

“The Power Gifts”
part of **“The Gifts of the Spirit”**
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Faith Outreach Christian Life Center
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Introduction: Bishop has been teaching on Spiritual Gifts and **my assignment is to focus on the Power Gifts (faith, miracles, and healing).**

Let me remind you up front that the purpose of ALL the gifts are to edify (to build up) the church, not the individual; and their distribution within the body is dependent upon Holy Spirit, not man (1 Cor 12:11).

The Word of God implies that it is ‘in order’ to seek specific gifts, however, one's motive must be for the building up of the church, not one's self. The Holy Spirit, through Paul, taught us to keep our priorities in order in 1st Corinthians 14:12. Let me read it to you from several translations:

(KJV) Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.

(God's Word Translation) In the same way, since you're eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in them so that you help the church grow.

(BBE) So if you are desiring the things which the Spirit gives, let your minds be turned first to the things which are for the good of the church.

There is a difference between the gifts of the Spirit and the fruit of the Spirit. Gifts are the Spirit's manifestation through a vessel, for the edification of the church. But fruit are the result of one's development in Spiritual character. **Fruit are about personal growth and development. Gifts are about corporate growth and development.**

And finally, if there is anything that you should pursue, it is growing in love. **Love is NOT an attribute that God possesses, Love is WHO God IS!** (1st John 4:8). Paul closes out chapter 12 by telling us that Love is the “most excellent way” and He begins chapter 14 by telling us to "Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts." We must be rooted and grounded in Love!

Background:

(1st Cor 12:1-11 KJV) Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

(v.2) Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led.

(v.3) Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

(v.4) Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

(v.5) And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

(v.6) And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

(v.7) But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

The Gifts:

(v.8) For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

(v.9) To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

(v.10) To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

The Gift of Faith

What is Faith? Faith is an expression of your confidence in God and His Word.

What is the Gift of Faith? First of all, let's be clear what it is NOT:

1. **It is not mere confidence.** Anyone can have confidence/courage; even unbelievers.
2. **It is not saving faith.** All believers are saved by grace, through faith (Eph 2:8,9), but not all believers operate in the gift of faith.
3. **It is not hoping something will happen.** Hope is open ended. Hope is not tied to a promise. That's why faith adds substance to our hope (Heb 11:1).

Those that operate in the Gift of Faith came to God with saving faith, they must express confidence, and it all starts with their hope. But for this to be a gift of the Spirit it must:

1. Come from the Spirit.
2. Be for the edification of the church.

The gift of faith is a Holy Spirit empowerment to supernaturally act upon God's promises with a steadfast confidence that will not waiver.

Some Biblical Examples:

❖ **Elijah:**

- He declared that it would not rain until he said so. He walked away knowing that the rain would not come until he declared rain back on the land. It took 3 ½ years.
- He stood before the prophets of Baal – at the penalty of death – and called down fire from heaven. If the fire had not come he would have been killed.
- He did NOT do this for His edification – He did it for the nation of Israel!

❖ **Paul:**

- After battling a terrible storm at sea and it looks like ALL would be lost, Paul said, "Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss. But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. Last night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.' So keep up your courage, men, **for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island.**" (Acts 27:21-26 NIV).

- Notice that Paul was on a ship when he told them that he had received a Word from the Lord. He had faith in that Word, even though it meant that they were going to have to crash into land first. They were going to have to endure the destruction on the entire ship, while they were on it, but he still had the faith that NOT ONE person would die.
- Now, Paul was not doing this for his own benefit. He did not have this kind of faith so he could break out of prison. He had faith that he would make it through this, just to go and stand trial in Rome, because this was part of his assignment to the Body of Christ.

❖ **Oral Roberts**

- Started off as a Pastor, like his father. In 1947 he resigned his pastorate to enter an evangelistic ministry to pray for the healing of the whole man.
- He has conducted over 300 evangelistic and healing crusades on six continents.
- After a successful healing ministry, the Lord led Oral to establish a University.
- After being a Healing Minister on crusades for almost 20 years, Oral sold everything he and his wife owned to start the University the Lord told him to start.
- He did it and now Oral Roberts University has 22 major buildings on over 400 acres, and is valued at more than \$250 million.
- Over 5,300 students are enrolled in 66 undergraduate concentrations and 16 graduate level programs in business, education, and theology.
- There is a University Village, a retirement complex for 450 residents.
- The Prayer Tower, located at the center of the University's campus, houses the Abundant Life Prayer Group, which operates twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, receiving thousands of calls each day from around the world
- **God is getting the glory and this was done by the Gift of Faith!**

Application: We are all called to live by faith. That kind of faith is a choice. We can either choose faith or fear; that choice is made daily and the choice is ours to make. What we are talking about here is the Gift of Faith. This is a supernatural endowment from the Holy Spirit to believe and act upon things that God wants to do in the earth that will serve as powerful testimonies for Him and for His glory!

God uses this gift to empower people in the earth to do His exploits in ways that the average Christian will might never experience.

The Gift of Healing

(v.9) To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

What is Healing? To restore to health; to overcome a malady caused by a disease, virus, bacteria, germ, malformation, etc.

What is the Gift of Healing? First of all, let's be clear what it is NOT:

1. **It is not medical science.** Medical science has its place. People that are sick should go and see a medical doctor. God has anointed many people to operate by way of medicine and we should not neglect its purpose and its abilities. However, there are situations that exceed the ability of medical science. Let me say there are NO situations that exceed the healing power of God. There is nothing too hard for God.
2. **It is not a temporary psychological cure.** There are times where a person can experience something and they "feel" better for a short period of time, but then their ailment comes back. The soul (psyche) has limited power that can be manifested physically, for short amounts of time, making one feel better, but this is not healing.

The gift of healing is an endowment from the Holy Spirit upon a human to bring about miraculous healing and deliverance from disease and infirmities whether functional, organic, cellular, nervous, or etc. It is the power of God being made manifest through a human to destroy the works of the devil in a human body.

Some Biblical Examples:

❖ **Naaman:**

- Naaman had an incurable disease (leprosy). Medical science could not do anything about his physical ailment.
- There was nothing that man could do.
- The Prophet Elisha told Naaman to go and wash 7 times in the Jordan River. When Naaman complied, the Lord healed him.
- This brought glory to God and helped further validate Elisha's ministry.

❖ **Paul:**

- In Acts 28:1-7 Luke gives the account of he and Paul on the island of Melitus. The chief man of the island was named Publius. Publius was with them and Publius' father became very sick with a fever and dysentery.
- Dysentery is a disease that causes severe diarrhea with passage of mucus and blood and is usually caused by an infection. So this man was passing blood and mucus, he had diarrhea, and a fever. Luke was there. Luke was a Doctor. But it was Paul who laid hands on him and through the gift of healing this man was restored to health.
- This brought glory to God and many other sick were brought to Paul for healing.
- Luke's medicine kit was not used; it was the power of God.

❖ **Oral Roberts**

- Oral Roberts has been used of God to heal countless people of all sorts of diseases and illnesses.
- This has brought glory to God over the years and continues to do so.
- The gift was not given to him for his glory, but rather for the edification of the Body of Christ.

Application: It is not God's will that we be sick. It is clear that Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil (1st John 3:8). We know that Jesus was used to heal many people. If God made them sick, then why would Jesus turn around and destroy what God was doing?

God wants us to be healthy, not just healed. He has placed people in the Body that have an assignment that requires healing. He bestows this gift upon them so that souls can be saved, so that the Word can be confirmed, and so that He can get the glory here in the earth. Physical healing serves the person being healed and those that need to “see” something to believe.

The Gift of the Working of Miracles

(v.10) To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

What is a Miracle? Something that defies the laws of nature.

What is the Gift of the Working of Miracles? First of all, let's be clear what it is NOT:

1. **It is not what people call a “miracle of science”.** Often times the medical community gets a breakthrough is something they have been working on for years and they call it a miracle. The miracles we are discussing are performed by man, but they don't come from man.
2. **It is not just a surprise.** Some times something very surprising happens and people say, “Wow, that was a miracle.” Just because it was surprising does not make it a miracle.

The gift of the working of miracles is when the Holy Spirit endows a human to defy the laws of nature in such a way that God gets maximum glory; these acts cannot be confused with human ability. This is when God performs a human impossibility through a man for His glory.

Some Biblical Examples:

❖ **Elijah:**

- In 1st Kings 17 the Lord used Elijah to bring a young boy back from the dead.
- This could not have been done with human power.
- This brought glory to God.

❖ **Jehoshaphat:**

- In 2nd Chronicles 20 King Jehoshaphat and Judah were surrounded and outnumbered.
- They had no power over their enemies.
- They were facing sure defeat and impending death.
- Through the Supernatural power of God, while the people were praising God, God confused the enemies and they all killed themselves.
- This could not have happened with human power of ability.
- God used this miracle to provide protection for His children and they glorified Him even more.

❖ **Moses:**

- God used Moses to exhibit power over rain, hail, frogs, locusts, etc.
- This was not done for Moses' glory.
- This was done for the glory and the purpose of God.
- These miracles helped get Pharaoh to the point where he released God's people..
- Then the parting of the Red Sea was a miracle that helped solidify the people's faith in their God.

❖ **Jesus:**

- Jesus performed many miracles.
- He fed 5,000 men (plus) with two fish and five loaves of bread, walked on water, calmed a storm with his words, spoke to a fig tree and caused it to wither, and etc.
- These miracles helped confirm Jesus' ministry.

❖ **Oral Roberts**

- Oral Roberts has been used of God to perform numerous miracles.
- The miracles have served as "signs and wonders" for those that needed to "see" something from God.

Application: God can interrupt natural laws to provide supernatural protection, healing, deliverance, and etc. for His people. This is done for His glory and for the furtherance of the Gospel.

Closing Observations:

1. The Gifts of the Spirit are not an indication of spiritual maturity.
2. The Fruit of the Spirit are for personal development, the Gifts of the Spirit for the edification of the Body of Christ.
3. God will not waste His anointing. He bestows His gifts upon those that require them to fulfill His purpose for their lives and for His glory in the Body.
4. Pursue the gifts required to fulfill your assignment in the earth, kept your focus on glorifying God, and do all that you do in Love.