-27, God glorified, 28.
	<i>Lk 20:25</i>	"Render to Caesar..... and to God...." when His enemies tried to trap Jesus.
	<i>Ps 89:22</i>	The enemy shall not outwit Him. God's wisdom.
	<i>Lk 20:4</i>	"The baptism of John, was it from..." Released Jesus from a trap set for Him.
(future)	<i>Rev 3:18</i>	"I counsel you to buy of Me gold....." Words of wisdom to the Church in Laodicea, (and to 6 other churches), reveals God's plan and purpose.
(future)	<i>Gen 41:16,25-36</i>	Joseph's words about Pharaoh's dreams.
(future)	<i>Ac 15:13-21</i>	James' solution to the problem of Gentile believers.
(future)	<i>Jn 8:7</i>	"he who is without sin cast the first stone."
	<i>Ac 27:10</i>	Paul - I perceive this voyage will be with hurt
	<i>Ac 9:15</i>	God to Ananias concerning Paul, revealing God's plan and purpose.

Word of wisdom can be revealed by dream, vision, voice, impression in the Spirit, prophecy with word of knowledge.

(This is generally different from the gift of God's general wisdom as in *Proverbs 8, Jam 1: 5-7, 1Cor 1: 30*, and is a specific word for a specific situation)

Word of Knowledge

This is a thought, impression, vision, dream, audible voice of the Holy Spirit **about a situation**, revealing a key fact or facts.

It is an insight into things as they **are**, or **were**. e.g. *Rev 3:15* about the Church in Laodicea.

Jn 4:16-18 Jesus to woman at the well. "You have had 5 husbands ..." *Jn 11:14* "Lazarus is dead..." *Jn 4:50* "Your son lives."
Mat 9:4 "Jesus knowing their thoughts..." *Mat 12:25, Lk 6:8* *Mk 9:33-35* Jesus knew what they had been disputing about.

2K 5:20-27 Elisha to Gehazi, v26. *1Kin 19:18* God speaking to Elijah. *Ac 5:1-6* Peter to Ananias, v3.

2K 6:8-23 Elisha to King of Israel, v9, Elisha to his servant, v16. *Mat 9:2* Jesus to the paralytic - condemnation removed. Sometimes it comes as an awareness of pain or discomfort in the body, indicating a need in another person.

Mat 1:20 The angel told Joseph about Mary's pregnancy. *Jn 1:48* Jesus to Nathanael.

Ac 10:19 to Peter. *Ac 9:11-12* Jesus to Ananias telling him about Paul (Saul).

Area of Use

1. Reveal sin *2K 5:26, Rev 3:15*.
2. To find something *1Sam 9:20, 10:22*.
3. To warn, provide safety. *2K 6:9*.
4. Reveal thoughts *Lk 20:23*.
5. Provide healing, *Lk 13:12*.
6. To instruct, *Mat 1:20*.

Discerning of Spirits

Insight into the spirit world, *Eph 6:12*. We need it!

This is a revelation from God telling us about evil spirits attacking a person, or that are involved in a situation. Also it is supernatural revelation whether the spirit operating has a source that is human, demonic or divine. By this gift we test prophecy, *1Jn 4:1-6, 1Thes5:21* e.g. *2K 6:17* - Elisha's servant's eyes opened to see. *Ac 16:16* - Paul discerned the spirit of divination. It is very important to discern the nature of the spiritual source of what is occurring. Is it of God, man, or devil? This gift may be as a thought, impression, vision, audible voice etc.

Is 6:1 I saw the Lord high and lifted up.

Lk 13:11,12

Jesus discerned the spirit of infirmity.

Mat 16:16,17 The revelation to Peter of the divinity of Christ. .

Ac 27:23

The angel of the Lord appeared to Paul.

Mat 9:32 Jesus discerned the mute spirit and cast it out.

Ac 13:4-12

Paul discerning the spirit of the sorcerer.

Lk 1:26-38 When Gabriel appeared to Mary - announcing Jesus birth.

Area of Use

1. When a gift of the spirit is used, and it is to be judged.
2. When there is contention between parties.
3. Possible demonic activity, *Ac 13:10*.
4. Public or private situations.

Discernment of spirits may be an impression. thought, revelation, dream, vision, audible voice, angelic visitation, seeing into the spirit realm.

Gift of Faith

There is saving faith, *Eph 2: 8*, the **fruit of faith** that grows, *Gal 5: 22*, **general faith**, *Mk 11:24*, but also there is the **gift of faith**, which is a special, supernatural endowment by the Spirit to believe for the receiving and outworking of a miracle of God. e.g.

Gen 48:15-16 Jacob's blessing on Joseph's sons.

Dan 6:22

Daniel's faith in the lions' den.

Mat 8:24 Jesus exercising this gift in the storm - He slept.

1K 17:5,6

Elijah's gift of faith to be fed at Cherith.

Jn 11:43 Raising Lazarus (faith + workings of miracles + gifts of healings).

Gal 3:5 Faith gift to work miracles.

Mat 17:20

The mountain moving variety.

This is a surge of faith, certainty, that God is about to act in a specific situation or need. It contains sure knowledge plus authority. The Gift of faith is given as God is sought in earnest prayer. We need to give attention to build up our faith always. Daily read God's Word asking Him to speak to you, revealing His Holy Spirit anointed Word.

Mat 14:29 - Gift of faith - Peter walks on the water. *Gen 22:5* Abraham had a gift of faith - that God would raise Isaac.

Ac 9:40 - Peter raises Dorcas.

Gifts of Healings

We must know for sure, without a doubt, that it is God's will to heal the sick. (See No 12 Pastors' Notes). It is never God's will to be sick. God does not give sickness. Believe *Mk 16:18*, implicitly that when you lay hands on the sick and pray, healing commences immediately, *1Jn 5:14,15*. **Hindrances** need to be removed - unbelief, fear, unforgiveness, occult involvement, curses, demonic bondages. *Is 59:1,2*. Six times in Matthew - "Jesus healed **all** the sick present." Healing is by laying on of hands, anointing with oil, prayer of faith, speaking the Word, *Jam 5:14-16*. This is a supernatural gift of God's power. (There is natural healing too.)

Ac 10:38 "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power: who went about doing good, and healing **all** that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with Him."

Healing and deliverance from demons are often simultaneous. e.g. *Mat 9:32,12:22,Lk 13:11,Ac 19:12*

Jesus did not heal anyone until after He was baptized with the Spirit. The New Testament abounds with Jesus' healing ministry.

Lk 5:17-26 Paralytic healed. Power v17, Healing v17, Faith v20.

Lk 6:17-19

Multitude healed. Healing v19, Power v19

Lk 7:1-10 Centurion's slave. Faith v9, Healing v10.

Mat 8:1-17

Many healings, *Mat 9:1-8,27-31,32-34,35*.

Jn 5:1-9 38 year illness healed. Healing miracle.

Jn 9:1-7

The healing miracle on the man blind from birth.

Mk 10:46-52 Healing of Bartimaeus. Healing miracle.

Ac 5:16

All sick healed by Jesus' apostles.

Gifts of the Workings of Miracles

A miracle is an explosion of God's Almighty power. (Greek-dunamis-divine power). All the gifts are supernatural in a general sense, and so miraculous. However this gift has a specific meaning such as the dividing of a river by the sweep of a mantle, *2K 2:14*.

Many instantaneous "healings" are classed as miracles. *Ac 3:6,7,8,4:16,22*.

Jn 4:47-54

Healing Nobleman's son was Jesus' second "miracle". (KJV)

Jn 2:11

Turning water into wine was Jesus' first "miracle". (KJV)

2K 6:6

Axehead floats.

Gal 3:5

Miracles by faith.

Jn 11:43

Raising of Lazarus.

Jn 14:12

Jesus said "the work I have done you will do".

Josh 10:12-14

Sun stood still v13.

<i>Ex 14:22</i>	Red Sea crossing.
<i>IK 17:14-16</i>	Barrel of meal, cruse of oil did not fail.
<i>IK 18:38</i>	The fire fell and burnt up sacrifice, wood, stones, water.
<i>Mat 14:19,20</i>	The feeding of 5000.
<i>Mat 14:29</i>	Peter walked on the water.
<i>Mk 9:38-41</i>	Casting out demons is a miracle, v39.
<i>Lk 5:6</i>	Catch of fish was a miracle.

Gift of Prophecy

This gift is for all believers, *1Cor 14:31, 1Cor 14:1*. It is for edification, exhortation, comfort, *1Cor 14:2*. Prophecy is to speak a word from God to bless others. We should all seek to prophesy, *1Cor 14:1,5,31*. Ask those who prophesy to pray for you to prophesy, and receive this gift by faith. Then expect God to bring prophecy into your mind - a verse, a thought, a vision, an impression, speak it out to bless.

A “**prophet**” is a person with a prophecy ministry and is different from the gift of prophecy. All may prophesy as the gift, but not all are **prophets**, *1Cor 12:29*.

A **prophet** has the gift of prophecy as above, **but also has a revelation gift with it** such as word of wisdom or word of knowledge.

Prophecy is a supernatural utterance in a known tongue. There is no revelation in the gift of prophecy, apart from edification, exhortation, comfort. *1Cor 14:3*

<i>Ac 21:9</i>	Philip’s four daughters who prophesied.
<i>Ac 21:10</i>	Agabus was a prophet - he also had revelation gifts.

Prophecy should be tested. *1Cor 14:29, 1Jn 4:1, 1Thes 5:20,21*.

1. Does it fulfil *1Cor 14:3,4* ?
2. Does it agree with scripture?
3. Does it glorify Christ? *Jn 16:13,14*
4. Is there a positive witness to the prophecy in the elders?
5. Is the person prophesying living a God honouring life?
6. Does the prophecy given fit into the spiritual flow of the meeting?

Gift of Tongues

“This is the rest and the refreshing,” *Is 28:12, 1Cor 14:21*.

“He who speaks in an unknown tongue edifies himself,” *1Cor 14:4*.

This is a supernatural utterance by the Holy Spirit in languages never learned by the speaker, not understood by the speaker, nor necessarily understood by the hearer, It is a vocal miracle. Speaking in tongues is almost always manifested when people are baptised with the Holy Spirit. *Ac 2:4, Ac 10:46, Ac 19:6*.

Mk 16:17 Jesus said, “This sign shall follow those who believe, in My Name they shall speak with new tongues.”

1Cor 14:21 quotes *Is 28:11,12* about speaking in tongues but it is not until the dispensation of the Holy Spirit, after Pentecost, *Ac 2:1-4*, that this gift appears.

Apart from Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues all the other gifts of the Spirit occur in the Old Testament. Tongues is primarily a devotional, private gift, which does not require interpretation because no other person is listening. When a person speaks in tongues he builds himself up in God, *1Cor 14:4*. He is speaking to God, *1Cor 14:2*. His spirit is praying, *1Cor 14:14*. He is speaking out the mysteries of God, *1Cor 14:2, Eph 3:4,5, Col 1:26*, which will gradually be revealed by the Holy Spirit into his understanding. As the references indicate, a “mystery” is a purpose of God, hidden in times past but now revealed. *Mk 4:11, 22*.

Tongues is also for a public ministry to others, when it needs to be followed by the gift of interpretation of tongues, so that those listening may be edified. Tongues plus interpretation is equivalent to prophecy, *1Cor 14:5*.

1Cor 14:18 Paul used devotional tongues more than all. Tongues is when our spirit is praying to God, *1Cor 14:14*.

1Cor 12:30 Not all speak with tongues **as a public ministry**.

1Cor 14:5 Paul’s desire was for everyone to speak in tongues. The main thrust of tongues is in devotion and adoration to God, *Ac 2:11, 1Cor 14:2*, but often tongues plus interpretation appear and are used to bring a message like prophecy.

1Cor 14:15 We can pray or sing in tongues, from our spirit.

If you will pray in tongues, all the time, as you go about you will find that God causes circumstances to fall into place and be blessed by His abundant grace.

Gift of Interpretation of Tongues

This is the supernatural showing forth by the Spirit, of the meaning of an utterance in other tongues. It is not a translation, but an interpretation.

This gift depends on another gift to operate. It does not operate unless tongues has been in operation. This gift is to render tongues an edification to the church, *1Cor 14:5*.

Quite often interpretation will flow on to prophecy as a “message.”

1Cor 14:13 If you speak in tongues, pray, and ask to interpret, not necessarily for public ministry, but for personal help and blessing.

Receiving the Gifts

The gifts are given by God, as we ask and receive by faith, often by the laying on of hands. *Rom 1:11, 1Tim 4:14, 2Tim 1:6.*