



# Spiritual Gifts



# Spiritual Gifts

Fourth Edition

by Robert L. Brandt

*AN INDEPENDENT-STUDY TEXTBOOK*

Developed in Cooperation with  
Global University Staff

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## THE GU CHRISTIAN SERVICE PROGRAM



This is one of 18 courses (subjects) that make up the GU Christian Service Program. The symbol at the left is a guide for the order of study in the series, which is divided into three units of six courses each. *Spiritual Gifts* is Course 5 in Unit I. You will benefit greater by studying the courses in the proper order.

Study materials in the Christian Service Program have been prepared in a self-teaching format especially for Christian workers. These courses provide a student with Bible knowledge and skills needed for practical Christian service. You may study this course in order to receive credit toward a certificate, or for personal enrichment.

## ATTENTION

Please read the course introduction very carefully. It is important that you follow these instructions so you can achieve the goals of the course, and be prepared for the student reports.

Address all correspondence concerning the course to your GU instructor at the address stamped on the copyright page near the front of the study guide..

## **COURSE INTRODUCTION**

“Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant” (1 Corinthians 12:1).

Spiritual gifts are very important to the body of Christ. It is exciting to learn about these gifts which God has made available to His children. Without these gifts the church cannot exist or move ahead.

As believers we must learn all we can about spiritual gifts. When our knowledge increases, the gifts find a larger place in our lives and ministry. We become a greater blessing to the family of believers, and are more effective in spreading the gospel.

## **Course Description**

In this course we will give attention to three different groups of spiritual gifts. We will call them (1) Gifts of Ministry, (2) Other Ministry Gifts, and (3) Gifts of the Spirit.

The first group—Gifts of Ministry—includes those believers who Christ gives to the church to be its leaders.

In the second group—Other Ministry Gifts—we will study gifts which are available to all believers.

And in the final group—Gifts of the Spirit—we will learn about nine gifts which the Holy Spirit gives to believers as He wills.

## **Course Objectives**

When you finish this course you should be able to:

1. Describe the importance of the individual believer in the church as a channel for spiritual gifts.
2. Understand the function and purpose of the various kinds of spiritual gifts.
3. Contrast the constructive work of the Holy Spirit with the destructive work of evil spirits.

4. Recognize and appreciate the diversity of spiritual gifts in the body of Christ.
5. Explain the difference between spiritual gifts and natural talents.
6. Discover, experience, and pursue the development of spiritual gifts in your ministry.
7. Value gifts of the Spirit as vital to Christian life and ministry.
8. Identify and solve problems relating to the operation of spiritual gifts.

## Textbooks

You will use *Spiritual Gifts: An Independent Study Textbook* by R. L. Brandt, as both the textbook and study guide for the course. *Today's English Version* and the *King James Version* of the Bible are the only other requirements.

## Study Time

How much time you actually need to study each lesson depends in part on your knowledge of the subject and the strength of your study skills before you begin the course. The time you spend also depends on the extent to which you follow directions and develop skills necessary for independent study. Plan your study schedule so that you spend enough time to reach the objectives stated by the author of the course and your personal objectives as well.

## Lesson Organization and Study Pattern

Each lesson includes: 1) lesson title, 2) opening statement, 3) lesson outline, 4) lesson objectives, 5) learning activities, 6) key words, 7) lesson development including study questions, 8) self-test (at the end of the lesson development), 9) answers to the study questions. Answers to each self-test are at the back of your textbook before the unit student reports.



The lesson outline and objectives will give you an overview of the subject, help you to focus your attention on the most important points as you study, and tell you what you should learn.

Most of the study questions in the lesson development can be answered in spaces provided in this study guide. Longer answers should be written in a notebook. As you write the answers in your notebook, be sure to record the number and title of the lesson. This will help you in your review for the unit student report.

*Do not look ahead at the answers* until you have given your answer. If you give your own answers, you will remember what you study much better. After you have answered the study questions, check your answers with those given at the end of the lesson. Then correct those you did not answer correctly. The answers are not given in the usual numerical order so that you will not accidentally see the answer to the next question.

These study questions are very important. They will help you to remember the main ideas presented in the lesson and to apply the principles you have learned.

## How to Answer Questions

There are different kinds of study questions and self-test questions in this study guide. Below are samples of several types and how to answer them. Specific instructions will be given for other types of questions that may occur.

A **MULTIPLE-CHOICE** question or item asks you to choose an answer from the ones that are given.

- 1** The Bible has a total of
- a)** 100 books.
  - b)** 66 books.
  - c)** 27 books.

The correct answer is *b) 66 books*. In your study guide, make a circle around *b)* as shown here:

**1** The Bible has a total of

- a)** 100 books.
- (b)** 66 books.
- c)** 27 books.
- d)** 2 books.

(For some multiple-choice items, more than one answer will be correct. In that case, you would circle the letter in front of each correct answer.)

A *TRUE-FALSE* question or item asks you to choose which of several statements are TRUE.

### Example

**2** Which statements below are TRUE?

- a)** The Bible has a total of 120 books.
- (b)** The Bible is a message for believers today.
- c)** All of the Bible authors wrote in the Hebrew language.
- (d)** The Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the Bible.

Statements **b** and **d** are true. You would make a circle around these two letters to show your choices, as you see above.

A *MATCHING* question or item asks you to match things that go together, such *as* names with descriptions, or Bible books with their authors.

### Example

**3** Write the number for the leader's name in front of each phrase that describes something he did.

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <del>1</del> <b>a</b> Received the Law at Mt. Sinai    | 1) Moses  |
| <del>2</del> <b>b</b> Led the Israelites across Jordan | 2) Joshua |
| <del>2</del> <b>c</b> Marched around Jericho           |           |
| <del>1</del> <b>d</b> Lived in Pharaoh's court         |           |

Phrases **a** and **d** refer to Moses, and phrases **b** and **c** refer to Joshua. You would write **1** beside **a** and **d**, and **2** beside **b** and **c**, as you see above.

## Ways to Study This Course

If you study this GU course by yourself, all of your work can be completed by mail. Although GU has designed this course for you to study on your own, you may also study it in a group or class. If you do this, the instructor may give you added instructions besides those in the course. If so, be sure to follow his instructions.

Possibly you are interested in using the course in a home Bible study group, in a class at church, or in a Bible school. You will find both the subject content and study methods excellent for these purposes

## Unit Student Reports

In the back of your study guide are located the unit student reports and answer sheets. These are to be completed according to the instructions included in the course and in the unit student reports. You should complete and send each unit answer sheet to your instructor for his grading and suggestions regarding your work. Send one when you complete each unit.

## Certificate

Upon the successful completion of the course and the final grading of the unit answer sheets by your GU instructor, you will receive your Certificate of Award.

## About the Author

Robert L. Brandt was ordained in 1940 and was an Executive Presbyter of the General Council of the Assemblies of God. He served as a pastor for 16 years, was Superintendent of the North Dakota District, and later, was Superintendent of the Montana District. He served as the National Home Missions Secretary for the Fellowship and on the Board of Directors for Northwest College of the Assemblies of God. He was also a member of the Foreign Missions Board for the General Council of the Assemblies of God and served on its Doctrinal Purity Commission.

In addition to teaching and preaching widely, R. L. Brandt wrote for the Pentecostal Evangel, Sunday School quarterlies, Enrichment Magazine, and other publications for the Gospel Publishing House, Springfield, Missouri. He authored several books including, *Praying With Paul*, *One Way*, *Gifts for the Marketplace*, *Tongues the Greatest Gift?* and *The Spirit Helps Us Pray*.

R. L. Brandt graduated from North Central University, Minneapolis, Minnesota, and was awarded an honorary doctors degree by Northwest College, Kirkland, Washington. He ministered at camp meetings, ministers' institutes, and district councils throughout the United States and other countries.

## Your GU instructor

Your GU instructor will be happy to help you in any way possible. If you have any questions about the course or the unit student reports, please feel free to ask him. If several people want to study this course together, ask about special arrangements for group study.

God bless you as you study *Starting New Churches*. May it enrich your life and Christian service and help you fulfill more effectively your part in the body of Christ.





# UNIT ONE:

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## INTRODUCING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

### Lessons

- 1 God Has Gifts for You
- 2 God Wants You to Know About His Gifts

## LESSON

# 1 God Has Gifts for You

---

This is the first of two lessons designed to give you a proper **foundation** for all that you will study in this course. In this first lesson you will learn of your importance in the body of Christ.

Spiritual gifts are given only to members of that body. Therefore you must learn all you can about His body and how it works. When you took Jesus as your personal Savior you became a part of His body. Every believer is an important member of this body. To each member God gives gifts. These vary from person to person.

As a human being you are part of an earthly family or group. When you became a believer in Jesus you also became part of an even more important family or group—the body of Christ. As we move through this lesson you will begin to see just how important you are to God, and to other members of His body. You will also discover that He has a special gift or gifts for you, and that He is depending on you.

## ***lesson outline***

---

We Are All Members of His Body

Christ Is the Head

Believers Are the Body

Each Believer Is a Member

Every Member Is Important

Every Member Is Part of the Body

Every Member Has a Particular Function



We Are Not to Compare Ourselves With Others  
Comparison Displeases God  
Comparison Discourages People

We Are to be Faithful With Gifts from God  
We Are to Recognize the Gifts  
We Are to Use the Gifts

## ***lesson objectives***

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When you finish this lesson you should be able to:

- List the two major parts of body of Christ.
- Explain why each member in the body of Christ is important.
- State two reasons why a believer should not compare himself with another believer.
- State the source of spiritual gifts.
- Explain how God's gifts should be used.

## ***learning activities***

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1. Read the lesson development and look up each Scripture reference in your Bible.
2. Begin memorizing 1 Corinthians 13. By the time you have completed this first lesson you should be able to quote the first two verses.
3. Spend some time thinking about the meaning of each key word. If you need help with understanding it, look it up in the glossary at the back of the study guide.
4. Study the lesson section by section. Do the required exercises and check your answers periodically.
5. Complete the self-test at the end of the lesson. If you have answered any incorrectly reread the lesson until you can give the correct answer.

**key words**

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Understanding the key words listed at the beginning of each lesson will help you as you study. You will find them defined in alphabetical order in the glossary that is in the back of your study guide. If you are in doubt about the meaning of any of the words on the list, you may look them up now or when you come across them in your reading.

- |           |         |
|-----------|---------|
| equipping | steward |
| function  | talent  |

**lesson development**

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**WE ARE ALL MEMBERS OF HIS BODY**

**Objective 1.** *List the two major parts of the body of Christ.*

**Christ Is the Head**

We need help to understand the relation between Christ and those who believe on Him. Paul the apostle used the human body to illustrate this. He pointed out that Christ is the head of the body. All of us know how important our own head is. Without our head two things would be true of us. First, we would be dead. We cannot live without our head. Second, we would be motionless and useless. Our head directs our body into meaningful activity. In the same manner, Christ, the head, seeks to direct His body to do His will. Another name for Christ’s *body* is the *church*.

- 1** Read Colossians 1:15-18. Answer the following questions.
- a** Of whom does Paul speak in this passage? .....
- b** What other word describes the body of Christ? .....

The Bible speaks quite often about Christ as the head of the body. You should read each of these passages carefully three times: Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:15-16; 5:23, Colossians 2:19.

## Believers Are the Body

A head without a body is as useless as a body without a head. The head is important, but so is the body. Christ's body is made up of all those who believe in His name. As a believer you are part of His body. That is a great truth. Paul wrote, "so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others" (Romans 12:5).

**2** Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Ephesians 4:4; 5:29-30, Colossians 1:24. Complete the following statements by filling in the correct answer.

- a** Christ is the ..... of the body.
- b** Another word for Christ's body is .....
- c** Believers are members of Christ's .....

## Each Believer Is a Member

The body of Christ has two main parts: (1) one head, and (2) many members. Our physical bodies do not have just a single member, but many. Our arms, legs, fingers, heart, etc. are all different members of our body. The body of Christ is like that, too. Every real believer becomes a part of His body. This means that every true believer in the world is part of His body. "Now the body is not made up of one part but of many" (1 Corinthians 12:14). People from every race, color, land, and nation are all part of the same body.

**3** Name the two main parts of the body of Christ and place an **X** after the part which you help make up.

- a** .....
- b** .....

**4** Circle the correct answer. Like our physical bodies the body of Christ has

- a)** one member.
- b)** many members.

## EVERY MEMBER IS IMPORTANT

**Objective 2.** *Explain why each member in the body of Christ is important.*

### Every Member Is Part of the Body

What would your big toe do if it were not attached to your body? Nothing but decay and return to dust. Yet your big toe is an important part of your body. Without it your body would not be whole. A body which does not have all of its members is limited in what it can do. For example, a man with no legs cannot run a race. A man without eyes cannot see the stars. A man without arms cannot not climb a tree.

Every member in Christ's body is very important to Him. "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it" (1 Corinthians 12:27). Perhaps we can expand this thought by saying that every member in Christ's body is a share of that body. He is a piece or portion of it, just like your toe is a share, a piece, or a portion of your body.

**5** Read 1 Corinthians 12:15-26. Circle the letter before each statement that is true.

- a** All believers are part of Christ's body.
- b** All members of the body of Christ are different.
- c** Members of the body of Christ do not need each other.

### Every Member Has a Particular Function

Your toes and ears do not serve the same purpose. Neither do your eyes and feet. Likewise in the body of Christ all members do not have the same use. Instead every member has his own function. **Function** means "special work or duty." The function of the eye is to see. Think again of your big toe. It may be hidden by a shoe. You may seldom think of it. Yet it has its own important work or duty. In addition to being necessary along with your other toes, to make up a complete foot, it helps you balance your whole body. Lose your big toe and you will miss it greatly. Every other part of your body benefits from it.

Without it you will stumble more easily. You will not be able to run well. You may even limp.

The members of Christ's body are like the members of your own body. Each member has his own function and is therefore important, both to the head and to the other members of the body.

**6** Read Romans 12:6-8 and 1 Corinthians 12:18-25. Write **T** in the blank if the statement is true, and **F** if it is false.

... **a** All members of Christ's body have the same function.

... **b** Function means body.

... **c** Every member in Christ's body is important because he has his own function.

## WE ARE NOT TO COMPARE OURSELVES WITH OTHERS

**Objective 3.** *State two reasons why a believer should not compare himself with another believer.*

### Comparison Displeases God

God made each of us different from anyone else, just as He made the members of our bodies different from each other. Do you think God would be pleased if you complained because your big toe is not where your nose is? No. We understand God made each part of us and placed it where it is so it would serve its own purpose.

When we compare ourselves with other members of the body of Christ and complain because we are not like them, we displease the Lord. Each of us must learn that He made us who we are and placed us where we are for the good of the whole body and for His own glory.

Being unhappy because our gift or gifts are not the same as another person's makes us judges of God. It is like saying, "God, why didn't you give that gift to me?" How would you feel if you gave three of your friends gifts which fit their tasks

in life and then one of them complained because he did not receive the same gift you gave to one of the others? You would be very unhappy.

**7** Read 1 Corinthians 12:15-18. We understand from these verses that we should not compare ourselves with others. Circle the correct letter before each correct reason below for not comparing ourselves with others.

- a)** Comparing ourselves with others displeases the Lord.
- b)** Comparing ourselves with others makes us part of Christ's body.
- c)** Comparing ourselves with others shows we do not realize how important we are to the body.

## Comparison Discourages People

When we compare our gifts with others two things can happen. The first is, *we* may become discouraged because our gifts are not like someone else's gifts. Our gifts may not seem as important as another's gifts. The second is, we may become proud because we think our gifts are better than another's. Then we may discourage *him or her*.

If each of us will learn that God gives us gifts suited to us this will help us. I would be very uncomfortable trying to wear my wife's shoes. Really, they would not fit at all. Nor could she wear mine. Her shoes are fitted to her feet. In like manner, the gifts God has for you are just right for you. Those He has for other members of the body are just right for them. What then is the sense of comparing our gifts with gifts others have been given?

One more thing is important here. Paul wrote, "so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others" (Romans 12:5). There is no good reason for comparing our gifts, since we belong to the same body. Each of us benefits from the other's gifts. Why try to compare our feet with our mouth? They don't look alike. They don't act alike. But both are necessary and both contribute to the same purpose. Our feet carry us to our food. Our mouth eats it. But the whole body profits. It is the same with members of Christ's body.

**8** Read 1 Corinthians 12:21-27. Add the proper word or words to complete each of the following sentences.

- a** When we compare ourselves with others we may discourage both ..... and .....
- b** Gifts suited to us are given to us by .....
- c** We should not compare ourselves with others because we are all necessary members of the same .....

## WE ARE TO BE FAITHFUL WITH GIFTS FROM GOD

**Objective 4.** *State the source of spiritual gifts.*

**Objective 5.** *Explain how God's gifts should be used.*

### We Are to Recognize the Gifts

As a member of Christ's body you have a spiritual ministry to perform. In **equipping** you for the work, God has given you a gift, and possibly more than one gift. Every member has at least one gift. Almost every place in the Bible where the gifts are mentioned it is stated that they are for every member.

These gifts are not given to us by our parents or by our teachers. No human being has the power to give them. Also they are not the talents we have come by naturally.

Talents are abilities with which people are born. Different people have different natural abilities. Some call them gifts, but they are not the same as spiritual gifts. Many unbelievers have talents. For example, an unbeliever may have a musical talent. Or he may have a talent for speaking in public. These are not spiritual gifts.

A spiritual gift comes from only one source—God. "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows" (James 1:17).

**9** Read Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 12:7, 11; 1 Peter 4:10.

Circle the letter before each TRUE statement below.

- a** Only a few of God's children have spiritual gifts.
- b** Spiritual gifts are given to us by God.
- c** Spiritual gifts and human talents are the same.
- d** Our teachers can give us spiritual gifts.

## We Are to Use the Gifts

The Bible gives a simple rule which applies to all of God's gifts. "You have received without paying, so give without being paid" (Matthew 10:8). Applying this to spiritual gifts means that the gifts received by the members of the body are to be used for the purpose for which they are given.

Sometimes believers fail to use their gifts. Sometimes they use them selfishly and without love. The purpose is not fulfilled in either case.

Therefore, it is the believer's duty to (1) use each gift for its intended purpose, and (2) permit love to govern its use. "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms" (1 Peter 4:10). The Bible uses the word *stewardship* when speaking of man's duty. Stewardship means looking after the things of another. As believers we receive the stewardship of spiritual gifts. That is, we are to look after the gifts given to us and use them to further our Lord's kingdom. And there is a clear rule for stewards. "Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful" (1 Corinthians 4:2). Faithful use of spiritual gifts brings glory to the Giver and blessing to the body.

Love is the key to effective use of spiritual gifts. Apart from love, spiritual gifts do not fulfill their purpose. "The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love" (Galatians 5:6).



**10** Circle the letter before each TRUE statement.

- a** Spiritual gifts are to be used for the good of others.
- b** Stewardship means being concerned about your own things.
- c** We honor God when we faithfully use the spiritual gifts He has given.
- d** Spiritual gifts are more important than love.

**11** The key to effective use of the spiritual gifts God has for us is to

- a)** let others know you have a spiritual gift.
- b)** compare your gift with your neighbor's.
- c)** let love govern the use of gifts.
- d)** wait for something to happen.

**self-test**

---

After you have reviewed this lesson, take the self-test. Then check your answers with those given in the back of the textbook. Review any questions answered incorrectly.

TRUE-FALSE. Write **T** in the blank space before each true statement. Write **F** if the statement is false.

- ... **1** Two major parts of the body of Christ are the head and the hands.
- ... **2** The body of Christ has many members.
- ... **3** Some members of the body are not important because they are not seen.
- ... **4** Different members in Christ's body have different functions.
- ... **5** Christ is pleased when we compare ourselves with each other.
- ... **6** By comparing ourselves with other members in the body of Christ we may discourage them.
- ... **7** Human talents are not spiritual gifts.
- ... **8** We are born with spiritual gifts.
- ... **9** God does not give us spiritual gifts especially for our own pleasure.
- ... **10** Stewardship involves the faithful use of spiritual gifts.
- ... **11** All spiritual gifts serve their purpose best through love.

## ***answers to study questions***

---

- 1 a** Christ.  
**b** believers or church.
- 7 a)** Comparing ourselves with others displeases the Lord.  
**c)** Comparing ourselves with others shows we do not realize how important we are to the body.
- 2 a** head.  
**b** church.  
**c** body.
- 8 a** ourselves, others.  
**b** God.  
**c** body.
- 3 a** head.  
**b** members X.
- 9 a** False.  
**b** True.  
**c** False.  
**d** False.
- 4 b)** many members.
- 10 a** True.  
**b** False.  
**c** True.  
**d** False.
- 5 a** T  
**b** T  
**c** F
- 11 c)** let love govern the use of gifts.
- 6 a** F  
**b** F  
**c** T

# LESSON 2 God Wants You to Know About His Gifts

---

In the first lesson you learned that God has spiritual gifts for all believers. You also discovered that God expects each believer to be faithful in using his gifts, and that the believer must have love to make any gift meaningful. Now you need to learn some things about the gifts themselves.

This lesson will help you to understand the gifts. You will see that knowledge of God's gifts is important to the believer. You will also begin to know the several kinds of spiritual gifts and how they relate to the body of believers.

One of the exciting things about this lesson is that it can help you recognize some spiritual gift God has for you. When you recognize your spiritual gift, then you can begin to develop it and make it more meaningful.

## ***lesson outline***

---

### Importance of Knowing

- Knowledge Produces Faith

- Knowledge Governs Faith

- Knowledge Determines Experience

### Groups of Gifts

- Gifts of Ministry

- Other Ministry Gifts

- Gifts of the Spirit

## ***lesson objectives***

---

When you finish this lesson you should be able to:

- Describe in a short written paragraph why knowledge of spiritual gifts is important to the believer.
- List the spiritual gifts in each group.
- Distinguish between ministry gifts, other ministry gifts, and the gifts of the Spirit.

## ***learning activities***

---

1. Read the lesson and underline words or parts of sentences which you feel are especially important.
2. Continue memorizing 1 Corinthians 13. Review the first two verses by quoting them aloud. Then memorize verses 3 and 4.
3. In a separate notebook make a list showing the three groupings of spiritual gifts and fill in the related gifts as they are given in the lesson development.
4. Make it a practice to look up all words you are unable to understand using your dictionary and the glossary of key words at the end of this study guide.
5. Test your progress by doing the assignment following each step of the lesson.
6. Take the self-test at the end of the lesson. Check your answers. Refer back to the lesson if any answers were wrong, to make sure you know the correct answer.

## ***key words***

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foundation

supernatural

govern

lesson development

IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING

**Objective 1.** *Describe in a short written paragraph why knowledge of spiritual gifts is important to the believer.*

Knowledge Produces Faith

Faith is at the heart of all spiritual gifts and their use. The fact that they are spiritual—that is, of the spirit—shows the need for faith. Faith makes us believers. Faith also makes us *useful* as believers, through the gifts.

Bible Knowledge	FAITH	Spiritual Gifts
-----------------	-------	-----------------

How do people get faith? The answer is both simple and sure. Faith is produced by Bible knowledge. Paul made this clear when he wrote, “How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in?” (Romans 10:14). By hearing the message of the gospel, knowledge is received. Once knowledge is received, faith becomes possible.

Think about the disciples at Ephesus. When Paul first met them he asked, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” (Acts 19:2). And they answered, “we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” (Acts 19:2). Because they had not heard, they did not know. Because they did not know, they could not believe.

Then Paul began to teach them. Through his teaching they received knowledge. And once they had knowledge faith was born in their hearts. Therefore, we know that knowledge of spiritual gifts is the first step toward faith for receiving and recognizing the gifts, and also for their effective use. Until we know about spiritual gifts it is not likely they will have the place in our lives and ministries that God meant them to have.

**1** Read 1 Corinthians 12:1; 1 Corinthians 14:36; Acts 19:1-7; and Romans 12:6. Complete the statements below by placing the correct word or words in the blanks.

- a** At the heart of all spiritual gifts is .....
- b** Faith is produced by .....
- c** The most important thing we want from this study is knowledge about .....

## Knowledge Governs Faith

Not only does knowledge produce faith, it governs it. By **govern** we mean it gives it a sense of direction and sets its limits. For this reason it is important that knowledge be as complete and true as possible. Incomplete or untrue knowledge in turn gives faith an incomplete or untrue base. A base is that upon which a thing stands. Faith without the right base of knowledge is like a house built upon half a foundation.

For example, many believers have been taught that the gift of tongues is not for our day. Because they have received this untrue teaching, their faith to receive this gift is lacking.

They can only believe what they know, even if what they think they know is unscriptural. Their faith cannot carry them beyond their knowledge. Unless their base of knowledge is corrected, these believers will go through life believing the gift of tongues is not for them. It is therefore very important that we have complete and true knowledge about spiritual gifts.

**2** Read John 8:30-32. Put a circle around the letter before each of the following statements which is TRUE.

- a** Knowledge governs faith.
- b** Right knowledge is not important.
- c** Faith carries us beyond our knowledge

## Knowledge Determines Experience

Since knowledge produces and governs our faith, it should also move us toward experience. There is an order which we need to keep in mind: 1) knowledge, 2) faith, and 3) experience. Until we know about spiritual gifts, we cannot believe by faith in them. Until we believe in spiritual gifts they will not likely be the part of our experience which God intends.

Knowledge	FAITH	Experience
-----------	-------	------------

Review Paul’s experience at Ephesus in Acts 19. We have already noted that because these Ephesians did not know about the Holy Spirit, they could not believe in Him. Now we also note that because they did not know, and thus could not have faith, they lacked an experience which God planned for them. When Paul learned that they did not know about the Holy Spirit he began to teach them. He gave them new knowledge. Then they were able to believe what they had not believed before. And when their faith acted on their new knowledge they entered a whole new experience. Their new experience can be traced right back to their receiving new knowledge from Paul’s teaching.

This helps us to see how important knowledge of spiritual gifts is. Until we know, our experience will be limited.

Let us think about this a bit more. When Paul wrote to the Corinthians he stated that they had the gifts of the Spirit. “For in him you have been enriched in every way—in all your speaking and in all your knowledge— because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift” (1 Corinthians 1:5-7). It appears that the Corinthians knew of these spiritual gifts and many had them. Yet knowing of them and even having them was not enough. They needed to know how to use them, “Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant” (1 Corinthians 12:1).

Knowing the truth about these gifts leads us to a more fruitful experience in their use. This is why we need to learn all we can about spiritual gifts.

- 3** Complete each of the statements below by adding the right word or words.
- a** The correct order for receiving spiritual gifts is knowledge,  
.....  
and .....
  - b** Faith is produced and governed by .....
  - c** Knowing the truth about spiritual gifts will lead us to a  
more fruitful .....



## **GROUPS OF GIFTS**

**Objective 2.** *List the spiritual gifts in each group.*

**Objective 3.** *Distinguish between ministry gifts, other ministry gifts, and, the gifts of the Spirit.*

### **Gifts of Ministry**

The Bible does not make an exact list under each grouping of spiritual gifts. Sometimes it appears to run the groupings together. This seems to say that all of the spiritual gifts are closely related. However, for our purposes in this study, it will help us to divide the gifts into three groups. Each group will have its own list. Some of the gifts in one group may seem to overlap, to be almost the same as some of the gifts in another group. This need not trouble us, for all of the gifts come from God and have a common purpose—the building up of the body of believers and for the glory of God.

This first list includes those gifts which relate mainly to our highest responsibilities in the body of believers. Paul gives it to us in Ephesians: “But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says:

“But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says: When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men. . . . It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers” (Ephesians 4:7-8, 11).

Our list, then, that should be written down under gifts of ministry is:

1. Apostles
2. Prophets
3. Evangelists
4. Pastors
5. Teachers

Some scholars tell us that pastors and teachers are meant to be a single gift of ministry—teaching pastors. We will learn more about this in our next lesson.

Also in our next lesson we will begin to learn more about the use of each gift. However, a look at the general purpose for all of these gifts of ministry will be helpful now. Paul gives it to us in Ephesians 4:12, he did this “to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.”

**4** Read 1 Corinthians 12:27-30. Circle the letter before each TRUE statement below.

- a** The Bible gives an exact list for each group of spiritual gifts.
- b** All of the spiritual gifts seem to be closely related.
- c** A gift in one group may be similar to a gift in another group.
- d** All spiritual gifts do not come from God.
- e** The gifts of ministry are speaking with tongues, faith, and working of miracles.
- f** Pastors and teachers can also be listed as teaching pastors.

## Other Ministry Gifts

Next in our three groups of spiritual gifts we have *other ministry gifts*. Before going on to find what gifts are included in this group, let’s remind ourselves of the three groups:

1. Gifts of Ministry
2. Other Ministry Gifts
3. Gifts of the Spirit

All of the gifts under Other Ministry Gifts are named in either Romans 12 or 1 Corinthians 12. They may not be as easily recognized as the gifts of ministry or some of the gifts of the Spirit. This does not mean they are unimportant. In every case they meet a special need in the body. Think of your heart. It is rather small. It is not seen. It cannot speak. Does that mean it is unimportant? No. Without it your hands, your feet, your head, and every other part of your body could not do its duty.

The smallest part has an important function. It serves the good of the whole body. It may or may not be seen. But that is not what makes it important. What makes it important is that it serves the purpose for which it was placed in the body. Without it the body might be unhealthy and unable to do its duty. This is also true of the other ministry gifts in relation to the whole body of believers.

Included in this group which we call Other Ministry Gifts are (KJV):

1. Ministering
2. Teaching
3. Exhorting
4. Giving
5. Ruling (Governments)
6. Showing mercy
7. Helps

**5** Read Romans 12:6-13; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 1 Corinthians 12:22-25. Fill in the blanks in the following statements.

- a** The three groups of gifts are: .....
- .....
- b** The thing which makes a gift important is that it serves the ..... for which it was given.
- c** Three of the other ministry gifts are: .....
- .....
- 6** The ministry gifts we have listed under other ministry gifts are important in that they
  - a)** are easier to understand.
  - b)** serve the purpose for which they are needed.
  - c)** are easily recognized as being important gifts of ministry.

## Gifts of the Spirit

All spiritual gifts come from God. There is a group of special gifts called the Gifts of the Spirit. These are supernatural in a special way. The word *supernatural* comes from two words: 1) *super*, meaning “above,” and 2) *natural*, meaning “that which follows the ordinary course of nature.” It refers to the spiritual world or to God. Therefore, when we say the gifts of the Spirit are supernatural we mean they have their source in God and their power comes from God.

For example, let’s think about the gift of tongues. Our experience and observation says a person has an ability to learn a language. But we do not expect him to speak a language he has not yet learned. Yet when given the gift of tongues, a person can speak a language which he has never learned. Thus we say his gift is supernatural. He is able to speak with a special ability and power that comes from God.

The gifts of the Spirit are all supernatural. That is, they are not possible by human means. No human abilities can reproduce them. Included in this group of the gifts of the Spirit are:

1. Word of wisdom
2. Word of knowledge
3. Faith
4. Gifts of healing
5. Working of miracles
6. Prophecy
7. Discerning of spirits
8. Gift of tongues
9. Interpretation of tongues

**7** According to 1 Corinthians 12, all spiritual gifts are given by

- a)** believers.
- b)** God.
- c)** teachers.
- d)** apostles.

**8** The term “supernatural,” as we have studied, means

- a)** human talent.
- b)** that which we learn, or acquire.
- c)** above the ordinary course of nature.

**9** Speaking in an unknown heavenly language come

- a)** as a gift from God for a definite purpose.
- b)** from our human abilities.
- c)** by learning a natural law.

**10** Circle the letter preceding each TRUE statement below.

- a** Gifts of ministry and other ministry gifts are somewhat different from gifts of the Spirit.
- b** Other ministry gifts are unimportant.
- c** All spiritual gifts are important to us because they serve a purpose for the body of believers.

**11** Below are listed a number of spiritual gifts. On the line before each one, place an **M** if it is a Gift of Ministry, an **OM** if it is an Other Ministry Gift and an **S** if it is a Gift of the Spirit.

... **a** Prophecy

... **b** Pastor

... **c** Tongues

... **d** Giving

... **e** Faith

... **f** Helps

... **g** Apostles

... **h** Gifts of healing

... **i** Teachers

... **j** Exhorting

## self-test

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SHORT ANSWER. Complete the following statements by writing in the proper words on the lines provided.

**1** What were the three principles given to you in this lesson that you should be aware of regarding spiritual gifts?

**a** .....

**b** .....

**c** .....

**2** Name three things which knowledge does in relation to using the spiritual gifts.

**a** .....

**b** .....

**c** .....

**3** Using your Bible, list the five gifts of ministry and give the Scripture reference where they are listed.

**a** .....

**b** .....

**c** .....

**d** .....

**e** .....

Reference .....

**4** Name four Other Ministry Gifts.

**a** .....

**b** .....

**c** .....

**d** .....

**5** Without using your Bible, list the nine gifts of the Spirit.

- a** .....
- b** .....
- c** .....
- d** .....
- e** .....
- f** .....
- g** .....
- h** .....
- i** .....

**6** Write 1 Corinthians 13:1-2 from memory below.

.....

.....

.....

**MULTIPLE CHOICE.** There is only one correct answer for each question. Circle the letter of the correct answer.

**7** Right knowledge about spiritual gifts is important because it

- a)** makes us able to answer questions about them.
- b)** gives faith a good foundation.
- c)** helps us name the gifts.

**8** Faith is produced by

- a)** love.
- b)** knowledge.
- c)** talents.

**9** The Ephesians had not been baptized in the Holy Spirit because

- a)** they did not want to be.
- b)** the baptism was not for them.
- c)** they did not know about it.



## ***answers to study questions***

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- 1**   **a**   faith.  
      **b**   Bible knowledge.  
      **c**   spiritual gifts.
- 6**   **b)**   serve the purpose for which they are needed.
- 2**   **a**   True.  
      **b**   False.  
      **c**   False.
- 7**   **b)**   God.
- 3**   **a**   faith, experience.  
      **b**   knowledge.  
      **c**   experience.
- 8**   **c)**   above the ordinary course of nature.
- 4**   **a**   False.  
      **b**   True.  
      **c**   True.  
      **d**   False.  
      **e**   False.  
      **f**   True.
- 9**   **a)**   as a gift from God for a definite purpose.
- 5**   **a**   gifts of ministry, other ministry gifts, and gifts of the Spirit.  
      **b**   purpose.  
      **c**   exhortation, ruling, giving, showing mercy, loving, helps (any three of the above would be acceptable).
- 10** **a**   True.  
      **b**   False.  
      **c**   True.

- 11 a** S  
**b** M  
**c** S  
**d** OM  
**e** S  
**f** OM  
**g** M  
**h** S  
**i** M  
**j** OM

## Your Notes



# UNIT TWO:

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## UNDERSTANDING MINISTRY GIFTS

### Lessons

- 3** Apostles and Prophets
- 4** Evangelists and Pastor-Teachers
- 5** Gifts of Ministering, Teaching, Exhorting
- 6** Gifts of Giving, Ruling, Mercy, Helping

# LESSON 3 Apostles and Prophets

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In the past two lessons we have been building a base for understanding the spiritual gifts. We have seen the importance of knowledge and faith in relation to the gifts. We have also noted that our knowledge and faith determine and govern our experience. Now that we have gained this understanding and have become somewhat acquainted with the classification of the gifts, we are ready to begin our study of the first group—the gifts of ministry.

As we progress through this lesson we will learn the range and function of each of these gifts. We will learn how each gift plays a large part in developing the body of believers.

You, as a Christian, will soon develop the ability to recognize the various gifts of ministry. Beyond that, as your knowledge grows, you may be able to sense God's hand upon your own life.

## ***lesson outline***

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He Gave Some Apostles

The Giver Identified

The Receiver Revealed

The Function Expounded

The Development Explained

He Gave Some Prophets

The Giver Identified

The Receiver Revealed

The Function Expounded

The Development Explained

## ***lesson objectives***

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When you finish this lesson you should be able to:

- Name the giver of all spiritual gifts, and explain the function of the gift of the apostles.
- Explain the function of a prophet.

## ***learning activities***

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1. Before beginning to study this lesson read Ephesians 4:1-16 carefully three times.
2. In your notebook copy Ephesians 4:11 and underline each of the five gifts of ministry.
3. Refer to the list of word definitions at the end of your study guide for the meaning of the words in the key words list.
4. Complete each study question as you come to it.
5. Complete the self-test at the end of the lesson. If you find you did not give a correct answer, do not go on to the next lesson until you can answer every question correctly. Refer back to the lesson for the help you need.

## ***key words***

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expounded  
identified

inspiration  
revealed

etched

lesson development

HE GAVE SOME APOSTLES

**Objective 1.** *Name the giver of all spiritual gifts, and explain the function of the gift of the apostles.*

The Giver Identified

Giver	Gift	Receiver
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When a gift is given, it involves two parties: (1) a giver, and (2) a receiver. The importance of a gift depends on *who* gave it and *what* it is. When the queen of England visited the United States during the time Dwight D. Eisenhower was president he gave her a most beautiful hand-etched glass vase. He paid a glass company in New York State a big price for it. We can be sure it found an important place among the queen’s treasured possessions. There are two reasons: (1) it was the gift from an important man, and (2) it was a beautiful, valuable gift.

The gift of apostles is important for similar reasons. First, it is important for *who* gave it, and second, it is important for *what* it is. This last reason will be considered later. Now we want to learn who “gave some to be apostles.”

In Ephesians 4:11, the giver is simply identified as “he.” We will need to discover who “he” refers to. Verse 8 in the same chapter lets us know that the quotation is from Psalm 68:18. Then in verse 7 we come upon a clear explanation, “But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.” We therefore conclude that Christ is the Giver of the gifts of ministry. We will learn more about Him as the Giver as we study this chapter.

- 1 Circle the letter before each TRUE statement below.
- a A gift involves only one party.
- b The importance of a gift is understood by who gave it and what it is.
- c In Romans 12 we learn who gave the gifts of ministry.
- d Christ “gave some to be apostles.”



## The Receiver Revealed

Earlier in the lesson we learned that in every gift two parties are involved, (1) a *giver* and (2) a *receiver*. We have already discovered that Christ is the Giver of the gifts of ministry. In this section we will find out who the receiver is.

The answer is twofold. If we were to look only at Ephesians 4:8 we would decide that the gifts of ministry are given to men. “When he went up to the very heights, he took many captives with him; he gave gifts to mankind.” However, we must look beyond a single verse to discover the whole truth. This is a good lesson to remember for understanding what the Bible teaches. A single verse may give only part of the truth as in this case. By reading the whole passage (Ephesians 4:1-16) we discover that Paul has in mind the whole church, the whole body. In verse 4 he says, “there is *one* body.” In verse 12, he speaks of *the whole body*. This helps us understand that the gifts of ministry are given to individuals in the body and are for the whole body.

<b>CHRIST</b>	<b>gifts of ministry</b>	<b>to individuals in the body  for the good of the whole body</b>
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To the individual is given the calling and special ability to be an apostle. To the body is given the apostle himself, for the purpose of fulfilling his office. Read Ephesians 2:10 and 3:5.

**2** To discover the correct meaning of a verse it is best to study

- a)** the verse alone.
- b)** an entire passage.
- c)** at least two verses.

**3** Apostles are

- a)** certain books of the Bible.
- b)** special men in the body.
- c)** everybody in the body.

- 4** The gift of ministry as an apostle
- a)** is given to an individual for his own edification.
  - b)** was meant for the original twelve apostles alone.
  - c)** is given to an individual to edify the church.

## The Function Expounded

The gift of ministry known as apostles is one of the most important offices in the body. By office we mean place of responsibility, or duty. This gift is listed first, perhaps because it has to do with founding and overseeing.

We understand there are two kinds of apostles. First, there was a very special group of believers bearing this title. There were only twelve of them. When one of them, Judas, betrayed his Lord and lost his place as an apostle, he was replaced by another. "Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles" (Acts 1:26).

To qualify for this first position, as an apostle, each man had to meet a certain condition. Luke, the writer of Acts, states this in Acts 1:21-22, "Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us." However, we are not certain that the Lord made that requirement. It could have been an idea agreed upon by the eleven.

We are now faced with a hard question. Was Paul an apostle like the twelve? Some questions are not easy to answer. As Bible students we have to learn that some of our questions may not be answered until we get to heaven. However, we must not let this stop us from searching for the answers. Searching sharpens our minds. It makes us better servants of our Lord.

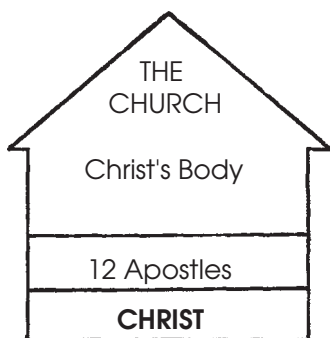
Now, back to the apostle Paul. By his own testimony we judge he thought of himself as such an apostle. Here are some of the references where Paul clearly places himself among them.

1. “For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession” (1 Corinthians 4:9). By using the term *us* Paul seems to consider himself as one of them.
2. “Don’t we have the right to take a believing wife along with us, as do the *other* apostles?” (1 Corinthians 9:5). Here the word “other” indicates he was of the group.
3. “For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle” (1 Corinthians 15:9). The key word here is “least” which plainly places him among them. He could not have been the least of them unless he had been one of them.

Some Bible students feel the group, meeting in the upper room, made a mistake in appointing Matthias. They believe that Paul was the Lord’s choice to take Judas’ place. We cannot say for sure. Many wonder whose name will appear on the twelfth foundation-stone in the new Jerusalem. Will it be Matthias or Paul? “The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.” (Revelation 21:14). We shall see when we get there.

The twelve apostles had a function which no other member in the body of Christ will ever have. They had a part in the founding of His church in the world. Also several of them wrote books found in our New Testament.

While the twelve apostles have very special functions as apostles, there is also the gift of ministry known as apostle. We must not feel the two are the same, though they are somewhat alike. The place of the twelve in the body was very special. It was never to be repeated. But the gift of ministry called “apostles” was to be a gift through the whole period of building the church, or body.



The apostles are given by Christ to His body to do a special work. Men do not decide to be apostles any more than a chunk of clay decides to be a piece of pottery. Those who are true apostles may not even think of themselves in that way. What they do makes others able to recognize them as apostles. Those who call themselves apostles, or who are appointed to be apostles by men, may not be apostles at all. "You have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false." (Revelation 2:2). (See also 2 Corinthians 11:13).

The meaning of the word *apostle* will help us understand who are apostles and what their function really is. The word *apostle* means "to send away," or "to send forth." Both Matthew and Mark use the word *apostle* only once each (Matthew 10:2; Mark 6:30). In each case the word points to a special kind of work—the work of a missionary. In this way both the twelve apostles and the gift of apostles are alike.

An apostle, therefore, is one who is sent forth by the Lord to carry the gospel into new places. His work is to lay the foundation for a new part of the body. Also included in his task is building up the body and overseeing the body. He did this "to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up" (Ephesians 4:12).

For example, Ken Gates went as a missionary to the Northwest Territories in Northern Canada. Before he went some people tried to discourage him. Some of his teachers told him he would never be a preacher. They would never have thought

of him as material for an apostle. The people to whom he went to minister did not welcome him. They tried to make him leave. But Ken knew God had sent him. So he stayed. Today there are many wonderful believers in that country, and many churches. Ken Gates planted the church there. He has helped the believers grow and develop. He has also watched over the work of the Lord like a father. He would never think of calling himself an apostle. Yet those who know him and his work know that he is truly an apostle.

**5** The original twelve apostles are different from modern day apostles in this way: The original twelve

- a)** made themselves apostles.
- b)** only engaged in missionary work.
- c)** wrote books of the New Testament.

**6** The function of apostles today is to

- a)** write more books for the New Testament.
- b)** carry the gospel to new places and oversee the development of God's work there.
- c)** study hard to be good preachers.

## The Development Explained

Apostles are not ready-made. They are first believers. They may sense God's call strongly upon their lives, but they usually have no idea they are going to be Christ's special gifts to the church.

When God chooses a person to be an apostle, He gives time for the person to grow and get ready for the task. Paul did not fill the office of an apostle when he was first saved. However, God did put it in his heart that he had a special work to do. "Then he said: 'The God of our fathers has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth. You will be his witness to all men of what you have seen and heard'" (Acts 22:14-15).

It is true, Paul was a special kind of apostle. Yet the way in which he was prepared to be an apostle is much the same as the way a believer is prepared today.

There are several steps in this preparation.

1. *Suffering.* Some believers are not able to become apostles. They are not willing to suffer, as may be necessary in an apostle's preparation. Paul had a word about this long before he became an apostle. "I will show him how much he must suffer for my name" (Acts 9:16). Suffering prepares people in a special way to be leaders in Christ's body. Those who have not suffered cannot minister to others as those who have suffered. Those who are unwilling to suffer are not prepared to go with the gospel into new places where they may have to suffer much. Suffering prepares people for more suffering.

2. *Increasing.* Even Jesus while He was being prepared for His ministry increased. "And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men" (Luke 2:52). When we say His ministry *increased*, we mean it grew or was added to. Thus Jesus grew in wisdom and stature. He added to His wisdom and stature. If this was necessary for Him, how much more is it necessary to the apostle's preparation? Paul was prepared by increasing. "Yet Saul (another name for Paul) grew more and more powerful" (Acts 9:22). The word *strength* used here seems to especially mean "spiritual strength." He must know the mighty power of God in a very real way. Again, if Paul the great apostle needed this kind of preparation, we can be sure all other apostles will also need it.

3. *Learning.* Learning is important to every believer. It is more important to apostles because they are leaders in Christ's body. Again let's think about Paul. He is a good example. Before he became an apostle, he had to spend a period of time in the desert learning (See Galatians 1:16-18). At the end of that time, Paul was ready to begin a more effective witness for the Lord.

**7** Circle the letter before each TRUE statement below.

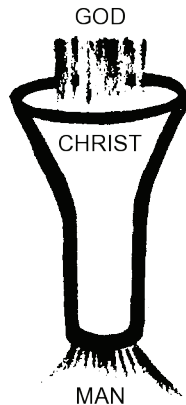
- a** Men are born apostles.
- b** Those who become apostles need preparation beforehand.
- c** Paul was an apostle as soon as he was converted.
- d** Suffering may be necessary in the preparation of an apostle.

## HE GAVE SOME PROPHETS

**Objective 2.** *Explain the function of a prophet.*

### The Giver Inspiration

We have already learned that Christ is the giver of all gifts of ministry. For this reason every gift is important. What is true of the gift of apostles is also true of the gift of prophets, and of each of the other gifts of ministry. Each gift is given by Christ to His body. The ability and the calling to be such a gift is given by Christ to certain members of His body. We can say He gives ministers to His body.



Not everyone is to be an apostle or a prophet. The Bible says, He gave *some* apostles and *some* prophets. The word *some* makes it clear that not *all* are apostles and not *all* are prophets. He gives some to fill each office. This reminds us of Paul's question, "If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be?" (1 Corinthians 12:17).

Think about the giver. We read in 1 Corinthians 12:28, "And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets." In Ephesians the giver is said to be God. Later in Ephesians, the giver is said to be Christ. How are we to understand this? There really is no problem. Christ is God, since He is one of the three persons in the Trinity. Trinity means

three in one—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Second, all gifts which God gives, He gives through Christ. Read James 1:17 and Ephesians 4:1-11.

**8** Write **T** in the blank before each true statement below and **F** if it is false.

- ... **a** Every member in the body is to be a prophet.
- ... **b** Only some members of the body are called to be prophets.
- ... **c** God gives the gifts of ministry through Christ.

## The Receiver Revealed

In one way the receiver of this gift—the gift of ministry called prophet—is the body of Christ. In another way the person who is called a prophet is the receiver. The prophet is both called and prepared to become Christ’s gift to the body.

Does a person have anything to do with becoming a prophet? Does God pick certain people for this high office or place of service without a reason? We understand God has a right to do this. “Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, ‘Why did you make me like this?’” (Romans 9:20). But there is a difference between a believer and a clay pot. The believer has a will of his own. That is, he has the power of choice. What happens to a believer is at least partly his own choice. His attitude of heart is also related to God’s choice. A clay pot does not have an attitude. People do. *Attitude* means “ways of thinking, acting, or feeling.” God knows our wills. He also knows our way of thinking, acting, or feeling. He considers these things when He chooses prophets.

David was an Old Testament king. He was also a prophet. Old Testament prophets were somewhat different from New Testament prophets. Yet, we can learn much by thinking about why God chose David to be a special gift to His people, Israel. By reading the Old Testament account, we find David was not chosen for his age, his place in his family, his experience, or his outward appearance. In his day men would have chosen



Eliab, his elder brother. Elder brothers were, by custom, chosen ahead of their younger brothers for places of leadership. Though David was youngest, God chose him for a high place of leadership. Why? He was good to look upon, but he was not chosen for that reason. He was young, but that was not the reason either. The answer is in Acts 13:22: "I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do." He was chosen to be both a king and a prophet because God saw his will and attitude.

Prophets and other gifts of ministry are prepared and given to the body of Christ because God sees the inward qualities. Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Acts 22:14.

**9** According to Acts 13:22, David was chosen for a *special* reason. Circle the letter before the correct reason below.

- a)** He was the prophet of Samuel's choice.
- b)** He was the youngest son.
- c)** He was good to look upon.
- d)** He had the heart attitude God was looking for.
- e)** He had experience herding sheep, so he would be a good leader for God's people.

## The Function Expounded

The gift of ministry known as *prophet* has two main functions: (1) foretelling, which means "to tell about an event before it takes place," and (2) forthtelling, which means "to tell forth, to speak out." A prophet is one who speaks by inspiration. That is, he speaks out as he is led the Holy Spirit. He also is one who expounds God's message to the people. *Expounds* means "gives the meaning." One is speaking as a prophet only when he gives the meaning of God's message as it is given by the Holy Spirit.

A prophet is one who predicts. The term "predict" means the same as "foretell." The Old Testament prophets often foretold events before they came to pass. Then they gave the meaning of the message from God to the people.

The New Testament prophet's function is much the same. He also speaks God's message to the people and then gives the meaning. But there is some difference. The Old Testament prophet's words were not usually found in the Word of God already given (although they were not contrary to that Word). Only occasionally does he quote from a written record. The New Testament prophet, however, most often brings challenge and encouragement based on truths already received. The ministry of Judas and Silas in Acts 15:32 is a good example. Thus the prophet brings a special message from God by His Spirit to meet the needs of the people at the particular time.

There are also times when the New Testament prophet receives a message from God that foretells the future. In the book of Acts a man named Agabus is called a prophet. "After we had been there a number of days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea." (Acts 21:10). Twice we are told of his foretelling coming events. Agabus "stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.)" (See Acts 11:28.) For the second account read Acts 21:11.

The prophet who foretells can be tested to see if his message is from God. If his prophecy does not come to pass he is speaking out of his own heart. "But a prophet who predicts peace can only be recognized as a prophet whom the Lord has truly sent when the prophets' predictions come true" (Jeremiah 28:9).

Peter is a good example of the New Testament prophet as a forthteller. He was one of the twelve apostles. He was also a prophet. Sometimes a man is gifted in more than one way. After the Holy Spirit was poured out, as it is described in Acts 2:1-12, a great crowd gathered to see what was happening. "What does this mean?" they asked. Then Peter spoke as a prophet. He told forth God's message as he was led upon by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit brought to his mind the prophecy of God from the Old Testament. Peter did not have time to plan what he was

going to say. He just spoke forth. He was also given the ability by the Holy Spirit to give the meaning of the message.

The prophet's most important function is set forth in Ephesians 4:12, "to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up." The person who speaks forth the message of God, as he is breathed upon by the Holy Spirit, serves both purposes well. First he helps God's people get ready for Christian service. When people sense the Holy Spirit upon a teacher they learn much. They learn from what is said. They learn from the Spirit by whom the message comes.

**10** Circle the letter before each statement which completes the sentence correctly. The function of a prophet is to

- a) walk proudly among the people.
- b) become known as a great leader.
- c) give the people God's message.
- d) explain God's message to the people.

## The Development Explained

Usually God's gifts function best through people who have prepared well. Think of Peter's message again. He was prepared by being filled with the Holy Spirit. His knowledge of God's Word was an important part of the development also.

There are three important steps in the development of a prophet.

1. *Praying daily.* A prophet who does not pray will soon be no prophet at all. Praying makes it possible to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Unless a person is filled with the Holy Spirit, he cannot be a prophet. Praying also helps him to recognize when he is being moved upon by the Holy Spirit.

2. *Knowing God's Word.* A prophet increases his usefulness as he increases his knowledge of God's Word. "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15).

A prophet is a teacher when he speaks forth God's message.

3. *Using the gift.* As the muscles in our legs and arms are developed by using them, so the gifts received from Christ are developed by using them. When the prophet begins to speak forth, he may be fearful. This does not mean he is not speaking by the Spirit. It only means he needs to learn more about allowing the Spirit to use him more freely. As a gift is used, it is more fully developed.

**11** Circle the letter before the statement which best describes how a prophet can develop his gift.

- a)** Preparing and winning God's approval.
- b)** Praying and beginning to use the gift.
- c)** Studying all he can about prophets.
- d)** Reading in God's Word about prophets who did not please God.

***self-test***

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**1** Match each definition on the right with the word on the left by writing the correct number in the blank space.

- |                        |                            |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| ... <b>a</b> Expound   | 1) Tell forth or speak out |
| ... <b>b</b> Will      | 2) To send forth           |
| ... <b>c</b> Forthtell | 3) Choose                  |
| ... <b>d</b> Foretell  | 4) Predict                 |
| ... <b>e</b> Apostle   | 5) Give the meaning        |

**2** The giver of all spiritual gifts is .....

**3** Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement.

- a** Paul became an apostle as soon as he accepted Christ as his Savior.
- b** Not everyone is called to be a prophet or an apostle.
- c** The function of an apostle today is no different from that of the original twelve apostles.
- d** The church determines which of its members are worthy to receive the gifts of ministry.
- e** Gifts are not developed the moment they are received; they are developed as they are used.

**4** What are two primary responsibilities of apostles?

.....

.....

**5** What are the two main functions of a prophet?

.....

.....

***answers to study questions***

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- 1 a** False.  
**b** True.  
**c** False.  
**d** True.
- 7 a** False.  
**b** True.  
**c** False.  
**d** True.
- 2 b)** an entire passage.
- 8 a** F  
**b** T  
**c** T
- 3 b)** special men in the body.
- 9 d)** He had the heart attitude God was looking for.
- 4 c)** is given to an individual to edify the church.
- 10 c)** give the people God's message.  
**d)** explain God's message to the people.
- 5 c)** wrote books of the New Testament.
- 11 b)** Praying and beginning to use the gift.
- 6 b)** carry the gospel to new places and oversee the development of God's work there.

## Your Notes

# LESSON 4 Evangelists and Pastor-Teachers

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In our last lesson we studied two of the gifts of ministry—apostles and prophets. We discovered there were two kinds of apostles. First, there was a special group called the twelve apostles. They worked with Jesus in planting the church. Some of them wrote books of the New Testament. Those in the second group are listed in Ephesians 4:11; they were to go forth into new territory planting and developing the body of Christ. However, none of them were to write Scripture, for that work was completed when the books in the New Testament were complete. We also learned that the prophet had a twofold task—forth telling and foretelling. Now we are ready to learn about the three remaining gifts in this group.

This lesson will acquaint us with the gifts of ministry known as evangelists, and pastor-teachers. We will study about pastors and teachers in a single section, since it is commonly accepted that both gifts apply to one ministry.

It is evident many people are used of the Lord in these gifts of ministry. Therefore, it is very possible you will sense the Lord's hand leading you into one of them.

## ***lesson outline***

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He Gave Some Evangelists

The Giver Identified

The Receiver Revealed

The Function Expounded

The Development Explained



He Gave Some Pastor-Teachers  
The Giver Identified  
The Receiver Revealed  
The Function Expounded  
The Development Explained

### ***lesson objectives***

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When you have finished this lesson you should be able to:

- Identify the gift of ministry known as an evangelist, and describe in a brief paragraph the function of an evangelist.
- Describe the gift of ministry known as pastors and teachers.
- List and explain the purposes and functions of all gifts of ministry.
- Sense whether or not the Lord is working in your own life to develop ministries.

### ***learning activities***

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1. Read Acts 7 and 8; 1 Timothy 4:1-16.
2. Continue memorizing 1 Corinthians 13. When you have completed this lesson you should be able to quote verses 1-7.
3. Read this new lesson through slowly. Underline important items.
4. Refer to the back of your book for definitions of words you do not understand.
5. Complete each study question as you come to it. If you make any mistakes do not go on with the lesson until you have learned the correct answers.
6. Take the self-test at the end of the lesson. Check your answers carefully with the list of correct answers. Review any items which you answer incorrectly.

key words

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- |              |                   |
|--------------|-------------------|
| coupled      | martyr            |
| reproduction | self-centeredness |

lesson development

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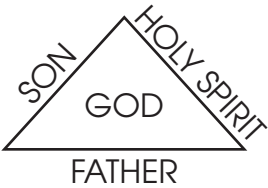
HE GAVE SOME EVANGELISTS

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**Objective 1.** *Identify the gift of ministry known as an evangelist, and describe in a brief paragraph the function of an evangelist.*

The Giver Identified

While studying our first lesson on the gifts of ministry, we learned that Christ is the giver of these gifts. We saw, too, that there is no conflict between Ephesians 4:11 and 1 Corinthians 12:28 regarding who gives these gifts. That is, we understood that Christ and God are the same because God is three persons in one—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Christ is the second person in the Godhead. Therefore, it is correct to say that Christ is God.



Now, we want to learn some more about the Giver. In Ephesians 4, He, Christ, is identified as the Head, “we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ” (verse 15). Everything which reaches the body comes through the Head. This includes both the gifts of ministry and the nourishment for the body. “Under Christ’s control the whole body is nourished and held together by its joints and ligaments, and it grows as God wants it to grow” (Colossians 2:19).

Our natural head serves three general functions: (1) it knows, (2) it sees to it that needs are met, and (3) it controls.

These same functions apply to Christ in relation to the gifts of ministry.

### ***The Head Knows the Needs of the Body***

Our feet do not know the needs of the physical body. Neither do our arms, our legs, nor any other part of our body. Sometimes, in the body of Christ, members take it upon themselves to select certain members to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, or pastors and teachers. That is like the foot telling the hand what its function is to be. It is only Christ, the Head, who knows the needs of His body. He can decide what members of His body can minister to those needs. The members of His body may help one another, but they cannot give spiritual gifts. Only He, the Head, is the giver.

### ***The Head Sees that the Body's Needs Are Met***

Sometimes our own head knows that our body needs more milk, because our bones break too easily. Then our head sees to it that milk is given to meet the need. In the same manner Christ, the Head, sees to it that the needs of His body are met.

### ***The Head Controls the Body***

Our head controls our own body. After it has seen to it that the needs of our body have been met, it gives direction to each part of the body. A healthy leg on our body does not decide what is good for the body. Instead it takes directions from our head to minister to the body's need. Likewise, Christ, after He has given gifts to His body, gives direction for their use.

**1** Circle the letter before the words below which best describe functions of the head.

- a** obeying
- b** controlling
- c** serving
- d** knowing
- e** providing

## The Receiver Revealed

For every gift there has to be a receiver. Again, we are reminded that both the individual member and the whole body are involved in receiving. While individual members are gifted to be evangelists, the gifted ones are given to the body.

Our interest now is in who are selected to be evangelists. Who receives this gift of ministry? There is a sense in which each believer is to be an evangelist. “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:15-16). Someone may say, “Oh, that does not apply to me. That command was given to the eleven disciples, who were the special apostles.” We must see another Scripture which was also spoken to the eleven, “and teaching them (that is, you apostles teach the new believers) to obey everything I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:20). It is true, the eleven received the command to “go throughout the whole world and preach.” But then they were commanded to teach the new believers obedience to every command. Thus, we conclude that all believers are to be evangelists.

However, the evangelist who has a gift of ministry is different in some ways.

God knows which members of the body He can best use as evangelists. Their ministries may not begin as evangelists. The first two evangelists we can identify in Acts, besides the apostles themselves, were Philip and Stephen. Both of them began as handlers of money. “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. <sup>3</sup>Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them. . . They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; [and] also Philip” (Acts 6:2-3, 5).

Others were also chosen for that work, but of the whole group, only Stephen and Philip became evangelists. Stephen was killed, possibly after his first evangelistic message. But

Philip is later called an evangelist in Acts 21:8, “we stayed at the house of Philip the evangelist.” Philip became an evangelist in about 33 A.D. He was still an evangelist in 60 A.D. This indicates that evangelism was his life’s work.

Part of the reason that Stephen and Philip were chosen for this great responsibility could have been their faithfulness to the work of the Lord. Read Luke 19:11-19 to learn how God rewards those who are faithful to their responsibility.

There were other reasons why these two believers were chosen by the Head to be evangelists. They were full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. “Stephen, a man full of God’s grace and power” (Acts 6:8).

Those chosen by the Head to be evangelists are chosen for several reasons. These include faithfulness, being full of the Holy Spirit, full of wisdom, full of faith, and full of power. Probably God looks for other qualities also. Let’s remember, too, that He knows who will have the right qualities, even before anyone else knows they have them. For example, He may call a young person to be an evangelist before that young person or anyone else knows he has the necessary qualities. He called Samuel to be a prophet in Israel when he was very young. (See 1 Samuel 3.)

The receiver, then, is a believer whom God knows is qualified, or whom God will qualify, for the task.

**2** The decision concerning who will be evangelists, with this special gift of ministry, is made by

- a)** the apostles.
- b)** the Head.
- c)** the body.
- d)** another member of the body.

**3** What are some of the qualities we might expect in those chosen to be evangelists? Circle the letters in front of the correct answers.

- a)** Full of faith and power
- b)** Ability to travel long distances
- c)** Faithful in the church
- d)** Full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom

## The Function Expounded

The evangelist's chief function is understood from the meaning of the word *evangelist*. *Evangelist* means "one who announces good tidings." There may be many kinds of good tidings in the world. The good tidings announced by the evangelist concerns the gospel. Paul gave a brief explanation of what the gospel is in 1 Corinthians 15:14. It includes three main points: (1) Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, (2) He was buried, and (3) He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.

While the evangelist's chief function is to tell the gospel, he has also another function. The telling of the gospel is usually intended for unbelievers. Yet, Paul, when speaking of the gifts of ministry in Ephesians 4, placed upon evangelists responsibility for preparing "God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up" (verse 12). One of the best ways this can be done, is by example. For us, there are good examples in the Bible.

The evangelist's function will be better understood if we examine the life and ministry of the one person called an evangelist in the Bible. That was Philip. Study this list of things about Philip carefully.

1. He went to Samaria and preached Christ (Acts 8:5).
2. He spoke to the people and performed miracles (Acts 8:6).
3. He brought joy to the city (Acts 8:8).
4. He baptized those who believed (Acts 8:12).

5. He obeyed the Lord regarding where he should minister (Acts 8:26-27).
6. He received definite directions from the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:29).
7. He shared the gospel with a lone individual (Acts 8:30-35).
8. He preached the gospel in many cities (Acts 8:40).
9. He evangelized his own family (Acts 21:9).

We can also learn some things about the evangelist and his ministry by examining the life and ministry of Stephen. The Bible does not call him an evangelist by his ministry. Note the following items:

1. He did great wonders and miracles among the people (Acts 6:8).
2. He acted with great wisdom and in the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 6:10).
3. He acted in a good way when he was persecuted (Acts 6:15).
4. He preached the Word of God clearly and with power (Acts 7:2,53).
5. He told the truth fearlessly, though it cost him his life (Acts 7:51-53).
6. He forgave his murderers (Acts 7:60).
7. He became the church's first martyr.

Not all evangelists have to have the same experiences as Philip and Stephen. But we can learn much about the basic function of this gift from them.

Another Scripture reference which should be examined is "do the work of an evangelist" (2 Timothy 4:5). Here is an indication that this gift is sometimes **coupled** with another gift. Timothy, who received the command, stated above, was a pastor. We will study the main function of a pastor in our next chapter. We should keep in mind that one who is a pastor

may also be an evangelist. These two ministries have much in common.

**4** Circle the letter before each TRUE statement below.

- a** Evangelist means “one who is sent.”
- b** Preaching the gospel is usually for unbelievers.
- c** An evangelist has only one function.
- d** Pastors should not try to do the work of evangelists.

## The Development Explained

Every gift of ministry, though it is given by Christ, needs to be developed. A baby may be a perfectly shaped human being, but that does not mean it is fully developed. It takes years of development before it is full grown. The gift of evangelism is a good and perfect gift from the Head of the body. Yet, before it reaches its full usefulness, much development is necessary.

Consider four steps in developing the gift.

### *Much Prayer*

The twelve apostles were also evangelists. Notice what the Bible says about their praying. We “will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.” (Acts 6:4). Read also Acts 3:2 and 10:9. Prayer enables the evangelist to be full of the Holy Spirit. When he is full of the Spirit his preaching brings results.

### *Much Study of God’s Word*

The Bible is the sword of the Spirit. (See Ephesians 6:17.) The Spirit can only use what we place in His hand. We place the “sword” in His hand to the degree that we know the Word. Preaching of God’s Word is the very heart of evangelism. (Read 2 Timothy 2:15.)

### *Much Learning to Hear and Obey God’s Voice*

The special leading of the Holy Spirit is very important to evangelism. (See Acts 8:29; 9:10-17; 16:6-11.) We learn by experience. Experience teaches us how to separate our own thoughts from what God may be saying to us.



## *Much Evangelizing*

There is no better way to develop the ministry gift of evangelism than by evangelizing. This can be seen in the ministry of C.M. Ward, who was one of the most able evangelists of our time. But, he was not always so able an evangelist. When first beginning his ministry, during one service he completely forgot what he had planned to say. He left the service without preaching. That did not mean he was not an evangelist. It did mean he needed more experience at evangelizing. He applied himself to this task year after year. He used his gift at every opportunity and became known as a most able evangelist.

- 5** Development of the ministry gift of evangelism involves
- a)** studying God's Word.
  - b)** learning to hear God's voice.
  - c)** evangelizing.

## **HE GAVE SOME PASTOR-TEACHERS**

**Objective 2.** *Describe the gift of ministry known as pastors and teachers.*

**Objective 3.** *List and explain the purposes and functions of all gifts of ministry.*

## **The Giver Identified**

Thus far in our study we have noted three special things about the One who gives the gifts of ministry.

1. We have learned that the Giver is Christ.
2. We have learned that the Giver, Christ, is also God.
3. We have learned that the Giver, Christ, is also Head of the body.

Now, we are ready to discover that the Giver, Christ, is also Savior of the body. "Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior" (Ephesians 5:23). Savior means "a deliverer." How does the Giver relate to the body as a deliverer in the gifts of ministry? We will note three different ways.

### *He Delivers from Ignorance*

Ignorance is the greatest hindrance to faith. Through His gift of teachers, the Head provides for this deliverance. The teacher imparts knowledge to take away the ignorance which hinders faith in the body.

### *He Delivers from Self-Centeredness*

One of the greatest functions of the pastor-teacher gift is to deliver members of the body from **self-centeredness**. This is done by leading them into the Christ-centered life.

### *He Delivers Them from Trials*

“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9). Trials are part of living. Even members of the body have trials. Through the pastor-teacher gift, the Giver delivers us from our trials. This does not mean that believers escape all trials at once. It does mean that through the pastor-teacher ministry they escape the defeat trials can bring. They learn to profit from their trials and to turn them into steps for more useful living.

These are only some of the Giver’s concerns as Savior of the body and as Giver of pastor-teachers.

- 6** Circle the letter before each TRUE statement below.
- a** The Giver of the gifts of ministry is called the Savior of the body.
  - b** Savior means discoverer.
  - c** One function of a pastor-teacher is to deliver believers from Christ-centeredness.
  - d** Pastor-teachers help believers profit from their trials.

## **The Receiver Revealed**

Of the gifts of ministry, the pastor-teacher is most common. That is, there are more pastor-teachers than apostles, prophets, and evangelists. The reason is that there is a need for more

of them in the body. The pastor-teacher is able to meet many needs of the body.

Who receives this gift? In our study of the other gifts of ministry, we have noted that the Head of the Church desires certain qualities in His ministers. These include such things as faithfulness, wisdom, faith, fullness of the Holy Spirit, and power. All of these are also important to the pastor-teacher gift. Yet, above all of these, one other quality is most necessary. This is the quality of loving and caring for people. That is why the term shepherd is so often used in reference to the pastor-teacher ministry. The shepherd loves and cares for his sheep.

The giver of this gift is Himself the Great Shepherd of the sheep. He is called the Chief Shepherd. Those who receive the pastor-teacher gift are to be under-shepherds. That is, they need the same loving and caring qualities as the Chief Shepherd, who is also the Savior of the body.

**7** Certain believers will receive the pastor-teacher gift. What quality does the Savior of the body look for when seeking men to be this gift to the body?

.....

.....

**8** How is a shepherd like a pastor-teacher?

.....

.....

## The Function Expounded

The Bible has more to say about the pastor-teacher gift than about any other gift of ministry. We discuss these two gifts, pastors and teachers, together because many Bible students agree they are one gift. The words mean: *pastor with a teaching ministry*.

In beginning our study of the pastor-teacher function, we must return to Ephesians 4:11-12, “some to be pastors and

teachers . . . to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."

We note that the *function* of the gifts of ministry is the preparation of God's people for ministry.

Several whole books of the New Testament are especially for pastors. They are called the pastoral epistles. The list includes the two epistles to Timothy and the epistle to Titus. They were written directly to pastors about their functions. You should read each book several times.

To help us understand the pastor-teacher function, we will use, as an illustration, the shepherd of a flock of sheep.

### ***The Shepherd Loves His Sheep and Is Willing to Lay Down His Life for Them***

Read John 10:11-15. The Chief Shepherd is the best example for the under-shepherd. The pastor-teacher is able to do little for his flock until he first loves them. Love is the basis for the fruitful function of all spiritual gifts.

### ***The Shepherd Feeds His Flock***

"Simon Peter . . . do you truly love me . . . ? Feed my lambs. Take care of my sheep" (John 21:15-16). When Peter wrote to the elders (pastors) in his first epistle, he instructed them to "Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing" (1 Peter 5:2).

The feed for the flock must be the kind that both the lambs and the sheep can eat. For the lambs, that is the new believers, there is the milk of God's Word. (See 1 Peter 2:2 and Hebrews 5:13.) For the mature sheep there must be solid food. (See 1 Corinthians 3:1-2, and Hebrews 5:14.)

Read Paul's instruction to Timothy, who was a pastor-teacher: "And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others" (2 Timothy 2:2). Several more times Paul instructed Timothy to teach. "Command and teach these

things” (1 Timothy 4:11). “These are the things you are to teach and urge on them.” (1 Timothy 6:2). “he must be . . . able to teach, not resentful.” (2 Timothy 2:24).

### ***The Shepherd Is a Leader for His Flock***

The shepherd of the sheep is required to lead them. The Bible says, “When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them” (John 10:4). The Chief Shepherd of God’s flock is the finest example for the pastor-teacher. As the Chief Shepherd is his example, so the pastor-teacher is to be an example to his flock “Not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.” (1 Peter 5:3). “set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity”(1 Timothy 4:12). A good leader goes ahead of those who follow, and becomes their example.

### ***The Shepherd Protects His Flock***

Read John 10:11-12. “Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers.<sup>1</sup> Be shepherds of the church of God . . . I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock” (Acts 20:28-29). This is a great responsibility of the pastor-teacher. The best protection he can give his flock is a solid understanding of God’s Word.

### ***The Shepherd Aims at Reproduction***

He wants his sheep to produce more sheep. Much of what he does is governed by that purpose. The pastor-teacher has a similar purpose in mind. Remember the words of the Chief Shepherd, “I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. . .” (John 10:16). This is why Paul wrote to Timothy, “Do the work of an evangelist” (2 Timothy 4:5). When the pastor-teacher functions as an evangelist two things happen. First, he brings new members into the body of Christ. Second, he, by his example, also teaches his flock how to bring new members into the flock.

**9** Circle the letter before each CORRECT answer when completing the following sentence. The pastor-teacher is like a shepherd because he

- a) loves and cares for his people.
- b) feeds his people the milk and solid food of God's Word.
- c) leaves his people to themselves so they will learn how to fight enemies.
- d) rules over them.

The *purpose* of **reproduction** is the building up of Christ's body. What is Christ's purpose for building up His body? Paul tells us what it is in Ephesians 4:13-16. Examine the passage carefully and note the following:

### ***Oneness of Faith***

What a great responsibility rests upon those with gifts of ministry. They are to labor at bringing the body of believers to unity of the faith. Unity means "oneness." (See Psalm 133:1.) The condition in which this oneness of faith is most easily reached is oneness of the Spirit. (See Ephesians 4:3.) Oneness of the Spirit is the soil in which oneness of the faith is best produced. Without oneness of the Spirit, oneness of faith is cold and dead. Oneness of the Spirit is not easily kept. It has to be worked at. It requires right relations with both Christ and with the members of His body. It requires an attitude of love and forgiveness.

Oneness of faith means "believing the same things." And this, in turn, means believing what the Bible teaches. Thus, part of the purpose for the gifts of ministry is to bring the body to oneness of faith.

### ***Oneness of Knowledge***

This is knowledge of a very special kind. It is "our knowledge of the Son of God" (Ephesians 4:13). It is not just knowledge about Christ. It means knowing Him. It means knowing Him in at least three ways. (See Philippians 3:10.)

1. To experience the power of His resurrection.
2. To share in His suffering.
3. To become like Him in His death.

The gifts of ministry are given also to bring the whole body to oneness in this important knowledge.

### ***A Mature People***

The King James Version says “a perfect man.” *Perfect* means “complete.” The tool to be used by those who are gifts to the church is all scripture. The blueprint to guide them in their work is “measure of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:13). Blueprint means “the plan which guides a builder.” There is an important relationship between this high purpose—developing a mature people—and the highest purpose of God for the Church. That purpose is that He might have many sons bearing the image of His Son in Glory. (See Romans 8:28-30.)

When the gifts of ministry function as they should, and believers are matured, new members will be added to the body. A healthy, mature body reproduces itself.

### **The Development Explained**

**Objective 4.** *Sense whether or not the Lord is working in your own life to develop ministries.*

Requirements for developing the pastor-teacher are nearly the same as the requirements for developing the evangelism gift.

**10** Describe in your own words how you can sense the Giver of this gift working in your life as a believer. (Use your notebook for your answer.)

Please review our studies relating to the development of the gifts of ministry.

**self-test**

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MULTIPLE CHOICE. Choose the correct answer(s) for each question. Circle the letter(s) of the correct answer(s).

- 1** The gifts of ministry are
- a)** pastor-teachers.
  - b)** unity of the Spirit.
  - c)** Apollos.
  - d)** evangelists.
  - e)** apostles.
  - f)** love.
  - g)** prophets.
- 2** In our lesson, we saw that the Giver of gifts of ministry was identified with some other names which help us understand more about Him. Circle the names or words which do not apply to Him.
- a)** Head
  - b)** Holy Spirit
  - c)** Body
  - d)** God
- 3** The principal function of the gifts of ministry is to build up the
- a)** pastor of a church.
  - b)** individual member of a church.
  - c)** church as a body.
- 4** We have seen that gifts of ministry can be developed. This can be done by
- a)** prayer.
  - b)** studying of God’s Word.
  - c)** learning to hear and obey God’s voice.
  - d)** using the gift.
- 5** Quote 1 Corinthians 13:5-6.

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***answers to study questions***

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- 1** **b** controlling.  
**d** knowing.  
**e** providing.
- 6** **a** True.  
**b** False.  
**c** False.  
**d** True.
- 2** **b**) the Head.
- 7** He looks for a believer who will love and care for the people.
- 3** **a**) Full of faith and power.  
**c**) Faithful in the church.  
**d**) Full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom.
- 8** A shepherd loves and cares for his sheep.
- 4** **a** False.  
**b** True.  
**c** False.  
**d** False.
- 9** **a**) loves and cares for his people.  
**b**) feeds his people the milk and solid food of God's Word.
- 5** **a**) studying God's Word.  
**b**) learning to hear God's voice.  
**c**) evangelizing.
- 10** Your answer.

# Other Ministry LESSON 5 Gifts: 1 Ministering, Teaching, Exhorting

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We have now completed our study of the four gifts we have called gifts of ministry. While the list in Ephesians 4 names five gifts, we have considered pastors and teachers as one.

In our last lesson we studied about evangelists and pastor-teachers. We learned that while every believer is to do the work of evangelizing, certain members have a special call to be evangelists. We saw also that more believers are likely to be pastor-teachers than any of the other three. Special attention was given to learning the purpose Christ has for giving us the gifts of ministry.

Now we are ready to study another grouping of the spiritual gifts—*other* ministry gifts. While there are many pastor-teachers, there are many more members of Christ's body who are not gifted for that office or for any of the others which we have considered. That does not mean they do not have spiritual gifts. In this lesson we will learn about other ministry gifts and see that many believers can have them.

You may not have sensed any special leading of the Holy Spirit in relation to one of the gifts of ministry. If not, it is very possible that before this lesson is finished you will recognize a gift which God has already given to you. Pray as you move through the lesson, that the Holy Spirit will guide you.

## ***lesson outline***

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### The Gift of Ministering

The Gift Defined

The Gift Explained and Illustrated

The Purpose for the Gift

### The Gift of Teaching

The Gift Defined

The Gift Explained and Illustrated

The Purpose for the Gift

### The Gift of Exhorting

The Gift Defined

The Gift Explained and Illustrated

The Purpose for the Gift

## ***lesson objectives***

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When you have finished this lesson you should be able to:

- Describe the gift of ministering and list some types of work which may be included in this gift.
- Explain the difference between the gift of teaching and the pastor-teacher gift.
- Describe the gift of exhorting.

## ***learning activities***

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1. Read Acts 1-6. As you go through each chapter, list in your notebook the different types of ministry you recognize. For example, in chapter 4 you will find the ministry of giving. See verses 34-37.
2. Continue memorizing 1 Corinthians 13. Write in your notebook verses 1-7 from memory. When you have finished with this lesson you should be able to quote the first eight verses.
3. Read this lesson through carefully. Underline items you especially want to remember.

- 4. Study the definitions of the words you do not fully understand in the key words list by looking them up in the glossary.
- 5. Do each test as you come to it. Go back in the lesson to find the correct answers for any questions you did not answer correctly.
- 6. Take the self-test at the end of the lesson. Check your answers with the list of correct answers. If a question was not answered correctly, be sure to find the correct answer before going on to the next lesson.

**key words**

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community	overlapping
confidence	translate

**lesson development**

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**THE GIFT OF MINISTERING**

**Objective 1.** *Describe the gift of ministering and list some types of work which may be included in this gift.*

As we prepare to move into this lesson, based on the list of gifts named mainly in Romans 12, a bit of explanation is necessary. It is very difficult to make exact groupings of spiritual gifts. Therefore, as we go from lesson to lesson, we will notice some overlapping. This need not worry us, for all of these gifts come from the same source.

In Romans 12 the list of gifts begins with prophecy. Since prophecy is named among the gifts of the Spirit, we will not give attention to it in this chapter. Near the end of 1 Corinthians 12 is a list of spiritual gifts. This list includes gifts from all three groupings.

## The Gift Defined

“... If it is serving, let him serve” (Romans 12:7). In the King James Version, the word for serve is “minister” or “ministering.”

The word *ministering* is used several times in the Greek New Testament. First it is used in Romans 12:7. Also, it is found in 2 Corinthians 8:4. “they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints.” In this case a group of people from the church in Macedonia wanted Paul and those who worked with him to join them in supplying the needs of some believers who were going through hard times.

The only other place the word *ministering* is used is in 2 Corinthians 9:1, (KJV). “There is no need for me to write to you about this service to the saints”. . . the idea there is the same as in 2 Corinthians 8:4. We conclude, then, that the gift of ministering generally has to do with serving the needs of others. This can have a very broad application. In one way the gift of ministering covers all of the other spiritual gifts. This is because all of the gifts are given to help us minister to others. In this lesson we will consider the gift mainly as it relates to serving the material needs of others.

**1** The word which best explains the meaning of ministering is

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## The Gift Explained and Illustrated

In Acts 9:36-41 is the story of Dorcas. She had the gift of ministering. She “was always doing good and helping the poor” (Acts 9:36). What kind of thing did she do? She sewed garments for poor widows. When she suddenly died Peter went to her house. “All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them” (Acts 9:39).

There are still many widows and orphans in the world. There are many needy people all around us. They can be found

in nearly every community. How wonderful when some of God's people have a gift of ministering like Dorcas had.

It is probable that Dorcas had natural talent for sewing and garment-making. Then, God, by His Holy Spirit, added to her talent and deep concern for people in need. The result was the gift of ministering. Just to have a talent is not enough. When God, through the Holy Spirit, can have our talents, He has a wonderful way of turning them into gifts of ministering.

We have already studied about Stephen and Philip. Both of them became evangelists. However, before the gift of evangelism came to them, they had the gift of ministering. We noted that they were chosen to handle the church's finances. Very likely each of them had some talent for handling money, but this was not a gift of ministering until the working of the Holy Spirit was added to it. Then they ministered to the need of the widows in the church.

Almost any natural talent can become a gift of ministering. This can happen if the person with the talent is filled with the Holy Spirit. For example, think of a person who has a talent for singing. Singing is not a gift of ministering. It is a talent. Yet, when the person with the talent is filled with the Holy Spirit, his talent can become a gift of ministering.

Do you have a talent? Give it to the Lord, and He can use it as a gift through which you may bless many people.

- 2** The difference between a talent and a gift of ministering is
- a)** you are born with gifts but not with talent.
  - b)** anyone may have a talent, but it is the Holy Spirit who works through one who has a gift of ministering.
  - c)** talents can be purchases, but gifts cannot.

## **w**The Purpose for the Gift

The gift of ministering is given to meet the need of people both inside and outside of the body of Christ. One of the most effective ways of winning people to Christ is, first, through ministering to their needs.

In John 9 we are told that Jesus healed a blind man. The blind man had a great need and Jesus ministered to it. Then Jesus, having won his confidence, said to him, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him” (John 9:35-36, KJV). What Jesus had done for the man in ministering to his physical need made him ready to believe.

When we truly minister to others’ needs, their needs are met, and the work of God prospers because of it.

**3** One of the best ways to reach a man’s heart with the gospel is to

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## THE GIFT OF TEACHING

**Objective 2.** *Explain the difference between the gift of teaching and the pastor-teacher gift.*

### The Gift Defined

“ . . . if it is teaching, let him teach”  
(Romans 12:7).

Teaching as it is used here means “showing how to do certain things: training, educating.” Therefore we understand that the gift of teaching means: (1) the gift of showing others how to do certain things, (2) the gift of training others how to do certain things, and (3) the gift of educating others, including giving knowledge.

The difference between the pastor-teacher and the gift of teaching is that the pastor-teacher gift is related to a leadership ministry. The gift of teaching, on the other hand, is not limited to certain church leaders. Any member of the body of Christ could have the teaching gift. Some are naturally talented to teach. When a person who has this talent is filled with the Holy Spirit, it is very possible he will discover that his talent has become a gift of teaching.

Does that mean that women, too, can teach? Yes. Some have had a question when they have read 1 Timothy 2:11-12. But Paul does not say a woman cannot have the gift of teaching. In writing to Titus, he says, “Likewise teach the older women...to teach what is good. . . .”

Paul’s statement is based upon the principle that women are not to have administrative authority over men in the church. If in a certain situation having women teach is not acceptable for this reason, then it is better not to give them this responsibility. It is not wrong for a woman to teach, but whenever a problem exists, it is better not to offend anyone. If a woman has the gift of teaching, she will seek the Lord for guidance, and allow the Holy Spirit to properly develop her gift.

**4 Teaching means**

- a)** instructing.
- b)** imparting knowledge.
- c)** being an example.
- d)** training.

**5 The gift of teaching can also be given to a woman if she**

- a)** demands it because of her talent.
- b)** allows the Holy Spirit to develop it properly.

## The Gift Explained and Illustrated

Teaching can be done in many ways. We will consider here only two of the most important ways.

### *Teaching Can Be Done by Example*

Paul wrote to the pastor-teacher, Titus, about this in Titus 2:3-5. Part of Titus’ work was to teach. He was to teach the older women how to teach the younger women. He was to do this by showing the older women how to be good examples to the younger women. Here is a list of things he told the older women to do:

They must behave as women who live a holy life.

They must not be slanderers (that is, they must



not tell lies to hurt someone else).  
They must not be slaves to wine.  
They must love their husbands.  
They must be self-controlled and pure.  
They must be good housewives.  
They must submit to their husbands.  
They must not speak evil of God's Word.

The older women could teach by speaking to the younger women. This they should do, but they could teach best by their example. This could be done in any culture. Teaching by example is showing others how to do things. For a Spirit-filled person, this can be the gift of teaching.

### ***Teaching Can Be Done by Imparting Knowledge***

This is what Jesus did so often. His "Sermon on the Mount," in Matthew chapter 5, says, "His disciples gathered round him, and he began to teach them." In His teaching He gave them knowledge about the kind of living that pleases God. Earlier in the course we saw how important knowledge is. We learned that it is the foundation for faith. Those who impart knowledge by teaching, are making faith possible. This is one of the most important functions of the gift of teaching.

The knowledge which the teacher is to give must be mainly knowledge of the Word of God. The teacher gives the meaning of the Word of God. The gift of teaching can be in operation when a parent teaches the Word of God to the children. It can be in operation when a Sunday school teacher or a Bible school teacher is teaching a class. Or it can be in operation when any believer teaches a friend or group of friends.

We should not overlook the possibility that a teacher in a public school, if he is filled with the Holy Spirit, can have the gift of teaching.

**6** Write **T** in the blank before each TRUE statement and **F** before each FALSE statement below.

- ... **a** Teaching can be done in many ways.
- ... **b** Teaching imparts knowledge which creates faith.
- ... **c** When we teach by behaving in a certain way, we are teaching by example.

## The Purpose for the Gift

The function of teaching is to impart knowledge. The purpose is to make faith, right-living, and doing possible. We know how important faith, right-living, and doing are to members of the body of Christ. Without them the body of Christ could not even exist. This helps us understand the great value of the gift of teaching.

- 7** The gift of teaching is important because
- a)** everybody can have it.
  - b)** it makes us a good example.
  - c)** it lays a good foundation for faith.

## THE GIFT OF EXHORTING

**Objective 3.** *Describe the gift of exhorting.*

### *The Gift Defined*

*Exhort* means “to call near or to call for.” When applied to the gift of exhorting, it means to call believers near to God, or to some purpose of God. It also means to call believers for certain action. The believer with the gift of exhorting, then, calls people near to God or to some purpose of God.

### The Gift Explained and Illustrated

“... if it is encouraging, let him encourage”  
(Romans 12:8). The word for *encourage* in the King James Version is “exhort.”

Thus far we have not given any attention to Paul’s instructions in Romans 12 regarding the gifts we are now

studying. We do not want to overlook this. In the King James Version he urges that those who have these gifts should *wait on* their gifts. What does he mean? He means they should develop and use their gifts. We should try to make our gifts as useful as possible. “He that exhorteth, (let him wait) on exhortation” (Romans 12:8, KJV). This means he should use his gift and try to improve it.

Many in the body of Christ may have the gift of exhortation. We will understand this as we look more closely at how the gift functioned in the early church. As we examine the Scriptures using the word *exhort* (KJV) we find it related to a call to believers. They are called

- 1) to be faithful and true to the Lord (Acts 11:23).
- 2) to continue in the faith (Acts 14:22).
- 3) to perform a certain task (2 Corinthians 9:5).
- 4) to abound more and more in pleasing the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:1).
- 5) to warn the unruly, to comfort the feeble-minded, to support the weak, to be patient toward all men, to not render evil for evil, to follow that which is good (1 Thessalonians 5:14-15).
- 6) to work and eat their own bread (2 Thessalonians 3:12).
- 7) to make supplication, prayer, and intercession for all men (1 Timothy 2:1).
- 8) to be sober-minded (Titus 2:6).
- 9) to contend for the faith (Jude 3).

All of these Scriptures together give us a good idea of the meaning of exhorting. Any believer who can help his brethren in some of the ways listed, can have the gift of exhorting. Apostles can exhort. Prophets, evangelists, and pastor-teachers can exhort. Almost every Spirit-filled believer can have the gift of exhorting.

All believers need to pay attention to Hebrews 3:13, “You must help one another every day.” The King James Version

says, “But exhort one another daily, while it is called *today*.” Those believers who help their brethren daily and who are filled with the Holy Spirit will surely experience joy in the Lord.

**8** Write **T** in the space before each TRUE statement Write **F** before each FALSE statement.

- ... **a** Any gift God gives us does not need to be developed.
- ... **b** The main thing we do when we exhort people is ask questions.
- ... **c** Only a few special people can be exhorters.
- ... **d** If we obey the Lord every day by helping other people, we may have the gift of exhorting.

The Purpose for the Gift

Exhortation serves many useful purposes in the body of Christ. Almost every believer needs to be exhorted often. Some people need to be exhorted quite often, especially those who are facing life’s trials and tests. We can say, then, that the purpose for the gift of exhorting is to call believers to a closer walk with God, or to call them to some purpose of God. Exhorting also means to call believers to some action which will help themselves or others in their walk with God.

**9** Most believers know about their own need of being called nearer to God, or about their need to be encouraged to do certain things. Believers can help one another through

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### ***self-test***

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TRUE-FALSE. Write **T** in the blank space before each true statement and **F** before each false statement.

- ... **1** Exact grouping of spiritual gifts is very important.
- ... **2** All spiritual gifts come from God.
- ... **3** Ministering means serving the needs of others.
- ... **4** Natural talents and spiritual gifts are the same.
- ... **5** Teaching means “showing how to do things.”
- ... **6** The gift of ministering cannot help evangelism.
- ... **7** A believer has to be a pastor to have the gift of teaching.
- ... **8** A parent in his home could have the gift of teaching.
- ... **9** Women must never teach in the church.
- ... **10** The teacher’s most important task is to give the knowledge of God’s Word.
- ... **11** Knowledge is the foundation for faith.
- ... **12** *Exhort* means the same as *evangelize*.
- ... **13** Believers can exhort each other.
- ... **14** The purpose for exhorting is to call people to a closer walk with God.

***answers to study questions***

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- 1** serving.
- 6** **a** True.  
**b** True.  
**c** True.
- 2** **b)** anyone may have a talent, but it is the Holy Spirit who works through one who has a gift of ministering.
- 7** **c)** it lays a good foundation for faith.
- 3** minister to his need.
- 8** **a** F  
**b** F  
**c** F  
**d** T
- 4** **a)** instructing.  
**b)** imparting knowledge.  
**c)** being an example.  
**d)** training.

All answers are correct.

- 9** the gift of exhorting.
- 5** **b)** allows the Holy Spirit to develop it properly.

## Your Notes

# Other Ministry Gifts: 2 Giving, Ruling, Showing Mercy, Helping

LESSON 6

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In our last lesson we studied three of the ministry gifts named in Romans 12. As we moved through the lesson we began to see how every member in the body of Christ receives benefits from the gifts. Some receive special gifts and all are blessed by gifts to the body.

Now we are ready to study four more ministry gifts. Each of these also has an important function and purpose. As our knowledge of these gifts increases, the blessing we receive from them also increases.

You will want to move through this lesson prayerfully, with your heart open to the Holy Spirit. Give praise to God as you sense the importance of the ministry gifts in your own life.

## ***lesson outline***

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### The Gift of Giving

- The Gift Defined

- The Gift Explained and Illustrated

- The Purpose for the Gift

### The Gift of Ruling

- The Gift Defined

- The Gift Explained and Illustrated

- The Purpose for the Gift

### The Gift of Showing Mercy

- The Gift Defined

- The Gift Explained and Illustrated

- The Purpose for the Gift



## The Gift of Helps

The Gift Defined

The Gift Explained and Illustrated

The Purpose for the Gift

### ***lesson objectives***

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When you finish this lesson you should be able to:

- Explain the purpose and function of the gift of giving.
- Explain the function and purpose of the gift of ruling.
- Explain the function and purpose of the gift of showing mercy.
- Explain the function and purpose of the gift of helps.

### ***learning activities***

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1. Continue memorizing 1 Corinthians 13. By the time you have finished this lesson you should be able to quote the first nine verses without looking at your Bible.
2. In your notebook make a list of the seven ministry gifts in this group.
3. Read this lesson carefully. Draw a circle around the word which names each gift as you come to it in the lesson. This will help you remember it.
4. Look up in the glossary any difficult words.
5. Do the self-test as you have done for each of the previous lessons.

### ***key words***

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confusion  
generous

intercession  
preside

substance  
sympathize

## ***lesson development***

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### **THE GIFT OF GIVING**

**Objective 1.** *Explain the purpose and function of the gift of giving.*

#### **The Gift Defined**

“Whoever shares with others should do it generously” (Romans 12:8). *Sharing* in the King James Version means *giving*.

Giving needs no definition. All of us understand what it means to give. However, *the gift of giving* does need defining. By *the gift of giving*, we mean the gift of God which enables a believer to freely and generously give of what he has to meet the needs of other people and God’s work. *The gift of giving* relates to our money, but it also relates to such things as our time, strength, and talents.

#### **The Gift Explained and Illustrated**

Although all Christians should be generous, some are gifted to give abundantly with great joy. The gift of giving comes from uniting man’s ability with God’s ability. Man’s ability is sometimes very limited. But God’s ability is unlimited. How wonderful it is when man’s little ability and God’s great ability come together. This is what happens in the development of the gift of giving.

We will get some very valuable help in understanding Christian giving in general and the gift of giving in particular, if we study carefully Paul’s discussion of the subject in 2 Corinthians 8 and 9. Here are some ideas we find in these verses:

1. *The gift of giving may be developed as we follow the example of others.* “...having given themselves first of all to the Lord, they (the Macedonians) gave themselves by the will of God also to us.” (2 Corinthians 8:5).

2. *The gift of giving is important in a believer's life.* “But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you —see that you also excel in this grace of giving.” (2 Corinthians 8:7).
3. *The gift of giving is not regulated by rules.* “I am not commanding you” (2 Corinthians 8:8).
4. *The gift of giving was best illustrated by the Lord Jesus Himself.* “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9).
5. *The gift of giving honors and deeply pleases the Lord.* “for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7).
6. *We are assured that our own need will be met.* “And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need...” (2 Corinthians 9:8).
7. *The gift of giving is an indication of the interest of the Lord in every good cause.* “you will abound in every good work” (2 Corinthians 9:8).
8. *The gift of giving makes possible a great reward.* This last point is not made in 2 Corinthians, but rather in Philippians 4:17, “I desire is that more be credited to your account” (that is in heaven).

In 1 Kings 17:8-16 there is a story which can teach us much about the gift of giving. Elijah, the prophet, went to see a widow woman during a time of famine. When he came to her house, he found her gathering sticks. He asked her for water and bread. She told him all she had in her house was “a handful of flour in a bowl and a drop of olive oil in a jar.” Then she added, “That will be our last meal, and then we will starve to death.”

We can be sure she thought she had *nothing* to give. But, Elijah taught her a great lesson. He asked the widow to use

what she had and make a loaf for him. If we didn't know the rest of the story we would say, "How terrible! The boldness of the prophet to ask such a thing of a poor widow!" Still, Elijah knew what God would do. So he asked that she give all she had. That was the key to a great discovery. Let's remember, we lay the foundation for the gift of giving when we give. The gift of giving does not just drop out of heaven into our hearts. To receive it we must act. We must give of what we have.

Some people would have refused the prophet's request and missed a great opportunity to see God work. The Holy Spirit may speak to us to give, even as He spoke through the prophet to the widow. The gift of giving comes to us only when we obey.

A wonderful thing happened to the widow woman. After she had given in obedience to Elijah, she discovered she still had as much oil and flour left as when she began making the loaf for the prophet. She also made another discovery. She found that she had plenty of flour and oil to last until the famine was ended. She not only had enough for herself, but she also had enough to meet others' needs. "All of them had enough for many days."

Although generally we relate the gift of giving to money, the gift means a joy in giving anything we have. It can include substance, time, strength, and talents.

If we obey the Holy Spirit by giving generously of what we have, our own needs will be met. Even more wonderful than that, we will have more to give to others. When the gift of giving functions as God desires, our giving is not governed only by our ability to give. It is governed by God's ability, as in the case of the widow woman.

The highest reason, then, for the gift of giving, is that we will be able to give more to others.

- 1** The gift of giving is a gift
- a)** by which God wants us to get much for ourselves.
  - b)** which requires that we have money.
  - c)** which helps us to give freely and generously.
  - d)** which enables us to give so we can give yet more.

## The Purpose for the Gift

What is the purpose of this gift? Every gift is given for some special purpose. All of the gifts are given to meet the needs of the body of Christ. They also enable the body to carry out its mission. The special purpose for the gift of giving is to supply the needs of the body of Christ—to meet the needs of its members.

- 2** The gift of giving is given to the believer because
- a)** through it the material needs of the body are supplied.
  - b)** it is a way believers can get money for themselves.
  - c)** people like to give money.

## THE GIFT OF RULING

**Objective 2.** *Explain the function and purpose of the gift of ruling.*

### The Gift Defined

Whoever leads should “do it diligently” (Romans 12:8). Authority is called “ruling” in the King James Version; *ruling* means “standing before; presiding.” In 1 Corinthians 12:28 the gift of ruling is called the gift “to direct.” In the King James Version the word for direct is “governments.”

The gift of ruling, then, is a gift given to certain members of the body of Christ for the purpose of standing before (leading) the body, for presiding over the body, and for directing the body.

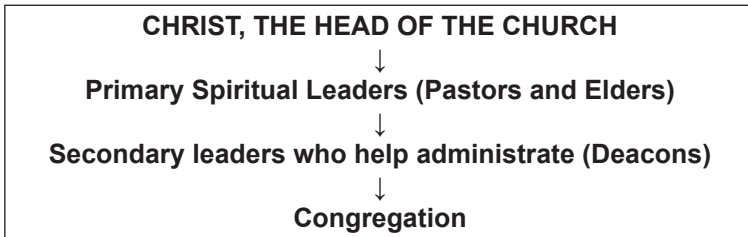
### The Gift Explained and Illustrated

Think of what an army would be like without generals and other officers. You can easily guess what problems an army would have if “everyone did as they saw fit” (Judges 17:6).

Such an army would not have much success in a war. The body of Christ also needs men who will stand before it, preside over it, and direct it in its affairs.

Christ, the Head of the body, may be compared to the general of a large army. He is presiding over the whole body and directing its affairs. But Christians are needed to preside over and direct the many groups of believers which are part of the body all over the world. Every group of believers needs someone who is gifted to rule. All believers are commanded to “Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority” (Hebrews 13:17). Therefore the Head of the body gives the gift of ruling to certain Christians.

Not all believers are to be rulers, but there must be some with the gift of ruling. Those who have this gift are given special ability to organize, to manage, and to lead. Their function is very important to the body. “Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task” (1 Timothy 3:1). The diagram below will help you visualize the line of authority that God has established.



Certain names are given in the Scripture to those members of the body of Christ who have the gift of ruling:

1. *Church leader* (bishop, KJV). “He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God’s church?)” (1 Timothy 3:4-5).

The office of a church leader (bishop) is one of the highest responsibilities in the local church. He is called by the congregation to be its overseer or superintendent. He is

also called the elder or presbyter, and is responsible for the administration of the affairs of the church. The bishop is also called pastor because he shepherds God's people. What we see in the New Testament is organization to meet the need.

The elder-bishop must be apt to teach, but he could bring in others who had a ministry of pastor-teacher to help him. The principal responsibility of the elder-bishop was to preside over and direct the body of believers.

2. *Helper* (deacon, KJV). Some believers, who are not full-time spiritual leaders, such as those named above may also have gifts of ruling. They work under the primary church leaders or pastors. First Timothy 3:8 seems to make this clear; they are called "church helpers." That is, they help the leaders in directing groups of believers. "Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them" (Acts 6:3).

Because government within the body of Christ is necessary, the need for the gift of ruling is easily understood. Where there are none who lead, who preside over, or who direct, there is no government. Where there is no government, there soon will be few left to be governed. Without government and the gift of ruling, the body of Christ is feeble and unable to perform its task. Therefore, the gift of ruling is very important.

**3** The gift of ruling is

- a) the gift of presiding over and directing a group of believers.
- b) a gift most believers should have.
- c) not necessary to the progress of God's work.

**4** Those who have the gift of ruling are able to ..... ,  
 ..... ,  
 and .....

**5** Some of the offices of believers who have the gift of ruling are called

- a)** church leaders.
- b)** evangelists.
- c)** elders.

## The Purpose for the Gift

The function of the gift of ruling is *governing*. The purpose of this gift is to give unity and strength to the body of Christ, so it can fulfill its purpose in the world. Think of what an army would be like if every soldier decided for himself where to go and what to do. Surely there would be confusion. The function of army officers is to lead, preside over, and direct the other soldiers, so their goals can be reached. So it is in the body of Christ.

**6** The gifts of ruling are given to the body of Christ so it can

- a)** be like an army.
- b)** serve God in the best way possible.
- c)** have church leaders, elders and evangelists.

## THE GIFT OF SHOWING MERCY

**Objective 3.** *Explain the function and purpose of the gift of showing mercy.*

### The Gift Defined

“... if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully”  
(Romans 12:8).

*Mercy* means “compassion,” or “to have a fellow-feeling with another, that is, to feel *with* another or to feel *for* another.” It also means “to sympathize.”

Therefore, the gift of showing mercy is the gift of showing others that you feel both with them and for them. It is the gift of being able to sympathize with others.



## The Gift Explained and Illustrated

There is a great need for the gift of showing mercy both inside the body of Christ and among the people who are not believers. People are sad, lonely, and sorrowful. They have great need for someone who can stand beside them and have compassion for them. The gift of showing mercy provides for this need.

The greatest example or illustration of the gift of showing mercy is the Lord Jesus Himself.

Let's look at His record:

1. "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd" (Matthew 9:36).
2. "When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick" (Matthew 14:14).
3. "Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes" (Matthew 20:34).
4. "Jesus was indignant. He reached out his hand and touched the man" (Mark 1:41).
5. "I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat" (Mark 8:2).
6. "When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, "Don't cry"" (Luke 7:13).

Jesus felt deeply with people and for people. He also *showed* those people His mercy. In every case where it is said of Him that He had compassion, it is also clear He did what He could for the people involved. It is not enough to feel *for* people and *with* people. We must *show* people that we feel for them and with them, by ministering to them. For the sorrowing there must be the word of comfort. For the lonely there must be friendship. For the discouraged there must be the word of encouragement. For the sinner there must be loving concern.

For example, it is good to feel with and for the fatherless and widows. But, feeling with them and for them is not enough. We must help them in some practical way, also. “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress...” (James 1:27).

It is important to have in the church many believers with the gift of showing mercy. It is a gift which supports all the others. For example, a believer with the gift of evangelism must also have the gift of showing mercy. The gift of showing mercy will help him feel for and with people who are unsaved. Then, the gift of evangelism will be effective.

Barnabas is a good example of a person who had the gift of showing mercy. He was a man of great compassion and this great compassion caused him to minister to some very needy people. Read the following Scriptures about him: Acts 9:27; 11:25-26; 15:37-39.

**7** Mercy means

- a)** power.
- b)** love.
- c)** sympathy.
- d)** compassion.

**8** People need someone to show them compassion when they are

- a)** strong and well.
- b)** sad and lonely.
- c)** evangelists.
- d)** sinners.

**9** The gift of showing mercy is

- a)** a gift which many believers should have.
- b)** a gift which only the evangelist needs.
- c)** a gift which ministers to the needs of many people.

## The Purpose for the Gift

The *function* for the gift of showing mercy is to enable believers to feel with and for others, and to sympathize with them.

The *purpose* for the gift of showing mercy is to show the needy mercy by actually standing by and helping in times of need. What a beautiful gift!

**10** Circle the correct letter below to complete the following statement. When a believer feels for or with another believer in a time of sorrow, we call that the

- a)** function of the gift of showing mercy.
- b)** purpose of the gift of showing mercy.

## **THE GIFT OF HELPS**

**Objective 4.** *Explain the function and purpose of the gift of helps.*

### **The Gift Defined**

In the church God has put . . . those . . . to help others” (1 Corinthians 12:28). *Help* means “relief or assistance.”

The *gift of helps* is that gift by which a believer is enabled by the Holy Spirit to relieve or assist another by helpful deeds.

### **The Gift Explained and Illustrated**

No member of the body of Christ needs to feel that there is no spiritual gift for him. Not all can be apostles, prophets, evangelists, or pastors and teachers, but any member can have the gift of helps. It does appear that some believers are especially gifted by the Holy Spirit to be helpers. They are given special ability to give relief to others. Let us examine some Scriptures which will show us how the gift of helps worked in the early church.

1. ““When Apollos wanted to go to Achaia, the believers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him” (Acts 18:27).

2. “Greet Urbanus, our co-worker in Christ” (Romans 16:9). We are not told what this man did to assist Paul. He may have done some preaching or teaching. Perhaps he helped by leading the people in singing hymns. He may have helped by handling the money for Paul’s team. Then again, he could have

helped by visiting new converts. We can only guess how he helped. We can, though, see how believers with the gift of helps are very valuable to the body of Christ.

3. “I ask you, loyal yokefellow, help these women who have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel” (Philippians 4:3). Some scholars interpret “worked hard with me” to mean “fought by my side.” Here we see that women can also have the gift of helps. Again, we do not know how they helped. Could they have helped by meeting with the new women believers? Could they have helped by preparing food for Paul and his group? Were they helpers by their intercession and prayers? Did they sew garments for Paul and his group, and keep the clothes washed? Possibly, because the gift of helps includes menial tasks.

Some believe that in the early church a special name was given to women with the gift of helps. They were called deaconesses. “I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church” (Romans 16:1). The Greek word for *serves*, in this verse, is “deaconess.”

Of course, men who had special gifts of helps were often called upon to serve as deacons. “Those who have served well gain an excellent standing” (1 Timothy 3:13).

There was a small church in South America that had a great move of God. Many people were saved and filled with the Holy Spirit. The pastor-teacher was a faithful brother. He shared the Word of God and visited many people. Among the believers, yet very unnoticed, was a quiet little woman. She did not have much to say in public, yet she seemed always to be praying. She greatly assisted the pastor. Through the Holy Spirit, she had the gift of helps.

**11** Place a **T** before each TRUE statement and an **F** before each FALSE statement below.

- ... **a** The gift of helps provides assistance and relief for others.
- ... **b** There is need for only a few believers to have the gift of helps.
- ... **c** Both men and women may have the gift of helps.
- ... **d** In the early church women with the gift of helps were called deacons.

## The Purpose for the Gift

The function of the gift of helps is to give believers in the body of Christ the ability to help the leaders and the church in general with their work.

The purpose for the gift is to help get the actual work done to extend God's kingdom. The function speaks of ability to help. The purpose speaks of the actual help.

For example, we may say a certain brother has a special ability to pray. That is a function of the gift of helps. His ability, though, to pray will not do the church any good until he exercises his gift of helps by praying. When he prays, the purpose for his gift is being accomplished.

**12** A Spirit-filled brother has a special gift for helping his pastor visit sick people. Does this statement indicate the function or the purpose for the gift?

- a)** Function.
- b)** Purpose.

**self-test**

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**1** Name three ways in which a person can minister through the gift of giving.

.....

.....

**2** Give three names used for those who have the gift of ruling.

.....

**3** After each of the following definitions, write the gift which is defined.

**a** Presiding over and directing a group of believers

.....

**b** To relieve or assist another by helpful deeds

.....

**c** To give freely and generously to meet the needs of others

.....

**d** Showing others that you feel with them and for them

.....

**4** The person who is exercising the gift of.....  
has the ability to organize, manage, and lead.

**5** A gift, the purpose of which is to help others in financial need, is the gift of .....

**6** Look up the following Scripture references. After each one, write in the blank space the gift that is manifested.

**a** Acts 15:37-39 .....

**b** Acts 18:27 .....

**c** 1 Kings 17:8-16 .....

**d** Acts 6:1-3 .....

**e** Mark 1:41 .....

**7** Name the three other ministry gifts studied in the previous lesson.

.....

## ***answers to study questions***

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- 1 c)** which helps us to give freely and generously.  
**d)** which enables us to give so we can give yet more.
- 7 c)** sympathy.  
**d)** compassion.
- 2 a)** through it the material needs of the body are supplied.
- 8 b)** sad and lonely.  
**d)** sinners.
- 3 a)** the gift of presiding over and directing a group of believers.
- 9 a)** a gift which many believers should have.  
**c)** a gift which ministers to the needs of many people.
- 4** lead, preside, direct.
- 10 a)** function of the gift of showing mercy.
- 5 a)** church leaders.  
**c)** elders.
- 11 a** T  
**b** F  
**c** T  
**d** F
- 6 b)** serve God in the best way possible.
- 12 b)** Purpose.





# UNIT THREE:

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## UNDERSTANDING GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

### Lessons

- 7** Word of Wisdom, Word of Knowledge, Faith
- 8** Healing, Working of Miracles, Prophecy
- 9** Discerning of Spirits, Tongues, Interpretation

# LESSON 7 Word of Wisdom, Word of Knowledge, Faith

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In our last four lessons we studied the first two groups of spiritual gifts, (1) the gifts of ministry, and (2) other ministry gifts. We noted that the first group was given for leadership in the body of Christ. Therefore, the number of believers receiving these gifts is somewhat limited. The second group of gifts is different. Almost every believer can have at least one of these gifts.

With this lesson we will begin our final group—the gifts of the Spirit. Special attention will be given to the fact that each of these gifts is given by the Holy Spirit. We will note also that none of these gifts are possible through only human ability or talent.

We will soon discover another thing—the added power received through the baptism in the Spirit is manifested in the gifts of the Spirit. God desires that His power will be manifested through each of His children. He wants His power to be shown through you. As you learn about these gifts, you will begin to find yourself able to be used by the Spirit in their effective manifestation.

## ***lesson outline***

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Word of Wisdom

Word of Wisdom Defined

Word of Wisdom Explained and Illustrated

Purpose for the Word of Wisdom

**Word of Knowledge**

Word of Knowledge Defined

Word of Knowledge Explained and Illustrated

Purpose for the Word of Knowledge

**Faith**

Faith Defined

Faith Explained and Illustrated

Purpose for the Gift of Faith

***lesson objectives***

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When you finish this lesson you should be able to:

- Explain the term “word of wisdom” and state the function and purpose of this gift.
- Describe the function and purpose of the word of knowledge.
- Tell how you would know if you received a word of knowledge.
- Explain the function and purpose of the gift of faith.
- Tell how you might know if you have a gift of faith.

***learning activities***

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1. Read 1 Corinthians 12.
2. Read the lesson development. In your notebook write a short definition for each of the three gifts in this lesson.
3. Study the key words carefully in the glossary before studying the lesson itself.
4. Complete each self-test as in the previous lessons you studied.
5. Continue memorizing 1 Corinthians 13. Write the first nine verses from memory in your notebook. When this lesson is finished, you should be able to say the first ten verses.

## key words

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channel  
Gentile

instrument  
persuasion

transcend  
utterance

## lesson development

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### WORD OF WISDOM

**Objective 1.** *Explain the term “word of wisdom” and state the function and purpose of this gift.*

Now, we are ready to study the gifts of the Spirit. To begin, let’s look at Paul’s introduction to the subject in 1 Corinthians 12:1. “Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.”

As we began this course we saw the great value of knowledge in relation to the spiritual gifts. Paul understood the importance of knowledge. His strong desire was to help believers escape their ignorance . . . “I do not want you to be ignorant” (1 Corinthians 10:1). Five times in his epistles he says that same thing: Romans 1:13; 1 Corinthians 10:1; 12:1; 2 Corinthians 1:8; and 1 Thessalonians 4:13.

Paul knew that true knowledge in every area is necessary. He knew it would make the gifts of the Spirit more meaningful and effective, as God intended.

Believers can have gifts without much knowledge as the Corinthians did, . . . you do not lack any spiritual gift . . .” (1 Corinthians 1:7). However, if the gifts are to be useful, they must be based on true knowledge.

As we study these gifts, we will seek clear Bible-based knowledge about each one. We want to understand them well. We do not want just to know about these gifts—we want to see them in operation. We must pray that the Holy Spirit will open our minds to greater understanding.

## Word of Wisdom Defined

“To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom. . .” (1 Corinthians 12:8). The King James Version says, “For to one is given, by the Spirit the *word of wisdom*.” Wisdom is good judgment based upon knowledge. The word of wisdom, then, is a word of good judgment based upon knowledge. But, the gift is more than that.

The term *word* is a key. It comes from the Greek word *logos*. *Logos* means “the matter of, the subject of, the essence of.” Since the gifts of the Spirit are strictly of the Spirit of God, we understand that the word of wisdom is an expression from God. It is not just an expression of wisdom. The wisdom spoken of here comes directly from God. It is His wisdom.

Therefore, through the gift of the word of wisdom, the Holy Spirit gives to the believer a bit of God’s wisdom.

The expression “word of wisdom” speaks of a *small portion*. It also seems to speak of special wisdom for a special need. We may say it is a small bit of God’s wisdom spoken at the proper time.

**1** The word of wisdom is

- a)** a little of God’s wisdom spoken at the proper time.
- b)** a gift which makes a person wise from then on.
- c)** natural wisdom inspired by the Holy Spirit.

## Word of Wisdom Explained and Illustrated

We must understand that the word of wisdom is fully supernatural. Paul says, “To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom” (1 Corinthians 12:8). One cannot get it by going to school. He does not get it because he is naturally a wise man. He gets it only by the Spirit.

To help us understand this gift—the word of wisdom—we will ask several questions.

1. *To whom is the word of wisdom given?* “. . . he (the Spirit) gives them to each one, just as he determines” (1 Corinthians 12:11).

There is a sense in which every believer has the opportunity of being used in manifesting every gift. Let me explain. All of the gifts are *in the Spirit*. Now, if the Spirit is in the believer, His gifts are also in the believer. However, which gift, or gifts, the Holy Spirit will manifest through the believer, is His decision.

The gifts of the Spirit are resident in the Holy Spirit. They are manifested by the Spirit through the believer; thus they can be said to be given to the believer.

For an example of this, in relation to the word of wisdom, read Acts 15:5-27. A serious problem arose in the early church. It was about the new Gentile converts. To deal with the problem, the church leaders met with the other believers. They talked back and forth. Some had one idea. Some another. Finally, James, one of the leaders spoke out. When he finished, “. . . the apostles and elders, together with the whole church, decided . . .”

Now note these steps:

1. A serious problem (verse 5).
2. The body of believers came together (verse 6).
3. The group struggled hard to solve the problem (verses 7-12).
4. The Holy Spirit, through James, gave the answer in a word of wisdom (verses 13-21).
5. The word of wisdom brought the entire group to a decision (verse 22).

In these verses we see that the word of wisdom was given by the Holy Spirit. That word of wisdom needed to *reach* the people. The Holy Spirit was in James and through him the Holy Spirit manifested the word of wisdom to the church. Therefore, the church received the gift of the word of wisdom.

**2** Write **T** before each TRUE statement, and **F** before each FALSE statement

- ... **a** The word of wisdom is partly supernatural.
- ... **b** It is not correct to say that a certain believer has the gift of the word of wisdom.
- ... **c** The word of wisdom is a gift to the church.
- ... **d** The word of wisdom is manifested through unbelievers.

**3** Read Acts 6:1-7. Which verse would you say refers to the word of wisdom? .....

2. *How does the word of wisdom work?* Does it require hard thinking? How does the believer, through whom the Holy Spirit gives the word of wisdom, know what to speak forth?

These questions can best be answered by those who have had this experience. Donald Gee, an able English Pentecostal teacher said this:

“In a manifestation of the word of wisdom something flashes. There is a sense of the divine (that is, God), a consciousness of an utterance transcending (that is, above) all the . . . stores of . . . human experience. One is deeply conscious that the . . . right thing has been said.”

The word of wisdom may be spoken directly into a man's heart by the Spirit. In this case he would likely speak it forth later to the body. (See Ephesians 1:17-19.)

Paul spoke the word of wisdom to the Corinthians. But before he spoke it to them, the Holy Spirit spoke it deeply into his heart. (Read 1 Corinthians 2:5-15.)

3. *When is the word of wisdom manifested?* We cannot list all of the times when it may come forth. Often circumstances will determine when it is needed. Also, the Holy Spirit can manifest the gift only when a believer is spiritually ready and available to be so used. So we are to use our different gifts in accordance with the grace that God has given us” (Romans

12:6). We will be helped in our understanding of the gift, by noting the circumstances under which it was manifested in the early church.

- a. When the preacher was preaching. We can see flashes of it in Peter's sermon in Acts 2:16-36. We can also see signs of it in Stephen's sermon in Acts 7. (Note also Acts 6:10.)
- b. When problems arose in the church (Review Acts 15.)
- c. When persecution came, Acts 5:26-33. Note especially verse 29, "We must obey God rather than men!" What a powerful word of wisdom. (See also Luke 12:12 and 21:15.)
- d. When people had personal problems (Acts 5:1-11).

What a valuable and useful gift the word of wisdom is. Surely it must be one of the greatest gifts. We might wish to have it so we could be helpful in the church. If the Holy Spirit should allow it to be manifested through us, we should not think, "Now I have it." We should rather remember He uses us as His channel for giving the gifts to His body, the church, and we should humbly praise Him.

#### **4** Believers give the word of wisdom by

- a)** repeating what they have read.
- b)** trying to think of something God wants them to say.
- c)** the Holy Spirit giving them a word to speak forth.

**5** Place a **T** before each statement that is TRUE, and an **F** before each statement that is FALSE.

- ... **a** The word of wisdom is given whenever there is need for it.
- ... **b** The word of wisdom is used only for preaching the gospel.
- ... **c** The word of wisdom must never be spoken directly to a person.
- ... **d** When men are being wrongly treated they may receive a word of wisdom.



## Purpose for the Word of Wisdom

In studying the purpose of the gifts of the Spirit, there is *one simple rule* to remember—“All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church” (1 Corinthians 14:26). The King James Version is even more forceful—“Let all things be done unto edifying.” Edifying means “building up.” Therefore we can say, the *purpose* for the word of wisdom is to build up the body of Christ. This can be done if the word of wisdom is spoken to one member, a small group, or to a crowd.

This gift is never given by the Holy Spirit so that someone can feel better or more spiritual than other believers. It is a special privilege to be used by the Holy Spirit.

**6** When the problems in a church are solved through the word of wisdom we say the church has been

.....

## WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

**Objective 2.** *Describe the function and purpose of the word of knowledge.*

**Objective 3.** *Tell how you would know if you received a word of knowledge.*

## Word of Knowledge Defined

“To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom” (1 Corinthians 12:8). The King James Version says “to another the *word of knowledge* by the same Spirit.”

Knowledge means “knowing.” As we saw in studying the word of wisdom, the term *word* comes from the Greek word *logos*. *Logos* means “the matter of, the subject of, the essence of.” The word of knowledge, then, is an expression of knowledge. But an expression of whose knowledge?

Let’s remind ourselves again that all of the gifts of the Spirit are either said to be *of the Spirit* or *by the Spirit*. The word of

knowledge is given by the *same Spirit* who gave the word of wisdom, the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit, since He is the third person in the Godhead, has access to all of God's vast treasure of knowledge. There is a Latin-based word which describes how much knowledge God has. It is the word *omniscient*. Omniscient comes from two words, *Omni*, meaning "all," and *scient*, meaning "knowing." Putting the two words together, we have "all-knowing." Therefore, we say, God is all-knowing. God knows everything.

Through the word of knowledge the Holy Spirit makes the believer able to speak forth a bit of God's unlimited knowledge. In other words, God causes the believer to say things he in no way knows by using his own abilities. The Holy Spirit gives the word for him to speak. That word becomes known as the gift of knowledge to a believer or to the body. It is a gift to the body, because it is in the interest of the body, even when it is spoken to an unbeliever.

**7** The word of knowledge is

- a)** the same gift as the word of wisdom.
- b)** the knowledge which comes from studying.
- c)** some of God's knowledge given through man.
- d)** knowledge which the speaker has not had before.

## Word of Knowledge Explained and Illustrated

The baptism in the Holy Spirit increases God's power in the believer's life. "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. . ." (Acts 1:8). That power is often manifested through the gifts of the Spirit. Every gift of the Spirit shows forth God's power. On the day of Pentecost the early church received God's power. From then on, through the book of Acts, that power was shown forth.

Now, we want to see how God's power was manifested in the word of knowledge.

### *Spirit-filled Men and the Word of Knowledge*

Throughout the book of Acts we see manifestations of the word of knowledge. You will see that in each case the believer, who spoke the word of knowledge, spoke something he had no way of knowing, except by the Spirit.

1. Read Acts 5:1-10. Peter *knew* Ananias and Sapphira had lied to the Holy Spirit. He also *knew* they had secretly agreed to lie.
2. See Acts 8:23. Peter *knew* Simon had bitter envy and sin in his heart.
3. Read Acts 9:1-18. Ananias (not the Ananias in Acts 5) knew several things about Saul, by the Spirit.  
He *knew* where Saul was (verse 11).  
He *knew* he was praying (verse 11).  
He *knew* Saul had seen a vision (verse 12).  
He *knew* Saul was a chosen vessel (verse 15).  
He *knew* Saul would suffer for the Lord (verse 16).
4. See Acts 10:19. Peter *knew* that three men had come to see him in behalf of Cornelius.
5. Read Acts 27:13-44. Paul *knew* that the sailors in the storm-tossed ship could not be saved unless they stayed with the ship.
- 8** Read John 4:7-19. In which verses did Jesus speak the word of knowledge?

.....

### *Evil Men and the Word of Knowledge*

Sometimes evil men, such as witch doctors, seem to have power to know things in a strange way. Do they have the word of knowledge? No. It is true, though, that they get knowledge in an unusual way. But how?

We need to remember, that while there is a Holy Spirit, there are also *unholy* spirits. The Holy Spirit is God's Spirit. The unholy spirits come from the evil one, Satan.

Satan knows some things evil men do not know by their own power. Yet, Satan is not like God. He does not know everything. He knows only *some things*.

For example, there was a man in Gerasa who had many demons (evil spirits) in him. When Jesus came near he cried out, “What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don’t torture me!” (Luke 8:28).

How did the man know who Jesus was? How did he know about Jesus’ power to punish him? He knew these things from the demons (unholy spirits) within him. This knowledge did not come from God.

How can we be sure the word of knowledge which we may speak comes from the Holy Spirit? Do we need to fear that we might speak by an evil spirit?

No, the believer need not fear this at all. When we are filled with God’s Spirit there is no room for evil spirits. They have no part in us, “. . . the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world” (that is the world of the ungodly, 1 John 4:4).

**9** Place a **T** before each TRUE statement below, and an **F** before each FALSE statement

- . . . **a** Witch doctors can have the Spirit’s gift of the word of knowledge.
- . . . **b** Satan is omniscient.
- . . . **c** Believers need to be very fearful that they will speak by an evil spirit.
- . . . **d** Evil spirits are stronger than the Holy Spirit.
- . . . **e** God’s Spirit leaves no room for evil spirits.

### *The Human Spirit and the Word of Knowledge*

The word of knowledge is more than man’s own thoughts. Sometimes people don’t understand the difference. They imagine something in their own minds, and believe it is the word of knowledge. Our minds can deceive us.

I remember an incident that illustrates this point. One evening, at a home prayer meeting, the believers began to feel the need for a musical instrument to help with the singing. There happened to be the exact instrument there in the home. One of the men from the group, believing he had a word of knowledge from the Lord, promptly told the woman of the house to give this instrument to the group.

When the woman heard this, she could not quite understand it. She told the man the instrument did not belong to her, it was borrowed. The man had spoken out of his own thoughts and not through a word of knowledge.

How can we be sure we have a word of knowledge? Here are some simple tests you can apply to each situation.

1. Are my own selfish desires leading me to speak?
2. Am I sure I have a word of knowledge from the Holy Spirit?
3. Do I sense God's peace in my heart?
4. Am I personally upset and unhappy with someone, or with some situation?

If you are troubled about the answer to any one of these questions, it is better to seek the Lord before speaking out. You should feel free to speak out only when you are happy about your answer to all of the above questions. You should know also that the believer who gives a true word of knowledge has a strong inward feeling about something that should be spoken. Experience will help you recognize the moving of the Holy Spirit.

**10** We can know a word of knowledge is from the Holy Spirit when

- a)** we are good teachers.
- b)** we are aware of the Lord's peace in our hearts.
- c)** we are angry with someone.
- d)** we have no selfish desire related to the matter.

Purpose for the Word of Knowledge

The *purpose* for both the word of wisdom and the word of knowledge is the same. It is to build up Christ’s body.

These two gifts often work together, but the word of knowledge may come before the word of wisdom. By the word of knowledge Jesus told the Samaritan woman about her past life. Then, by the word of wisdom He gave her the solution to her problem.

**11** Read again the purpose for the word of wisdom. What word in the King James Version describes the purpose for all of the gifts?

.....

.....

FAITH

- Objective 4.** *Explain the function and purpose of the gift of faith.*
- Objective 5.** *Tell how you might know if you have a gift of faith.*

Faith Defined

“to another faith by the same Spirit. . .”  
(1 Corinthians 12:9). The King James Version says, “To another faith by the same Spirit.”

Generally speaking, faith is the ability to believe. If a person has faith we say he believes. But the gift of faith is something beyond ordinary faith, which all believers have. It is *special* faith. It is faith given by the Holy Spirit to meet a special need. We can say it is a small part of God’s perfect confidence, given by the Holy Spirit to a person.

GOD	GOD	For Special Needs
FAITH	GIFT OF FAITH	To Believer

The gift of faith is not the property of the believer, through whom the Holy Spirit gives it. The gift is dropped into a person's heart at a special time, and for a special need. The gift is given. The need is met. The gift has accomplished its purpose.

**12** Write **T** before each TRUE statement, and **F** before each FALSE statement.

- ... **a** Every believer may receive the gift of faith.
- ... **b** Through the gift of faith the believer is given a special kind of faith.
- ... **c** Because every Spirit-filled believer has the Holy Spirit, it is possible for him to receive a gift of faith.

## **Faith Explained and Illustrated**

Faith is always based on knowledge. This explains why our faith may be small. We have little knowledge, so we have little faith.

God can give the gift of faith, as He has no doubts about His ability. He also has perfect knowledge. Through the gift of faith, a bit of God's perfect faith is given to meet some special need.

Usually, three things are present when the gift of faith is manifested.

1. An impossible condition or situation exists.
2. A gift of faith is given.
3. A solution is seen.

The story of Peter and John going to the temple to pray will help us see how the gift of faith works. Read Acts 3:1-11 and see this for yourself. In this story all three of the things listed above happened.

1. A hopelessly crippled man sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple. He had been crippled all of his life—about forty years. All he could do was beg for a living. It was *impossible* for men to cure him.
2. Suddenly Peter discovered *special* faith in his own heart. Because of that faith, which was really God’s faith, he spoke to the man, “In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk” (Acts 3:6).
3. We know Peter really had the gift of faith by what *happened* to the cripple! “...instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk” (Acts 3:7, 8). His problem was solved.

The Holy Spirit desires to work like this today. He desires to give believers the special faith of God for great needs and difficult problems. Without doubt, He needs believers like Peter who will dare to act when He drops faith into their hearts. Often believers are afraid to act, and then faith cannot work.

How can I know that I have the gift of faith? We can know in our inner man—our spirit. The word *faith* in one sense, means “persuasion.” When the Holy Spirit gives us a bit of God’s perfect faith, a deep persuasion settles upon us that God will do a certain thing. The believer who receives this does not only *hope* God will do a certain thing, he *knows* God will act.

**13** Complete the following statements.

- a** The basis for faith is .....
- b** Perfect knowledge is necessary to perfect .....
- c** Believers can do much the same as Peter did at the Beautiful Gate, if they have the .....
- d** Through the gift of faith, we know that God will .....



## Purpose for the Gift of Faith

For the gift of the word of wisdom and the word of knowledge, we can see a similar purpose. Both are to build up the body of Christ. We saw how the two gifts may work together to build up the body. The purpose is also the same for the gift of faith.

Paul, before naming the nine gifts we are now studying, stated the purpose in another way. “Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good” (1 Corinthians 12:7). The King James Version says, “But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.”

Through the gift of faith the whole body is helped and built up. If only one member were to benefit from a manifestation of the gift of faith, the whole body would still be helped. When one member is helped, all the members are helped. “If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it” (1 Corinthians 12:26).

**14** The purpose for the gift of faith is

- a)** somewhat like the purpose for the word of wisdom.
- b)** different from the purpose for the word of wisdom.
- c)** the same as the purpose for the word of wisdom.

***self-test***

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TRUE-FALSE. Write **T** in the blank space before each TRUE statement and **F** before each FALSE statement

- ... **1** The gifts of the Spirit are resident in the believer.
- ... **2** The word of knowledge was in operation in Acts 8:23.
- ... **3** To speak of God as omniscient means that He is present everywhere.
- ... **4** The believer is used as a channel for giving God's gifts to the church.
- ... **5** The gifts studied in this lesson are particularly for the leaders in the church, rather than for all believers.
- ... **6** The word of wisdom means "a small portion" of man's wisdom spoken at the proper time.
- ... **7** The purpose of the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, and the gift of faith is to build up the church.
- ... **8** Whenever a believer speaks the word of knowledge, he speaks something he had no way of knowing except through the Spirit.
- ... **9** The purpose of the gift of faith is the same as that of the other gifts, but its function is different.

## ***answers to study questions***

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- 1 a)** a little of God's wisdom spoken at the proper time.
- 8** Verses 17 and 18. "Jesus replied, 'You are right when you say you haven't got a husband. You have been married to five men, and the man you live with now is not really your husband.'"
- 2 a** F  
**b** T  
**c** T  
**d** F
- 9 a** F  
**b** F  
**c** F  
**d** F  
**e** T
- 3** "So then, brothers, choose seven men among you who are known to be full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, and we will put them in charge of this matter" (verse 3).
- 10 b)** we are aware of the Lord's peace in our hearts.  
**d)** we have no selfish desire related to the matter.
- 4 c)** the Holy Spirit giving them a word to speak forth.
- 11** edify, build up
- 5 a** T  
**b** F  
**c** F  
**d** T
- 12 a** T  
**b** T  
**c** T
- 6** edified, built up

- 13 a** knowledge.  
**b** faith.  
**c** gift of faith.  
**d** act.
- 7 c)** some of God's knowledge given through man.  
**d)** knowledge which the speaker has not had before.
- 14 c)** the same as the purpose for the word of wisdom.

## **Your Notes**

# LESSON 8 Healing, Working of Miracles, Prophecy

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The final three lessons of our course are on the nine gifts of the Spirit listed in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10. In the last lesson we studied the first three gifts—the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, and faith. We saw that all of these gifts are manifestations of God’s power. We also learned that all of these gifts are supernatural. None of them are possible to obtain by human means alone.

Another thing we learned was that all of the gifts of the Spirit have a common purpose. They are all to build up the body of Christ.

In this lesson, we will study three more gifts of the Spirit. We are learning about them in the order they are listed in your Bible. Some scholars place them in a different order. However, since all of them come from the Holy Spirit, the order in which they are studied is not important. We will note that the operations of these gifts overlap at times. Sometimes several gifts seem to appear at once.

You may have already sensed the Holy Spirit speaking to you in regard to the operation of these gifts. You will want to be obedient to His voice. Prayer will help you. When you sense the Holy Spirit moving upon you, yield to Him. It may not be easy at first, but if you desire to be used of God, you can be a blessing to His body, the church.

## ***lesson outline***

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Gifts of Healing

Gifts of Healing Defined

Gifts of Healing Explained and Illustrated  
Purpose for the Gifts of Healing

Working of Miracles

Working of Miracles Defined

Working of Miracles Explained and Illustrated

Purpose for the Working of Miracles

Prophecy

Prophecy Defined

Prophecy Explained and Illustrated

Purpose for Gift of Prophecy

## ***lesson objectives***

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- Explain the function and purpose of the gifts of healing.
- State how you may know if you have been used by the Holy Spirit to manifest a gift of healing.
- Give the function and purpose of working of miracles.
- Locate a miracle in Acts and explain how you know it was a miracle.
- State the function and purpose of prophecy.

## ***learning activities***

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1. Read Romans 12:3-6, and 1 Peter 4:10-11.
2. Read the lesson development. In your last lesson you wrote definitions for the first three gifts in your notebook. Now, do the same for the three gifts in this lesson.
3. Go over the key words in the glossary before beginning this lesson.
4. Complete each test as you come to it.
5. Memorize 1 Corinthians 13:11-12.

## key words

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explosive	obstacle
infirmity	plural
magician	scholars

## lesson development

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### GIFTS OF HEALING

**Objective 1.** *Explain the function and purpose of the gifts of healing.*

**Objective 2.** *State how you may know if you have been used by the Holy Spirit to manifest a gift of healing.*

### Gifts of Healing Defined

“... to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit” (1 Corinthians 12:9). The King James Version says, “to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit.”

*Healing* means “making whole or well.” *Gift* means “grace, favor, kindness.” It is important that we think about the word gifts. Gifts is plural. *Plural* means “more than one.” In this case, gifts means “more than one gift of healing.” We will learn more about this later.

Gifts of healing, then, are manifestations of God’s grace, His favor, and His kindness.

Howard Carter says the “gifts of healing are manifestations of the power of God in the sphere (area) of disease.”

These gifts flow out of the Spirit, through the believer, and then to the people in need of healing. Gifts of healing are given for the needy. They are manifested through believers. So it is not good to say a certain believer has a gift of healing. It is better to say by the Holy Spirit and through the Spirit-filled believer, gifts of healing are manifested in the church.



**1** Complete the following statements:

- a** The word *plural* means .....
- b** Gifts of healing are given through the .....
- c** The word *healing* means .....

## Gifts of Healing Explained and Illustrated

Sickness, disease, infirmity. These are all common to man. Even believers have them. They are the results of man's fall into sin.

This does not mean that a person is sick because he has sinned. His disciples asked Jesus, "Teacher, whose sin caused him to be born blind? Was it his own or his parents' sin?" Jesus answered them, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned" (John 9:3).

Sometimes people are sick because they have sinned. Jesus once said, "...See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you" (John 5:14).

Whatever the cause of the sickness, disease or infirmity, God usually desires that we should be healed. However, sometimes the Holy Spirit will not give healing to some people who seem to need healing. There are several reasons for this.

1. *Unbelief*. "Everything is possible for the person who has faith. The Father at once cried out, 'I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!'" (Mark 9:24).

2. *Failure to relate properly to the body*. "... For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep (are dead)" (1 Corinthians 11:29-30). *Not discerning the Lord's body* means not recognizing other members of the Lord's body as part of His body.

3. *Special reasons*. Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10.

- 2** Sometimes healing does not come because
- a)** God is using the sickness to work out something in the person's life.
  - b)** the person needs more faith.
  - c)** the person mistreats other brothers.
  - d)** unbelief keeps God from working.

We want to understand how the gifts of healing work. We can do this by considering several questions.

### ***Whom May the Holy Spirit Use to Bring a Gift of Healing?***

Is manifestation of gifts of healing limited to certain people? Surely the Holy Spirit will use whomever he can to bring gifts of healing to people in need, but these gifts will flow more freely through those baptized in the Spirit.

However, the gifts of healing are likely to be manifested more often through church leaders. This is because their whole lives are given to ministering to people. Also they may have more contact with people who have a need.

Look at this list. You will see whom the Holy Spirit used in the gifts of healing in Acts.

1. Peter and John (apostles) Acts 3:1-11.
2. Peter (apostle) Acts 5:15.
3. Philip (evangelist) Acts 8:5-7.
4. Ananias (unknown believer) Acts 9:17-18.
5. Peter (apostle) Acts 9:32-34.
6. Paul (apostle) Acts 14:8-10.
7. Paul (apostle) Acts 28:7-9.

In this list, most of the healing came through apostles. We understand this because the book of Acts is a record of the acts of the apostles.

The Apostle James gave special instructions to another group who might have gifts of healing. These were the elders.

“Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church” (James 5:14, KJV). This teaches us that the Holy Spirit will give gifts of healing through church leaders. The Holy Spirit may also use any believer in a gift of healing, as he did Ananias.

### ***What Types of Sickness, Disease, and Infirmary May Be Healed?***

“Jesus went. . . healing every disease and sickness” (Matthew 9:35). The same thing happened in the early church. “And crowds of people came in from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing those who were ill or who had evil spirits in them; and they were *all* healed.”

Now, we will look at the different sicknesses, diseases, and infirmities healed in Acts.

1. Lameness {infirmity} Acts 3:2.
2. Illness (sickness) Acts 5:16.
3. Palsy (paralysis), lameness (infirmity) Acts 8:7.
4. Blindness (disease or infirmity) Acts 9:17-18.
5. Palsy (paralysis) Acts 9:33.
6. Lameness (infirmity) Acts 14:8-10.
7. Fever (illness), dysentery (disease) Acts 28:8.

We can safely say, there is no sickness, disease or infirmity that cannot be healed through the gifts of healing.

Some mention should be made of *gifts* of healing. This gift is mentioned three times in the twelfth chapter of 1 Corinthians (vs. 9, 28, 30), and each time it is in the plural. It is the only gift of the nine of which this is true. Each of the others is a *gift*. Although we do not know the reason for the particular distinction between this and the other gifts, we can be sure that the gifts of healing are enough for every need.

It may well be that *gifts* mean that certain believers are used by the Holy Spirit to heal certain kinds of sickness, disease or

infirmity. For instance, in Acts 8, Philip was used of the Spirit to heal lame people, and those with palsy. In more recent times, a man greatly used in gifts of healing was Smith Wigglesworth. He was used in healing internal sickness and diseases.

At this point let us remind ourselves, “All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines” (1 Corinthians 12:11).

### *How Do Gifts of Healing Work?*

We must learn there is no set pattern. This is seen as we examine the main cases of healing in the New Testament. There, healing was by

1. a touch, a spoken word (Matthew 8:3).
2. a spoken word (Matthew 8:5-13). (Note: The person who was healed was not present to hear the spoken word.)
3. a touch (Matthew 8:15).
4. a touch, a spoken word (Matthew 9:29).
5. a command (Matthew 12:13).
6. placing mud on blind eyes and a spoken word (John 9:6).
7. a command, a lift with the hand (Acts 3:6-9).
8. a spoken word, a command (Acts 9:34).

We note the most common method of healing happened by the spoken word. It is important to remember this. A touch with the hand, a lift, or some other act may help another's faith. However, it seems God works most through a spoken word. The early church leaders did their works by a spoken word. It seems reasonable that God will still direct the gifts of healing to people in the same way.

Our conclusion, then, is that the gifts of healing are manifested through believers as the Holy Spirit leads.

### ***How Does a Believer Know when He Has a Gift of Healing to Share?***

Again, as with other gifts of the Spirit, we believe the person who is to manifest the gift will sense it deeply in his own spirit. Samson's experience in the Old Testament illustrates this. "The Spirit of the LORD came upon him in power. The ropes on his arms became like charred flax, and the bindings dropped from his hands" (Judges 15:14). Samson was not used by the Spirit to heal. He was used, however, to do mighty deeds. From his experience we can get some idea of what our experience will be as the same Spirit seeks to manifest Himself through us.

No believer has the gifts of healing at his own command. He has them only as the Spirit wills. Some may experience the operation of the gifts more often than others. But this is because they have learned to move by faith under the Spirit's direction. This is a great secret.

**3** Write **T** for TRUE before each statement which is correct.

- ... **a** Gifts of healing are manifested only by church leaders.
- ... **b** Gifts means that there are exactly twelve different gifts of healing.
- ... **c** Gifts could mean that chosen believers are used by the Spirit in several different ways.
- ... **d** Gifts of healing are usually given by a lift with the hand.
- ... **e** We can expect every kind of sickness, disease, or infirmity to be healed through gifts of healings.

### **Purpose for the Gifts of Healing**

The over-all purpose for all of the Spirit's gifts, as we have seen, is the building up of Christ's body. Some gifts do this in one way, some in another. The gifts of healing do it by enabling the members to be healthy and well physically. The whole body of believers is helped as individual members prosper physically.

Gifts of healing are often present in an evangelist’s ministry. They attract people to the hearing of the gospel. Early believers prayed, “Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus” (Acts 4:30). Then God answered, “The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people...more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number” (Acts 5:12, 14).

So, we see the purposes of the gifts of healing are to meet the physical needs of the body of Christ, and to help bring people to Jesus.

**WORKING OF MIRACLES**

**Objective 3.** *Give the function and purpose of working of miracles.*

**Objective 4.** *Locate a miracle in Acts and explain how you know it was a miracle.*

**Working of Miracles Defined**

“to another miraculous powers” (1 Corinthians 12:10). The King James Version says, “to another the working of miracles.”

The Greek word for “miracles” is *dunameis*. From that word comes the English word “dynamite.” Dynamite is an explosive. It has great power. It is used for moving great rocks, for destroying old buildings, and for many other purposes.

The word is used in the phrase “working of miracles” as meaning “supernatural power to do things which are otherwise impossible.”

Howard Carter says, “The working of miracles . . . is a supernatural manifestation of the power of God that alters (that is, changes), suspends (that is, lays aside), or in some other way controls the laws of nature.”

**4** What miracle took place in Acts 13? .....  
.....

## Working of Miracles Explained and Illustrated

By looking at the accounts of some miracles in the Bible, we can increase our understanding.

### *Miracles in the Old Testament*

Many miracles are described in the Old Testament. We will list only a few. Read each story carefully.

1. Moses brought water out of a rock (Exodus 17:1-6).
2. Israel crossed the Jordan on dry land (Joshua 3:15-17).
3. Joshua made the sun stand still (Joshua 10:12-13).
4. Elijah prayed down fire from heaven (1 Kings 18:37-38).
5. Elisha made an axe-head float (2 Kings 6:1-7).

### *Miracles in the Life of Jesus*

Listed below are a few of the miracles connected with the ministry of Jesus.

1. Jesus turned water into wine (John 2:1-11).
2. Jesus calmed the stormy sea (Matthew 8:23-26).
3. Jesus and Peter walked upon the water (Matthew 14:22-31).
4. Jesus fed many people with a boy's lunch (John 6:5-14).
5. Jesus raised a man from the dead (John 11:1-44).

### *Miracles in the Early Church*

Miracles in the Old Testament might be explained by the fact that great prophets performed most of them. Jesus' miracles might be explained by the fact that He was the Son of God. The miracles in Acts must be explained some other way. Most of those in Acts were done through very common men—fishermen, tax collectors, and the like. How did they do miracles?

Before we answer that question, let's look at several miracles which are described in Acts. Note that it is not easy

to say which mighty work is a miracle and which is a gift of healing. And it makes no difference, because they flow out of the same Spirit. “God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them” (Acts 19:11, 12). Here is a list.

1. Escape from prison (Acts 5:17-20).
2. Dead raised (Acts 9:36-41).
3. Escape from prison (Acts 12:5-17).
4. An enemy of God blinded (Acts 13:6-11).
5. No problem from snake bite (Acts 28:1-6).

There is one secret to all of these miracles being fulfilled. It is not the using of great men. It is not men with unusual powers of their own. It is not even the ability which men get in school. It is simply the power of the Holy Spirit. The “dynamite” of the Spirit is manifested to meet a great need in behalf of Christ’s body. Often it was to move some obstacle and continue spreading the gospel.

Let us look at one of the miracles in Acts more closely. It is the raising of Dorcas from the dead in Acts 9.

After Dorcas had died, Peter was called on to help. Peter knew he could not raise the dead, but he knew the power of God could. He also knew that if he was to see a miracle he must pray. Prayer would make him a channel for God’s power, so a miracle could happen. So he prayed. Then it happened. The Holy Spirit moved deep in Peter’s spirit. He spoke to Dorcas! Her eyes, long closed in death, opened, and she sat up very much alive!

In another lesson we learned that omniscient means all-knowing. God is all-knowing. Now we add a new word *omnipotent*. It means “all-powerful.” God is all-powerful.

By the gift of working of miracles, the Holy Spirit manifests the power of God through the believer. That power makes the impossible happen.



**5** Complete the following statements:

- a** God's power was revealed in the Old Testament, as well as in the New, through the working of .....
- b** Jesus' miracles can be explained by saying He was .....
- c** The only way to explain miracles in Acts is .....
- d** Peter was a channel for .....
- e** A word which describes God's power is .....

## Purpose for the Working of Miracles

Why have miracles? Some say because they would like to see a miracle. They want to see it because they enjoy the unusual. Others want miracles for other very selfish reasons. At one time, Jesus was not received by the people in a certain village. The disciples were angry. They asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" (Luke 9:54). Notice Jesus' response. "But Jesus turned and rebuked them, and they went to another village" (Luke 9:55-56). In other words, Jesus was saying, "No miracles will be done for selfish purposes."

<b>Omnipotent</b>	<b>Miracles</b>	<b>Edify the Body (Church)</b>
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Miracles, like all other gifts of the Spirit, have one leading purpose. That is to build up Christ's body. One of the ways working of miracles does this is by removing obstacles which hinder the gospel. When believers need miracles for this reason, they will see more miracles.

In Acts 5, the obstacle to spreading the gospel was a set of prison doors. The apostles were in prison for preaching. Through a miracle the obstacle was removed. The prison doors were opened, and they went on preaching.

In Acts 13:6-11, Paul was seeking to convert a certain governor. Yet, he ran into an obstacle. A magician, named Bar-Jesus, tried to turn the governor away from the gospel. The Holy Spirit used Paul to work a miracle, by making Bar-Jesus blind. In that way the obstacle was removed.

6 What obstacle to spreading the gospel is seen in Acts 12:1-5?

.....

PROPHECY

Objective 5. State the function and purpose of prophecy.

Prophecy Defined

“ . . .to another prophecy. . .” (1 Corinthians 12:10).

According to one Bible scholar, prophecy means “prediction,” that is foretelling. Another Bible scholar says it means “public exposition,” that is preaching or forthtelling. We will understand best what prophecy means if we understand how it is both foretelling and forthtelling.

Prophecy	Forthtelling Foretelling	Edify the Body (Church)
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Prophecy should not be thought to be the same as ordinary preaching. Like the other gifts of the Spirit it is supernatural.

Ralph M. Riggs, an American Bible scholar, says prophecy is “speaking one’s own language in the power of the Holy Spirit, or divine ability to forthtell as well as to foretell.”

Prophecy Explained and Illustrated

In Lesson 3 of this course, we studied the gifts of ministry. We learned that one of those gifts was *prophets*. “He gave . . . some prophets” (KJV). Christ, the Head of the church, is named as giver of these gifts. Now we are studying the gifts of the Spirit. In our present lesson, the giver of the gift of prophecy is the Holy Spirit. “To one there is given through the Spirit . . . prophecy” (1 Corinthians 12:8-10).

What is the difference between *prophets* and *prophecy*? The gift of prophets is the gift of full-time leadership to the body. The gift of prophecy is the gift of inspired utterance. The gift

of prophets is for a rather small number of the body's members. The gift of prophecy can be experienced by all of the members. "you can all prophesy in turn" (1 Corinthians 14:31).

The difference between the office of the prophet and the gift of prophecy is this. All who have the office of the prophet will prophesy. But all who prophesy do not have the office of a prophet.

Prophecy, because of its nature, is perhaps the greatest of the gifts mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:8-11. Paul says, "Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy" (1 Corinthians 14:1). The King James Version says, "Desire spiritual gifts, but rather (most of all) that ye may prophesy."

So we see, prophecy is a very important gift. We must seek to understand it well. It is especially important because it is the greatest of all nine gifts for building up the body. It is the gift which makes the body come alive in a special way. Through it believers are built up and sinners are moved toward God. "But if an unbeliever or someone who does not understand<sup>[a]</sup> comes in while everybody is prophesying, he will be convinced by all that he is a sinner" (1 Corinthians 14:24).

**7** Circle the letter before each TRUE statement.

- a** By forthtelling we mean "telling the future."
- b** The gift of "prophets" and the gift of "prophecy" are the same.
- c** All members of the body may have the gift of ministry called "prophets."
- d** Prophecy is a very important gift because it can help both believers and sinners.

## Purpose for the Gift of Prophecy

1. **Forthtelling.** The great value of forthtelling was made clear on the day of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit was poured out, and almost at once the gift of prophecy was manifested in Peter’s sermon. That was no ordinary sermon. A day earlier Peter could not have preached it. At the heart of his sermon was the mighty power and inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Peter spoke ideas that were not his own. They came from the Spirit.

Prophecy is a natural result of being filled with the Spirit. Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit, *and he prophesied*. When the Ephesian disciples in Acts 19 were filled with the Holy Spirit, they spoke with tongues, and prophesied (Acts 19:6, KJV).

True prophesying is done with God’s ability and power. Believers may be talented for speaking. They may be able to preach great sermons. But no one can truly prophesy apart from the Holy Spirit (See 1 Peter 4:11).

The believer who prophesies speaks to men. “But everyone who prophesies speaks to men” (1 Corinthians 14:3, KJV). The question is, what does he speak to men? *What* does he tell forth? He speaks and tells forth the Word of God. But don’t all preachers and teachers do that? Yes. However, in prophecy, it is not so much *what* or *who* speaks forth as it is *how* he speaks forth.

Through the gift of prophecy the Holy Spirit can also bring to the speaker’s mind what he would not have thought of himself. Surely that was true of Peter’s great sermon described in Acts 2.

**8** When a believer speaks forth the Word of God under the Spirit’s power and inspiration that kind of prophecy is called

.....

2. **Foretelling.** To foretell means to tell something before it happens. We have already learned that God knows everything. This means He knows the past, the present, and the future. Man

does not by his power know the future. Only through the Holy Spirit can he know something of the future. Through the gift of prophecy, the Holy Spirit can cause a believer to speak forth something about the future.

The Old Testament prophets often foretold the future. Telling the future was a great part of their ministry. Usually the purpose was to awaken people to their need of God. Jonah was one of those who foretold the future. He prophesied, “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned” (Jonah 3:4).

Evil men sometimes predict the future. They are called fortune-tellers. Paul had an experience one day with such a person. “Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future” (Acts 16:16). God is very much against this way of telling the future. It is of Satan. As believers, we must not have anything to do with such things, “...Let no one be found among you ...who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD...” (Deuteronomy 18:9-12).

Satan is always a destroyer. He seeks to destroy faith. He seeks to destroy believers. He seeks to destroy the body of Christ. Any foretelling of the future he may inspire is aimed at destroying. “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy” (John 10:10).

God’s work is always to save. Sometimes through the gift of prophecy the Holy Spirit saves the body of Christ from suffering. (Read Acts 11:27-30.) At other times, through the gift of prophecy, His body is prepared for coming suffering. (Read Acts 20:23; 21:10-13.)

Believers can be tempted to use the gift of prophecy to help them know what they should do. This is not a safe thing to do. We will learn more about this when we study the gift of tongues.

**9** Place an **F** before each FALSE statement, and a **T** before each TRUE statement.

- ... **a** Foretelling means telling forth something after it happens.
- ... **b** Old Testament prophets were often foretellers.
- ... **c** Fortune tellers are very helpful to believers.
- ... **d** Satan always seeks to destroy. God always seeks to save.

### *Instructions for Use of the Gift of Prophecy*

1 Corinthians 14:29-40

1. Prophecy must be according to the faith we have. (See Romans 12:6.) The Holy Spirit can work through the believer only according to the faith in the believer's heart. To prophesy without faith is to speak forth out of our own hearts. This makes it very important for the believer to pray much, to know God's Word, and to be filled with the Spirit.

2. Prophecy must be limited and judged. (See 1 Corinthians 14:29.) God desires that there be order in the public service. It appears Paul is saying, "Don't just go on and on prophesying. Give time for those who sit by to judge." *Judge* means "to judge correctly."

Other believers are to judge or evaluate with careful thought what may be said in a prophecy. Why? Because those who prophesy are human. They can speak by the Holy Spirit. But, people may also speak out of their own spirit or even out of an evil spirit. Those who sit by are to listen and decide, with the help of God's Word, if what is said agrees with the Word. If it does not agree with the Word they are to cast it aside. For example, if a prophecy was given telling the people they should curse the name of Jesus, that prophecy must be cast aside.

3. All may prophesy. (See 1 Corinthians 14:31 and 1 Corinthians 14:5, 24.) This tells us every believer may be used by the Holy Spirit to prophesy. The gift is not only for church leaders, it is for all Spirit-filled believers.

4. Those who have a prophecy to give do not *have to* speak forth. The person who prophesies decides when he will prophesy, and when he will not prophesy. He is not under some sort of spell which makes him unable to use his own will. Read 1 Corinthians 14:32-33.

5. Those who are used by the Holy Spirit in the gift of prophecy must be willing to take instruction and to be corrected. (See 1 Corinthians 14:37.)

**10** Circle the letter before each CORRECT statement.

- a** Once a person gives a prophecy, he no longer needs to prepare his heart to prophesy more.
- b** It is wrong for those who hear a prophecy to wonder if it came from the Holy Spirit.
- c** The gift of prophecy is only for church leaders.
- d** The believer who prophesies has no right to decide when he should prophesy.

### ***Purpose for the Gift of Prophecy***

The gifts of the Spirit are for building up the body. Each gift has its own special way for building up the body. Paul tells us how prophecy does this. “But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort” (1 Corinthians 14:3). The King James Version says, “He that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort” The believer who prophesies speaks forth to encourage and to comfort others. As others are encouraged and comforted, they are built up spiritually. And as they are built up spiritually, the whole body is helped.

**11** When we say that the one who prophesies builds up the body, we mean the body is .....

**self-test**

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**MULTIPLE CHOICE.** Choose the correct answer(s) for each question. Circle the letter(s) of the correct answer(s).

- 1** The gifts of healing minister mainly to man's
  - a)** spiritual needs.
  - b)** physical needs.
  - c)** material needs.
  
- 2** You can know the Holy Spirit wants to use you in a gift of healing by
  - a)** seeing someone in need.
  - b)** someone telling you that you have a gift of healing.
  - c)** sensing a moving of the Holy Spirit deep within you to minister to someone in physical need.
  
- 3** The working of miracles is
  - a)** done only by supernatural power.
  - b)** impossible without the Holy Spirit.
  - c)** learned only in a Bible School.
  
- 4** Prophecy is
  - a)** all kinds of preaching.
  - b)** speaking by the Holy Spirit's power.
  - c)** forthtelling and fortune-telling.
  
- 5** This gift of prophecy is important because
  - a)** every believer can manifest it.
  - b)** through it the future is foretold.
  - c)** it is a gift for proclaiming God's message.
  
- 6** Forthtelling means
  - a)** telling something before it happens.
  - b)** speaking forth God's message.
  - c)** the same as foretelling.



SHORT ANSWER. Complete the following statements by filling in the proper word or words on the lines provided.

**7** The three gifts of the Spirit we have studied in this lesson are

.....

**8** The main purpose of the gift of healing is .....

**9** Omnipotent means .....

**10** One way the working of miracles helps build up the body of Christ is by removing .....

**11** When Satan inspires people to foretell the future, his purpose usually is to .....

**12** The purpose of the gift of prophecy is to build up Christ's body by .....  
and .....

***answers to study questions***

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- 1** **a** more than one.  
**b** Spirit-filled believers.  
**c** making whole or well.
- 7** **a** False.  
**b** False.  
**c** False.  
**d** True.
- 2** All answers are true.
- 8** forthtelling.
- 3** **a** F  
**b** F  
**c** T  
**d** F  
**e** T
- 9** **a** F  
**b** T  
**c** F  
**d** T
- 4** An evil man was blinded.
- 10** No correct answers.
- 5** **a** miracles.  
**b** the Son of God.  
**c** the Holy Spirit.  
**d** God's power.  
**e** omnipotent.
- 11** edified.
- 6** Peter, a preacher of the gospel, was kept in prison.

**Your Notes**

## LESSON

9 Discerning of  
Spirits, Tongues,  
Interpretation

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We have come to the last lesson in our course. Already we have studied six of the nine gifts of the Spirit. As we moved along we saw how the Holy Spirit so wonderfully provides for building up Christ's body. We learned that the gifts of the Spirit are generally manifested to the body through Spirit-filled believers.

In this final lesson we will learn about the last three gifts listed in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10. We will give special attention to the gift of tongues, since it is so common in the world today.

You have seen that all of these gifts are possible through the Holy Spirit. If you have not yet been baptized in the Holy Spirit, you can be today. Open your heart and invite Him in. Begin worshiping Him in faith. Yield fully to Him. You will sense Him deep within you. As He takes full control of you, you will begin speaking in a new language. You will know He has come in His fullness. That will be the beginning of your Spirit-filled life. As you stay filled with the Spirit, the gifts of the Spirit will be manifested through you, as the Spirit wills.

***lesson outline***

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## Discerning of Spirits

Discerning of Spirits Defined

Discerning of Spirits Explained and Illustrated

Purpose Discerning of Spirits

### The Gift of Tongues

The Gift of Tongues Defined

The Gift of Tongues Explained and Illustrated

Purpose for the Gift of Tongues

### Interpretation of Tongues

Interpretation of Tongues Defined

Interpretation of Tongues Explained and Illustrated

Purpose for Interpretation of Tongues

## ***lesson objectives***

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- State the purpose and function of discerning of spirits.
- Explain the function and purpose of the gift of tongues.
- State the function and purpose for interpretation of tongues.
- Explain how you might be used by the Holy Spirit to manifest this gift.

## ***learning activities***

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1. Read 1 Corinthians 14:1-28.
2. Make a chart in your notebook showing the three gifts of the Spirit and their definitions, using 1 Corinthians 14:2-3.
3. Study the key words before beginning the lesson.
4. Complete each test as you come to it.
5. Finish memorizing 1 Corinthians 13. Quote all thirteen verses to a friend.

## ***key words***

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circumstance

counterfeit

severity

**lesson development**

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**DISCERNING OF SPIRITS**

**Objective 1.** *State the purpose and function of discerning of spirits.*

**Discerning of Spirits Defined**

“... to another distinguishing between spirits”  
(1 Corinthians 12:10). The King James Version  
says, “to another discerning of spirits.”

*Discerning* means “looking beyond the outward to the inward, seeing right through.” The word *discerning* also carries the idea of forming a judgment on the basis of what is known.

The word *spirit* means “breath.” Yet, to believers it means more than breath. It really means “spirit-being.” As it is used here it is a reference to any one of three spirits—the spirit of man, the Spirit of God, or evil spirits. The spirit of man is the most important part of man. With his spirit, man knows God, who is a spirit. The Spirit of God is the Holy Spirit. And evil spirits are spirits in the evil world. They are Satan’s servants.

Discerning of spirits, then, is a special ability given by the Holy Spirit to look beyond what ordinary men see when a spirit is manifesting itself. It is the ability to know by which spirit a man is speaking or acting.

**1** The three kinds of spirits which can manifest themselves through men are ..... ,  
..... ,  
and .....

**2** Through discerning of spirits the believer is able to.....  
.....

**Discerning of Spirits Explained and Illustrated**

Satan is a great counterfeiter. That is, he tries to copy what the Holy Spirit does. He also tries to make people believe that

when he manifests himself it is the Holy Spirit. This could cause problems, because even believers can be fooled.

Then, too, men can speak out of their own spirits. They can make it appear that they are speaking by the Holy Spirit. This can also create problems for the body.

Christ, the Head of the body, has made provisions for every need of the body. This includes protection for the body against evil spirits, protection against men who allow their own spirits to hurt the body, and discerning of spirits to provide protection for believers who are truly used by the Holy Spirit. Sometimes the Holy Spirit expresses God's severity through a believer. In such cases, other believers may be tempted to say it was of an evil spirit, or it was of the man's own spirit. But, discerning of spirits enables the body to know what spirit is manifesting itself.

Some evil spirits can be recognized without the gift of discerning of spirits. Paul gave instructions to the Corinthians on this "Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:3). What does Paul mean? He is writing about those who speak by a spirit. He means that if a man speaking by a spirit does call Jesus accursed, he is not speaking by the Holy Spirit. He is speaking by an evil spirit. He also means that no man speaking by an evil spirit is going to call Jesus, Lord.

Now, let us see how the gift of discerning of spirits worked in the life of Jesus, and in the early church. We should remind ourselves at this point that the gift of discerning of spirits is supernatural.

### ***Discerning of Spirits in Jesus' Ministry***

Jesus was full of the Holy Spirit ". . . God gives the Spirit without limit" (John 3:34). Therefore Jesus was able to discern both good and evil spirits.

1. He discerned the good spirit which was in Nathanael. Before Jesus had ever talked with Nathanael, He knew the kind

of spirit he had. As Philip was bringing Nathanael to Jesus, Jesus said, “Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false” (John 1:47).

2. He discerned a *wrong spirit* in James and John. They wanted to call down fire from heaven and destroy those who would not receive Jesus. “But Jesus turned and rebuked them” (Luke 9:55, KJV).

3. He often discerned *evil spirits*. At one time Jesus saw a woman who had been crippled for eighteen years. He recognized that her problem was caused by an evil spirit. This spirit did not speak. But it bound the poor woman. Jesus said, “Woman, you are set free from your infirmity” (Luke 13:12). In that moment she was well. She did not need healing. She only needed to be free from an evil spirit.

We learn from this, that the gift of discerning of spirits can be a very useful gift in ministering to people with diseases or infirmities.

### *Discerning of Spirits in the Early Church*

1. Peter, by the Holy Spirit, discerned a wrong spirit in Ananias and Sapphira. He discerned that they were lying to the Holy Spirit (See Acts 5:3.) If Satan cannot give men an evil spirit, he tries to give them a wrong spirit.

2. Peter, by the Spirit, also discerned a wrong spirit in Simon. (See Acts 8:23.) Was this the gift of discerning of spirits, or was it the gift of the word of knowledge? Who can say for sure? Perhaps it was both gifts. As we have seen, these gifts all flow out of the Holy Spirit. They often work together. The gifts are not as important as the purpose for which they are given. They are important only as they help the body.

3. Paul, by the gift of discerning of spirits, discerned an evil spirit in a slave girl. An ordinary believer, by his natural ability to know, might have thought the girl was a servant of God. Listen to what she said. “These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved” (Acts 16:17). That sounded good, but Paul knew by the Holy Spirit



that it was an evil spirit who spoke. The Holy Spirit had spoken to Paul's spirit. That is how Paul knew. So Paul spoke to the evil spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" (Acts 16:18). Then the Bible says, "At that moment the spirit left her."

We should note that not only did Paul discern the evil spirit, he also cast it out. The supernatural power, given to the believer by the Holy Spirit, gave him the ability to cast out evil spirits in the same way. Nonbelievers do not have this power. (Read Acts 19:11-17.)

One of the things evil spirits do is to try to get believers to accept false teaching. The gift of discerning of spirits makes the believer able to recognize what is the teaching of the Holy Spirit, and what is the teaching of evil spirits. "I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray... the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you" (1 John 2:26-27). We must learn to listen carefully to the Holy Spirit. He will let us know what teachers are trying to give us false teaching.

**3** Complete the following statements.

**a** Counterfeit means .....

**b** Three kinds of spirits can manifest themselves through  
.....

**c** Through discerning of spirits the body of Christ can be  
.....

## **Purpose for Discerning of Spirits**

The purpose for discerning of spirits is mainly protection of Christ's body. This gift protects the body from evil spirits who try to hinder the gospel. It also protects the body from wrong spirits which often hurt and divide the body. Beyond this, the gift of discerning of spirits protects the body from false teaching. All of this protection makes possible the building up of the body of Christ.

**4** From what did the gift of discerning of spirits, which was manifested through Paul in Acts 16:16-18, protect the body?

.....

.....

**THE GIFT OF TONGUES**

**Objective 2.** *Explain the function and purpose of the gift of tongues.*

**The Gift of Tongues Defined**

“...to another speaking in different kinds of tongues...” (1 Corinthians 12:10).

*Tongues* means “languages.” Strange tongues would be those that are unknown. We are reminded of Paul’s statement in 1 Corinthians 13:1, “I may be able to speak with the languages of men and even of angels.”

We must understand that this gift is totally supernatural. The gift of tongues is the ability given to the believer, by the Holy Spirit, by which he can speak languages he has never learned. The language may be some language of earth. Or it may be a language of angels.

The gift of tongues is never a learned language. It is a language given by the Holy Spirit.

**The Gift of Tongues Explained and Illustrated**

The gift of tongues is one of the most common of the Spirit’s gifts. It is very important to the body of Christ. For this reason Satan tries to keep people from speaking in tongues. Therefore we want to understand all we can about it.

***The Importance of Speaking in Tongues***

We have said already that the gift of prophecy is perhaps the most important gift. However, in some ways speaking in tongues is equally important. Here are the reasons:

1. Tongues is a gift all can have. Paul said, “I would like every one of you to speak in tongues” (1 Corinthians 14:5).
2. Tongues is a gift you can manifest anytime, anywhere, and in any of life’s circumstances. One can speak in tongues silently or aloud (1 Corinthians 14:28).
3. Tongues is the primary gift of the nine gifts by which the believer can build himself up (1 Corinthians 14:4).
4. Tongues may function as the starter gift. I will explain. In Israel there are two kinds of candlesticks. Some of them have seven branches. Others have nine branches. On those candlesticks with nine branches, one of the branches can be removed from the other eight. It is then lighted. And with it the other eight are lit. It is the starter for the other eight.

The gift of tongues is like that. It helps us into the supernatural realm. We can say, it starts us in the supernatural. It prepares us to manifest the other eight gifts.
5. Tongues is the language of the spirit. God is a spirit. Tongues enables us to talk with God better than we ever could with our human ability.

**5** Place a **T** before each TRUE statement and an **F** before each FALSE statement.

- ... **a** Tongues mean language we learn in school.
- ... **b** Some who speak in tongues speak in the language of angels.
- ... **c** Speaking in tongues is the least important of all nine gifts of the Spirit.
- ... **d** Speaking in tongues should be limited to church leaders.

### *The Function of Speaking In Tongues*

Speaking in tongues is evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit. It can be safely said that *whenever* anyone is baptized in the Holy Spirit, he will speak with tongues. He may speak in several different languages unknown to him. Why do we

believe a person who is baptized in the Spirit will speak with tongues? There are several reasons.

When the Holy Spirit was first poured out on the Day of Pentecost, all who were present spoke with tongues. These were the twelve apostles, and more than one hundred other men and women. None of them had any idea of what might happen when the Holy Spirit fell upon them. They had no teaching. They had no wrong ideas. They had no pattern. However, when they were baptized in the Spirit, they all had the *same experience*. They *all* spoke with tongues.

Therefore, if we want a good idea of what to expect when we are baptized in the Holy Spirit, all we need to do is look at the account of the first time people were baptized in the Spirit. There the pattern was set.

It seems that whenever people were baptized in the Holy Spirit in the early church, they spoke with tongues. Let us examine these first accounts, according to the Book of Acts.

1. *The one hundred and twenty in the upper room.* “All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them” (Acts 2:4).

2. *The Samaritans.* See Acts 8:14-17. The Bible does not say specifically that they spoke with tongues. However, it does not say they did not speak in tongues. When Simon saw the Holy Ghost was given by the laying on of the apostles’ hands, he wanted to buy the power to do the same thing. What did Simon see? We believe he saw and heard the Samaritans speak in tongues.

3. *Paul’s experience.* Read Acts 9:17. Again, we are not told whether Paul did or did not speak with tongues when he was baptized in the Holy Spirit. However, Paul did say later, “I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you” (1 Corinthians 14:18). When do you suppose he began? We believe he began to speak with tongues when he was baptized in the Spirit.

4. *Cornelius and his household*. See Acts 10:44-47. “For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.”

5. *The Ephesians*. Read Acts 19:1-6. Here it is clear that they spoke with tongues.

As we examine these five accounts we note that people were baptized in the Holy Spirit, and in three cases it is clear that they spoke in tongues. So we believe that *everyone* who is baptized in the Holy Spirit will speak in tongues.

**6** We believe speaking in tongues is the evidence shown when a believer has been filled with the Holy Spirit because

- a)** speaking in tongues is supernatural.
- b)** speaking in tongues is hard to learn.
- c)** everyone who was first baptized in the Spirit in the upper room experienced speaking in tongues.
- d)** all who were baptized in the Spirit as recorded in Acts spoke in tongues.

### *Spiritually Uplifting*

Speaking in tongues builds up the *believer* spiritually. “He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself” (1 Corinthians 14:4). The King James Version says, “He edifieth (builds up) himself.” As we have already seen, building up ourselves is a very important function of speaking in tongues. All believers need to be built up spiritually. “But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit” (Jude 20). This is a great help to every Spirit-filled believer.

The Spirit puts us in direct communication with God the Father. Read the following verses:

1. *Acts 2:11*. “we hear them declaring the wonders of God.” Some feel that the speakers could have been testifying to the people about the works of God. My view is that they were worshipping and praising God. They were speaking *to God*.

2. *Acts 10:46*. “For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.” They, too, were speaking *to God*.

3. *1 Corinthians 14:14-15*. Here Paul says he prays “my spirit prays” that is, in tongues. In prayer he *spoke to God*.

4. *1 Corinthians 14:16*. “If you are praising God with your spirit . . .” Paul means “when you bless God in tongues.” Again the speaking is *to God*.

5. *1 Corinthians 14:17*. “For thou (that is, the one who speaks in tongues) verily givest thanks well . . .” The giving of thanks is *to God*.

Speaking in tongues by itself builds up the speaker, but speaking in tongues with interpretation builds up the *Body of Christ*. (Read 1 Corinthians 14:4-5.) When tongues are interpreted in the public service, the experience builds up the whole body.

How does speaking in tongues with interpretation edify the whole body? Speaking in tongues with interpretation is equivalent to prophecy. This view is based mainly on what Paul said, “He who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may be edified” (1 Corinthians 14:5).

As we have suggested elsewhere (p.83), there is sometimes overlapping between gifts. For instance, through the supernatural gift of prophecy, which is spoken to the people, the body is built up by exhortation and comfort. Also, through the supernatural gifts of tongues and interpretation, the body is built up.

Complete the following statements.

**7** Speaking in tongues without interpretation builds up the  
.....,  
while tongues with interpretation builds up the .....

**8** Uninterrupted speaking in tongues is always directed to  
.....

## Special Helps

When we pray in tongues, we are able to pray as we cannot pray in the natural. “In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words (that is, our own human words) cannot express” (Romans 8:26).

Speaking in tongues can be a sign to unbelievers. “Tongues, then, are a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers” (1 Corinthians 14:22). When an unbeliever hears someone speak a language which the speaker himself does not know, that unbeliever suddenly realizes God is speaking to him. God may not be speaking to him so much *by what* is being said, as *by the supernaturalness* of what is being said. In either case, what is being said is for the hearer’s benefit.

This is what happened on the Day of Pentecost. People were in Jerusalem from all the countries round about. When they came together they heard these people from Galilee “declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” (Acts 2:11). That made the unbelievers ready to listen to the gospel. Tongues-speaking was a sign to them.

**9** Complete the following statements.

- a** The Holy Spirit helps us pray according .....
- b** Speaking in tongues is a help to the believer because he knows .....
- c** When the unbeliever hears Christians speaking in tongues, he knows that .....

## The Regulations For Tongues-Speaking

Since speaking in tongues is so common, there is need for understanding the right use of the gift. The Corinthian church had the gift of tongues, but they did not know how to make the best use of it. They needed more knowledge. So Paul gave them some guidelines. Let us look at the rules Paul gave.

1. Speaking in tongues must not be given too much importance. (Read 1 Corinthians 14:6 and 14:26.) There must be a time and place for things other than tongues in the

service—revelations, word of knowledge, prophecy, doctrine, psalms, interpretations.

2. Speaking in tongues is to be limited to two or three utterances in a service (1 Corinthians 14:27).

3. Speaking in tongues in the public service must be interpreted (1 Corinthians 14:27).

4. Those who speak in tongues in the public service are to keep silent if no one is present to interpret (1 Corinthians 14:28).

5. Those who speak in tongues in the public service are to pray that *they* may also interpret (1 Corinthians 14:13).

6. Speaking in tongues is not to be forbidden (1 Corinthians 14:39).

7. Speaking in tongues is not to create confusion (1 Corinthians 14:40).

**10** That which provides a solid base for profitable manifestation of the gift of tongues is .....

## Purpose of the Gift of Tongues

The purpose for speaking in tongues is twofold: (1) edification of the believer who speaks, and (2) edification of the body when it is interpreted.

Some have tried to use both tongues and prophecy for personal guidance. Very serious problems have arisen from this. If we understand that uninterrupted tongues are always spoken to God, we will realize that this is not the way God gives a message to man. We do not mean that God could not speak to man in a tongue unknown to the speaker. But if that did happen, it would be a miracle, and not the general function of the gift of tongues.

Regarding prophecy for personal guidance, Donald Gee said, “It can truthfully be affirmed that there is not one single instance of the Gift of Prophecy being . . . resorted to for guidance in the New Testament.”



One additional thing should be remembered. When Paul wrote to the Corinthians about the purpose for prophecy, he said it was for edification, exhortation, and comfort. None of these words suggest that the gifts are for personal guidance.

We are safe when we manifest these gifts according to Paul's instructions. When we do this, their purpose is fulfilled.

**11** The great overall purpose for all nine gifts of the Spirit including speaking in tongues is .....

## INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

**Objective 3.** *State the function and purpose for interpretation of tongues.*

**Objective 4.** *Explain how you might be used by the Holy Spirit to manifest this gift.*

### Interpretation of Tongues Defined

“... and to still another the interpretation of tongues” (1 Corinthians 12:10). The King James Version says, “to another the interpretation of tongues.”

*Interpretation* means “explanation.” *Explanation* means “to give the meaning.” We must understand that interpretation does not mean “translation.” *Translation* means “to say the same thing in another language.”

Therefore, we understand that interpretation of tongues is “giving the meaning of what is said in another language. We must also understand that the ability to give the meaning of tongues comes only from the Holy Spirit.

### Interpretation of Tongues Explained and Illustrated

Speaking in tongues in a public service is in order only when it is interpreted. “If someone is going to speak in a tongue. . . let there be two or at least three, each in turn, and let one interpret” (1 Corinthians 14:27).

Speaking in tongues in a public service, without an interpretation, violates Paul's instruction, "Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church" (1 Corinthians 14:12).

What if you feel an urge in your spirit to speak in tongues during a service and no one interprets what you said. Does that mean you should not have spoken? No. *It could mean that someone who was to be used by the Holy Spirit to interpret did not have faith to interpret. The same rule would apply as relates to prophecy.* "those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires" (Romans 8:5).

Also, if no one interpreted what you said *it could mean that you failed to follow the Bible rule* which says, "If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and God" (1 Corinthians 14:28). You should not feel badly if what you spoke, in such a case, was not interpreted. However, you should be careful not to speak again unless you know an interpreter is present.

Again if no one interpreted what you said *it could mean you should pay closer attention to what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 14:13:* "anyone who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret what he (himself) says."

There is another question about interpretation of tongues. How can I know the Holy Spirit wants to manifest the gift of interpretation through me? The answer is much the same as that we suggested concerning the other gifts. In your spirit you will feel a great urge, a sort of bubbling up, after someone has spoken in a tongue, to share the message God is giving you. Then you should speak forth clearly what the Holy Spirit gives you to say. You may have received only a few words at the beginning. As you speak out in faith, more words will come. Soon you will have given the whole meaning of the message.

**12** Circle the letter of each FALSE statement below.

- a** There is no limit to the number of messages of tongues and their interpretation in any one public service.

- b** A message in tongues in a public service must always be interpreted if the purpose of tongues is to be realized, that is, if the body is to be edified.
- c** Speaking in tongues is mainly for unbelievers.
- d** If no one interprets a message in tongues in the service, the speaker should repeat the message more clearly.

**13** You may know the Holy Spirit is moving upon you to give an interpretation

- a)** if you have learned the language in which the utterance is given.
- b)** when you sense a deep moving in your spirit to speak forth something to comfort and exhort the people.
- c)** when you feel a strong urge to speak forth some words of worship, prayer, blessing, or thanksgiving which have suddenly come to your mind.

## Purpose for Interpretation of Tongues

The purpose for the gift of interpretation is to build up Christ's body by giving the meaning of what is being spoken in tongues in the public service. The edification comes to the body as the members understand what was spoken in the strange tongue. In this way they are lifted to new heights of worship, prayer, blessing, or giving of thanks to God. Often when this happens believers find their burdens lifted, their problems solved, their joys increased, and their spiritual lives enriched. The whole church is strengthened as the members unite in this Holy Spirit-inspired reaching unto God.

**self-test**

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**1** Read Acts 2:1-4; 10:44-47; 19:1-6 carefully, and circle the letter of the phrase which completes the sentence correctly. The believers, who were baptized with the Holy Spirit on these occasions, were all

- a)** listening to a sermon.
- b)** speaking in other languages.
- c)** kneeling in prayer.

**2** For the description (left column) write the number which represents the gift referred to (right column).

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ... <b>a</b> In Acts 16:17-18, the apostle recognized in a slave girl a spirit that was not of God.                               | 1) Tongues<br>2) Interpretation of tongues<br>3) Discerning of spirits |
| ... <b>b</b> In Acts 2:14, a group of believers praying together began to speak in a language they had not learned.               |  |
| ... <b>c</b> The body of believers is built up when one of the believers gives the meaning of an utterance or message in tongues. |  |
| ... <b>d</b> There is one gift of the Spirit which prepares us to manifest the other eight gifts.                                 |  |

**3** Circle the letter of each TRUE statement.

- a** When the Holy Spirit speaks through a believer in a new language, it may be a language that is not known on earth.
- b** Evil spirits can only be recognized through the gift of discerning of spirits.
- c** The gift of discerning of spirits is sometimes a useful gift in ministering to the sick and infirm.
- d** A person speaks either out of his own spirit, by a wrong spirit, or by the Holy Spirit.
- e** Not all who are baptized in the Holy Spirit speak in tongues.

**4** Another word for tongues is .....

**5** The principal purpose of discerning of spirits is .....

**6** In order for tongues to build up the body, what else is needed?

**7** Which of the following are rules governing the use of tongues in the church? Circle the letters of the TRUE statements.

- a** Speaking in tongues should not create confusion.
- b** Only the pastor should give an interpretation.
- c** If there is no one present in a public service to interpret a message in tongues, the one who speaks in tongues should remain silent.
- d** There is no biblical basis for one speaking in tongues to ask God to give him the interpretation also.

**answers to study questions**

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- 1** man's spirit, the Holy Spirit, evil spirits.
- 8** God.
- 2** know which spirit is manifesting itself.
- 9** **a** to God's will.  
**b** God is speaking through him.  
**c** God is speaking.
- 3** **a** copy.  
**b** people.  
**c** protected.
- 10** knowledge.
- 4** It protected the body from an evil spirit who wanted to hinder the gospel.
- 11** edification of the body
- 5** **a** F  
**b** T  
**c** F  
**d** F
- 12** **a** False.  
**b** True.  
**c** False.  
**d** False.
- 6** **c**) everyone who was first baptized in the Spirit in the upper room experienced speaking in tongues.  
**d**) all who were baptized in the Spirit, as recorded in Acts, spoke in tongues.
- 13** **c**) when you feel a strong urge to speak forth some words of worship, prayer, blessing, or thanksgiving which has suddenly come to your mind
- 7** speaker, body.



# Glossary

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The right-hand column lists the lesson in the study guide in which the word is first used.

		<i>Lesson</i>
<b>channel</b>	— the means by which something moves or is carried	7
<b>circumstances</b>	— state of affairs	9
<b>community</b>	— all the people living in the same place	5
<b>confidence</b>	— firm belief or trust	5
<b>confusion</b>	— disorder	6
<b>counterfeit</b>	— copy in order to deceive	9
<b>coupled</b>	— joined together	4
<b>equipping</b>	— supply what is needed; make ready	1
<b>etched</b>	— to engrave (a design) or picture	3
<b>explosive</b>	— having power to burst forth	8
<b>expound</b>	— explain, give the answer	3
<b>foundation</b>	— part on which other parts rest	2
<b>function</b>	— proper work, use	1
<b>generate</b>	— produce, cause to be	2
<b>generous</b>	— willing to share, unselfish	6
<b>Gentile</b>	— a person who is not a Jew	7
<b>Godhead</b>	— having the nature of Deity, referring to the whole of the Trinity	4
<b>govern</b>	— rule, control, manage	2



<b>Identify</b>	— recognize as being a particular person or thing	3
<b>infirmity</b>	— weakness; feebleness; disability	8
<b>inspiration</b>	— influence of thought, usually in a good way	3
<b>instrument</b>	— thing used to do something, device for producing musical sound	7
<b>intercession</b>	— to plead for another (in prayer)	6
<b>KJV</b>	— King James Version	
<b>magician</b>	— a person who uses magic	8
<b>martyr</b>	— one who is put to death for his religion or other beliefs	4
<b>obstacle</b>	— something that stands in the way or stops progress	8
<b>overlap</b>	— cover and extend beyond	5
<b>persuasion</b>	— a firm belief	7
<b>plural</b>	— more than one in number	8
<b>preside</b>	— to have charge; have control	6
<b>reproduction</b>	— process by which men, animals, and plants produce individuals like themselves	4
<b>revealed</b>	— made known; shown	3
<b>scholar</b>	— a person having much knowledge	8
<b>self-centeredness</b>	— concerned about one's self; self, the central or main concern	4
<b>severity</b>	— strictness; sternness	9
<b>steward</b>	— one who manages another's property	1
<b>substance</b>	— property; material	6

<b>supernatural</b>	— above or beyond what is natural	2
<b>sympathize</b>	— share in a feeling; express sympathy	6
<b>talent</b>	— a special natural ability	1
<b>transcend</b>	— go beyond; be better than	7
<b>translate</b>	— change from one language into another	5
<b>utterance</b>	— something spoken	7



# **Answers to Self-Tests**

## Lesson 1

**-1 F**

**-2 T**

**-3 F**

**-4 T**

**-5 F**

**-6 T**

**-7 T**

**-8 F**

**-9 T**

**10 T**

**11 T**

## Lesson 2

**-1 a** Knowledge.

**b** Faith.

**c** Experience.

**-2 a** Produces faith.

**b** Governs faith.

**c** Determines experience.

**-3 a** Apostles.

**b** Prophets.

**c** Evangelists.

**d** Pastors.

**e** Teachers.

Reference: Ephesians 4:11.

- 4 a** Exhortation.
- b** Giving.
- c** Ruling.
- d** Showing mercy.

Note: Also helps, ministering, and teaching are listed.

- 5 a** Word of wisdom.
- b** Word of knowledge.
- c** Faith.
- d** Gifts of healing.
- e** Working of miracles.
- f** Prophecy.
- g** Divers kinds of tongues.
- h** Discerning of Spirits.
- i** Interpretation of tongues.

Note: The order in which they are listed is not important.

**-6** See 1 Corinthians 13:1-2 in your Bible.

**-7 b)** gives faith a good foundation.

**-8 b)** knowledge.

**-9 c)** they did not know about it.

### Lesson 3

- 1 a** 5) Give the meaning.
- b** 3) Choose.
- c** 1) Tell forth or speak out.
- d** 4) Predict.
- e** 2) To send forth.

**-2** God.

- 3 a** False
- b** True
- c** False
- d** False
- e** True

- 4** Carries the gospel to new places, but also builds up and oversees the body.
- 5** Foretelling or predicting an event, and speaking forth and interpreting God's message.

## Lesson 4

- 1** **a)** pastor-teachers.  
**d)** evangelists.  
**e)** apostles.  
**g)** prophets.
- 2** **b)** Holy Spirit.  
**c)** Body.
- 3** **c)** church as a body.
- 4** All answers are correct.
- 5** Love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth.

## Lesson 5

- 1** F
- 2** T
- 3** T
- 4** F
- 5** T
- 6** F
- 7** F
- 8** T
- 9** F
- 10** T
- 11** T

**12 F**

**13 T**

**14 T**

## **Lesson 6**

**-1** Giving of his substance, his time, his strength, his talents.

**-2** Bishop, presbyter, superintendent, elder, helper.

**-3 a** Ruling.

**b** Helps.

**c** Giving.

**d** Showing mercy.

**-4** ruling.

**-5** giving.

**-6 a** Showing mercy.

**b** Helping.

**c** Giving.

**d** Ruling.

**e** Showing mercy.

**-7** Ministering, teaching, exhorting.

## **Lesson 7**

**-1 F**

**-2 T**

**-3 F**

**-4 T**

**-5 F**

**-6 F**

**-7 T**

**-8 T**

**-9 T**

## Lesson 8

- 1 **b)** physical needs.
- 2 **c)** sensing a moving of the Holy Spirit deep within you to minister to someone in physical need.
- 3 **a)** done only by supernatural power.
  - b)** impossible without the Holy Spirit.
- 4 **b)** speaking by the Holy Spirit's power.
- 5 **c)** it is a gift for proclaiming God's message.
- 6 **b)** speaking forth God's message.
- 7 healing, working of miracles, and prophecy.
- 8 to build up Christ's body.
- 9 all-powerful.
- 10 obstacles.
- 11 destroy.
- 12 exhortation and comfort.

## Lesson 9

- 1 **b)** speaking in other languages.
- 2 **a)** 3) Discerning of spirits
  - b)** 1) Tongues
  - c)** 2) Interpretation of tongues
  - d)** 1) Tongues
- 3 **a)** True.
  - b)** False.
  - c)** True.
  - d)** True.
  - e)** False.
- 4 languages.
- 5 protection of believers (the body).



**-6** interpretation of tongues.

**-7 a** True.

**b** False.

**c** True.

**d** False.



# Spiritual Gifts

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## UNIT STUDENT REPORTS AND ANSWER SHEETS

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### DIRECTIONS

When you have completed your study of each unit, fill out the unit student report answer sheet for that unit. The following are directions how to indicate your answer to each question. There are two kinds of questions: TRUE-FALSE and MULTIPLE-CHOICE.

### TRUE-FALSE QUESTION EXAMPLE

*The following statement is either true or false. If the statement is*

*TRUE, blacken space A.*

*FALSE, blacken space B.*

**1** The Bible is God's message for us.

The above statement, *The Bible is God's message for us*, is TRUE, so you would blacken space A like this:

1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> D
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## MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTION EXAMPLE

*There is one best answer for the following question. Blacken the space for the answer you have chosen.*

- 2** To be born again means to  
**a)** be young in age.  
**b)** accept Jesus as Savior.  
**c)** start a new year.  
**d)** find a different church.

The correct answer is b) *accept Jesus as Savior*; so you would blacken space B like this:

2    

A
---

--

C
---

D
---

## STUDENT REPORT FOR UNIT ONE

*Answer all questions on Answer Sheet for Unit One. See the examples on the DIRECTIONS page which show you how to mark your answers.*

### PART 1—TRUE-FALSE QUESTIONS

*The following statements are either true or false. If the statement is*

TRUE, blacken space A.

FALSE, blacken space B.

- 1** I have carefully read all of the lessons in Unit One.
- 2** Christ's *body* does NOT mean the same thing as Christ's *church*.
- 3** Though Christians are members of the same body, they are different from each other.
- 4** Christians need to look at the gifts others have in order to compare them with their own.
- 5** Spiritual gifts belong to the believer to use as he wants.
- 6** A believer needs to know a spiritual gift is for him before he can have faith to receive it.
- 7** The lists of spiritual gifts in the Bible are different from each other.
- 8** Gifts that are easily seen and recognized are the most important ones.

## PART 2—MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

*There is one best answer for each of the following questions. Blacken the space on your answer sheet for the answer you have chosen.*

- 9** Colossians 1:15-18 teaches us that the church
- a)** should direct its own activity.
  - b)** cannot live without Christ as its head.
  - c)** has no real relationship to Christ.
  - d)** existed before anything else did.
- 10** We know from studying I Corinthians 12:12-13 that
- a)** Jews and Gentiles belong to different bodies.
  - b)** the human body has several different parts.
  - c)** believers, though different, belong to the same body.
  - d)** believers are one because they are all Gentiles.
- 11** Each believer is important in the body of Christ because
- a)** differences are more interesting than similarities.
  - b)** each person's special function is needed by the others.
  - c)** all believers have the same abilities.
  - d)** churches have more than one member.
- 12** John wishes he could preach like George. What could you say to John to help him?
- a)** Tell him that he shouldn't wish he could preach.
  - b)** Explain that the gift of preaching is not more important than the other gifts.
  - c)** Point out that George isn't really such a good preacher anyway.
- 13** It is important to realize that spiritual gifts are entrusted to us by God so that we will
- a)** use them for ministry in the church.
  - b)** not confuse them with talents.
  - c)** compare ourselves with unbelievers.
  - d)** not use our natural abilities.

**14** Which of the principles below should govern how we use spiritual gifts?

- a)** Faith
- b)** Skill
- c)** Practice
- d)** Love and Knowledge

**15** Mary wants to have faith to receive a spiritual gift. What should be her first step?

- a)** Learn what the Bible says about the gift.
- b)** Visit different churches to seek guidance.
- c)** Try to live a better life so she will be worthy.
- d)** Compare her abilities with other Christians.

**16** A group of believers thinks that the gift of prophecy is not for our time. What should you do first to show them that it is?

- a)** Take them to a meeting where people prophesy.
- b)** Tell them that their ideas are definitely wrong.
- c)** Describe someone's experience in giving prophecy.
- d)** Teach them from the Bible about the gift of prophecy.

**17** In relation to spiritual gifts, what do we mean when we say that *knowledge determines experience*?

- a)** Knowledge is much more important than experience.
- b)** What we experience helps us get more correct knowledge.
- c)** How much we know decides how much we experience.
- d)** Experience and knowledge are both of equal value.

**18** We should not worry that the lists of spiritual gifts in the Bible are not exact because the gifts are all

- a)** different from each other.
- b)** the same as each other.
- c)** given for the same purpose.
- d)** given for different purposes.

**19** Spiritual gifts are important because they

- a)** serve a purpose.
- b)** are easily recognized.
- c)** belong to believers.
- d)** are seen by all.

**20** Spiritual gifts are supernatural because they are

- a)** not like talents.
- b)** not true to life.
- c)** against natural law.
- d)** above natural law.

*END OF REQUIREMENTS FOR UNIT ONE. Follow the remaining instructions on your answer sheet and return it to your GU instructor or office in your area, then begin your study of Unit Two.*



## STUDENT REPORT FOR UNIT TWO

*Answer all questions on Answer Sheet for Unit Two. See the examples on the DIRECTIONS page which show you how to mark your answers.*

### PART 1—TRUE-FALSE QUESTIONS

*The following statements are either true or false. If the statement is*

TRUE, blacken space A.

FALSE, blacken space B.

- 1** I have carefully read all of the lessons in Unit Two.
- 2** All believers should be apostles.
- 3** Believers should decide what is good for the body.
- 4** A pastor-teacher's most important quality is concern for the people he is over.
- 5** An evangelist's only function is to preach the gospel.
- 6** Talents can become gifts of ministering.
- 7** Both men and women can have the gift of teaching.
- 8** Since all believers love Christ, no one needs to preside over them.

### PART 2—MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

*There is one best answer for each of the following questions. Blacken the space on your answer sheet for the answer you have chosen.*

- 9** The distinctive feature of an apostle's ministry is that he
  - a)** goes to plant the church in a new place.
  - b)** is born with the ability to be an apostle.
  - c)** does a lot of evangelizing and teaching.
  - d)** has been appointed by others for his work.

**10** A prophet's most important job is to

- a)** accurately foretell the future.
- b)** receive messages directly from God.
- c)** have no fear when he speaks.
- d)** prepare people to do Christian work.

**11** God chooses people to serve His church as prophets on the basis of

- a)** the kind of experiences they have had.
- b)** how they feel and think about doing His will.
- c)** what they know about the gift of prophecy.
- d)** whether or not they can expound the Word.

**12** God delivers a group of believers from self-centeredness by

- a)** sending them evangelists to preach the gospel to them again.
- b)** having several individuals receive the gift of tongues.
- c)** giving them a pastor-teacher to lead them into Christ-centeredness.
- d)** allowing them to escape from having any trials.

**13** Pastor Jim wants to keep the people he leads from following false teachers. He should concentrate on

- a)** teaching the people God's Word.
- b)** having several services to keep them busy.
- c)** telling them to be faithful to the church he pastors.
- d)** denouncing those who are false teachers.

**14** The most important purpose of a pastor-teacher is to

- a)** preach interesting sermons.
- b)** develop mature people.
- c)** exercise his spiritual authority.
- d)** concentrate on new converts.

**15** God can turn our talents into gifts of ministry if we

- a)** are skilled and experienced in using them.
- b)** use them only to help Christians.
- c)** understand the difference between gifts and talents.
- d)** let the Holy Spirit use them to help others.

**16** The difference between the gift of teaching and the gift of pastor-teacher is that

- a)** only pastor-teachers can teach believers.
- b)** the gift of teaching is not as important.
- c)** any believer can have the gift of teaching.
- d)** pastor-teachers teach different things.

**17** The person who exhorts others

- a)** encourages them to walk close to God.
- b)** teaches them new things about the Word.
- c)** must have a position of leadership.
- d)** has to be an evangelist or pastor.

**18** The experience of the widow in 1 Kings 17:8-16 teaches us about giving that

- a)** only poor people can truly give.
- b)** we need not be afraid to give all we have.
- c)** God's prophets should be bold in asking for help.
- d)** food is the most important thing to give.

**19** Groups of believers need someone to be in charge of them because

- a)** some people make good leaders.
- b)** the gift of ruling should be used.
- c)** not all believers can rule others.
- d)** believers need unity and strength.

**20** Which person below is using his or her gift of helps?

- a)** Susan is known as a woman of prayer.
- b)** Jim is able to lead the singing.
- c)** Mary cooks a meal for the visiting evangelist.
- d)** John knows how to count the offering.

*END OF REQUIREMENTS FOR UNIT TWO. Follow the remaining instructions on your answer sheet and return it to your GU instructor or office in your area, then begin your study of Unit Three.*



## STUDENT REPORT FOR UNIT THREE

*Answer all questions on Answer Sheet for Unit Three. See the examples on the DIRECTIONS page which show you how to mark your answers.*

### PART 1—TRUE-FALSE QUESTIONS

*The following statements are either true or false. If the statement is*

TRUE, blacken space A.

FALSE, blacken space B.

- 1** I have carefully read all of the lessons in Unit Three.
- 2** A word of wisdom can help solve personal problems.
- 3** The gift of faith is something all believers have.
- 4** Most often, people are healed by a spoken word.
- 5** Only great men can perform miracles.
- 6** Prophecy is given in an unknown tongue.
- 7** Those who discern spirits recognize only *evil* spirits.
- 8** People who speak in tongues are speaking to God.

### PART 2—MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

*There is one best answer for each of the following questions. Blacken the space on your answer sheet for the answer you have chosen.*

- 9** The gift of wisdom is different from human wisdom because it
  - a)** helps to solve problems in the church.
  - b)** is given to those who are naturally wise.
  - c)** is spoken always to large groups.
  - d)** comes from good judgment based on knowledge.

**10** In Acts 5:3 Peter told Ananias that he had kept part of the money and lied to the Holy Spirit. This is an example of the gift of

- a)** wisdom.
- b)** discernment.
- c)** knowledge.
- d)** both b) and c) above.

**11** A believer can tell if he has a word of knowledge if what he wants to say

- a)** should only be said to a believer.
- b)** seems logical and reasonable.
- c)** will definitely help the church.
- d)** comes from his own understanding.

**12** In Acts 3:1-11 we see that Peter had the gift of faith because

- a)** he hoped that God would act.
- b)** the crippled man was healed.
- c)** there was faith in his heart.
- d)** the situation was hopeless.

**13** A lady in your church wants to be healed of a disease. What would you advise her to do?

- a)** Ask the elders of the church to pray for her.
- b)** Try to decide whose sin has caused her sickness.
- c)** Fast and pray earnestly for several days.
- d)** Spend a lot of time in church services.

**14** God gives the gift of miracles so that

- a)** people in the world will be amazed.
- b)** believers will have supernatural experiences.
- c)** obstacles to the gospel will be removed.
- d)** the ungodly will be judged.

**15** In 1 Corinthians 14:1-12 Paul encourages the Corinthians to prophesy because

- a)** prophecy is spoken to God.
- b)** every believer has the office of prophet.
- c)** it is the only gift that is needed.
- d)** prophecy especially helps the church.

**16** A young person in your church feels that he *has* to give a prophecy every time he receives one. What would you tell him?

- a)** Only church leaders should give prophecy.
- b)** He should prophesy only if it foretells the future.
- c)** He can control his gift as I Corinthians 14:32-33 says.
- d)** Young people are not supposed to prophesy in church.

**17** Believers ought to judge prophetic messages because

- a)** most prophecies should be cast aside.
- b)** prophecies should agree with God's Word.
- c)** there shouldn't be very much prophecy.
- d)** prophecies should never foretell the future.

**18** Believers are given the ability to discern spirits because

- a)** wrong and evil spirits can harm the church.
- b)** there are many evil spirits in the world.
- c)** evil spirits recognize believers.
- d)** believers need to show supernatural power.

**19** A message in tongues can build up the body of Christ if it is

- a)** said after the pastor has preached.
- b)** spoken by an elder or deacon.
- c)** given with conviction and power.
- d)** interpreted so all can understand.

**20** The general rule for using the gifts of the Spirit is that believers should

- a)** realize their gift is the most important.
- b)** carefully plan how to use the gifts.
- c)** do everything in love to build up the church.
- d)** know ahead of time what to do or say.

*END OF REQUIREMENTS FOR UNIT THREE. Follow the remaining instructions on your answer sheet and return it to your GU instructor or office in your area. This completes your study of this course. Ask your instructor to recommend another course of study for you.*





## CS5151 SPIRITUAL GIFTS

*Congratulations on finishing your study of the lessons in Unit 1!  
Please fill in all the blanks below.*

Your Name .....

Your GU Student Number .....

(Leave blank if you do not know what it is.)

Your Mailing Address .....

.....

City .....

Province/State ..... Postal/Zip .....

Country .....

Occupation ..... Age ..... Sex.....

Are you married? .... How many members are in your family? ..

How many years have you studied in school? .....

Are you a member of a church? .....

If so, what is the name of the church? .....

What responsibility do you have in your church? .....

.....

How are you studying this course: Alone? .....

In a group? .....

What other GU courses have you studied? .....

.....

.....

Cut this page and send to your GU instructor



ANSWER SHEET FOR UNIT ONE

Blacken the correct space for each numbered item. For all questions, be sure the number beside the spaces on the answer sheet is the same as the number of the question.

1	A	B	C	D	8	A	B	C	D	15	A	B	C	D
2	A	B	C	D	9	A	B	C	D	16	A	B	C	D
3	A	B	C	D	10	A	B	C	D	17	A	B	C	D
4	A	B	C	D	11	A	B	C	D	18	A	B	C	D
5	A	B	C	D	12	A	B	C	D	19	A	B	C	D
6	A	B	C	D	13	A	B	C	D	20	A	B	C	D
7	A	B	C	D	14	A	B	C	D					

Write below any questions you would like to ask your instructor about the lessons.

.....

.....

.....

Now look over this student report answer sheet to be sure you have completed all the questions. Then return it to your GU instructor or office in your area. The address should be stamped on the copyright page near the front of your study guide.

FOR GU OFFICE USE ONLY

Date ..... Score .....

GU CHRISTIAN SERVICE PROGRAM

## CS5151 SPIRITUAL GIFTS

*We hope you have enjoyed your study of the lessons in Unit 2!  
Please fill in all the blanks below.*

Your Name .....

Your GU Student Number .....  
(Leave blank if you do not know what it is.)

Your Mailing Address .....

.....

City .....

Province/State ..... Postal/Zip .....

Country .....

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ANSWER SHEET FOR UNIT TWO

Blacken the correct space for each numbered item. For all questions, be sure the number beside the spaces on the answer sheet is the same as the number of the question.

1	A	B	C	D	8	A	B	C	D	15	A	B	C	D
2	A	B	C	D	9	A	B	C	D	16	A	B	C	D
3	A	B	C	D	10	A	B	C	D	17	A	B	C	D
4	A	B	C	D	11	A	B	C	D	18	A	B	C	D
5	A	B	C	D	12	A	B	C	D	19	A	B	C	D
6	A	B	C	D	13	A	B	C	D	20	A	B	C	D
7	A	B	C	D	14	A	B	C	D					

Write below any questions you would like to ask your instructor about the lessons.

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.....

.....

Now look over this student report answer sheet to be sure you have completed all the questions. Then return it to your GU instructor or office in your area. The address should be stamped on the copyright page near the front of your study guide.

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GU CHRISTIAN SERVICE PROGRAM

## CS5151 SPIRITUAL GIFTS

*We hope you have enjoyed your study of the lessons in Unit 3!  
Please fill in all the blanks below.*

Your Name .....

Your GU Student Number .....  
(Leave blank if you do not know what it is.)

Your Mailing Address .....

.....

City .....

Province/State ..... Postal/Zip .....

Country .....

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ANSWER SHEET FOR UNIT THREE

Blacken the correct space for each numbered item. For all questions, be sure the number beside the spaces on the answer sheet is the same as the number of the question.

1	A	B	C	D	8	A	B	C	D	15	A	B	C	D
2	A	B	C	D	9	A	B	C	D	16	A	B	C	D
3	A	B	C	D	10	A	B	C	D	17	A	B	C	D
4	A	B	C	D	11	A	B	C	D	18	A	B	C	D
5	A	B	C	D	12	A	B	C	D	19	A	B	C	D
6	A	B	C	D	13	A	B	C	D	20	A	B	C	D
7	A	B	C	D	14	A	B	C	D					

Write below any questions you would like to ask your instructor about the lessons.

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Now look over this student report answer sheet to be sure you have completed all the questions. Then return it to your GU instructor or office in your area. The address should be stamped on the copyright page near the front of your study guide.

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GU CHRISTIAN SERVICE PROGRAM

## CS5151 SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Your Name .....

Your GU Student Number .....  
(Leave blank if you do not know what it is.)

Your Mailing Address .....

.....

City .....

Province/State ..... Postal/Zip .....

Country .....

## REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The GU office in your area will be happy to send you information about other GU courses that are available and their cost. You may use the space below to ask for that information.

.....

.....

.....

## INVITATION TO ACCEPT JESUS CHRIST AS LORD AND SAVIOR

Becoming a Christian and receiving the gift of eternal life is a choice you make. God has done everything possible to open the door to heaven for you. Jesus suffered a cruel death on the Cross, taking the punishment we rightfully deserved, so that the very worst of sinners can now be fully forgiven and receive the gift of eternal life.

To receive this gift, you need to admit that you are a sinner and ask God to forgive you of all the evil deeds you have done. You need to trust in and take Jesus Christ into your life as your Lord and Savior.

If you are ready to receive Jesus, say this prayer now and mean it from your heart:

Dear Father in heaven, I recognize today that I have sinned against you, and it is my desire to turn away from my sins from this day forward. Please forgive me. I also believe You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to die in my place on the cross and that He rose from the dead on the third day. I receive Him today as my Lord and Savior by faith and will live for Him the rest of my life. Please change my life and make your presence known in me. I ask this in Jesus' holy name, Amen.



# CS5151    *SPIRITUAL GIFTS*

## *RESPONSE PAGE*

Please write in BLOCK letters:

Your Name: .....

Post Office Box: .....

Street

Address: .....

.....

City: .....

State/Province: .....

Postal or Zip Code: .....

Country: .....

E-mail address: .....

1. *Were you a Christian, having understood God's plan of salvation and accepted Jesus as your Savior, before starting this course? .....*
2. *Did you accept Jesus Christ as a result of studying these lessons? .....*
3. *Do you belong to a local church? ..... If so, what church? .....*
4. *Would you like to have an address of a local church in your area? .....*
5. *Would you like to have information about other courses like this that you can study? .....*

*Congratulations on having finished this Christian Service course. Send this sheet to your national Global University office if indicated or local church study center or Global University's international headquarters in Springfield, MO, USA (address shown on the back cover).*

*May God bless you as you love and serve Him.*

# SEND US THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF YOUR FRIENDS

We will send them Lesson 1 of our evangelism booklet  
“The Great Questions of Life.”

**Print Clearly**

*Last Name* .....

*First Name* .....

*Mailing Address* .....

.....

*City* .....

*Province or State* `.....

*Zip or Postal Code*.....

*Country* .....

*Last Name* .....

*First Name* .....

*Mailing Address* .....

.....

*City* .....

*Province or State* `.....

*Zip or Postal Code*.....

*Country* .....

*Last Name* .....  
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*City* .....  
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