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The Holy Spirit #7 - The Giver Of Gifts

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In the previous teachings on the Holy Spirit, we have learned that the Holy Spirit is a Comforter, Counselor, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, Standby and a Helper, that He will always be in us and with us forever, to lead and guide, to call to our remembrance the things that Jesus had taught His disciples as found in John chapters 14, 15, 16 and 17. In 1st Corinthians, chapters 12, 13 and 14 we are taught about the nine "gifts of the Holy Spirit".

The nine gifts are: word of wisdom, word of knowledge, faith, gifts of healing, working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, divers kinds of tongues, and interpretation of tongues. (verses 8-10)

1 Cor 12:1-11 "Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant. 2 Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led. 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. 4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. 8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; 9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; 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: 11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will" KJV

The manifestation or the expression of the spirit is given to every man as a profit. It is to be a asset, a help or a blessing to us. (Verse 7)

We may receive a different gift than what someone else does or maybe more than one. (verse 11) The gift we receive will depend on the office that we have been called into.

The gifts of the spirit are sometimes called the gifts of grace. God is not a respecter

of persons, so these gifts are for everyone. These gifts are meant to help us in our everyday lives, regardless of what our jobs might be.

The differences of administrations or different offices, i.e. the 5 fold ministry.
(verse 5)

The gifts will manifest depending on the calling on our lives. The word of wisdom working in the office of apostle, prophet or evangelist more than with a pastor or teacher, also depends on our personalities.

Paul is speaking to the church, he is wanting them to understand about the Holy Spirit. He also wants them to "covet" or "desire" the gifts. The gifts of the spirit will glorify Jesus and recognize Him and lift Him up.

1 Cor 12:31 "But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way."
KJV

1 Cor 14:1 "Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy."
KJV

Eph 4:11 "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;" KJV

The nine gifts were broken down into three categories by Howard Carter, making them easier for us to understand. He was from England, came to America, received the Holy Spirit, and started a bible school and church, teaching the baptism of the Holy Spirit as on the day of Pentecost. However, during the war his church was not recognized as a valid church and he was drafted into the army, but because of being a conscientious objector; He was imprisoned and placed in solitary confinement. While he was there the Lord gave him the revelation of the gifts.

The three groups are:

- 1) Revelation - reveal something, (wisdom or knowledge) or discernment
- 2) Power - do something; faith, working of miracles, gifts of healing
- 3) Utterance - say something; prophecy, tongues or interpretation of tongues

The Revelation gifts are the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge and the discerning of spirits.

The word of wisdom is just that, it is a word, not a paragraph or an entire book, but just a word. It is a revelation of the mind and purpose of God or a solution for an answer to a problem. God has a plan for everyone, sometimes it comes through

another person by a word spoken by them or God will give to you a word directly. The word of wisdom talks about the future.

The word of knowledge is a revelation of things right now or things that have been; the present to past; knowing something about a person or a situation that wasn't learned by natural means; it is given to help people and encourage them.

The discerning of spirits is inside the spirit world, either demonic or angelic, or being able to discern the spirit that is working behind the scene in different situations.

The following scriptures are showing a word of knowledge given to Ananias and Paul regarding the situations they were facing.

In Acts 9, Ananias is told by the Lord, exactly where Paul was and how that the Lord had chosen him for a purpose, what His plans for his ministry would be and the things he would suffer.

Acts 9:10-11 "And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord. 11 And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth," KJV

Acts 9: 15 "But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:" KJV

Acts 9:16 "For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake." KJV

Suffer does not refer to sickness or disease in this verse, but suffer does refer to persecution and hardships. Paul questioned God about the persecutions.

2 Cor 12:9 "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. " KJV

Paul received a word of wisdom about the future, regarding his travel to Caesar.

Acts 27:20-24 "And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope that we should be saved was then taken away. 21 But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss. 22 And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship. 23 For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, 24 Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee." KJV

The discerning of spirits which can be either, demonic or angelic, sometimes the manifestations that are seen in the churches are not from the Lord, but there is a demonic force behind what is happening. Those people having the gift of discerning of spirits are able to recognize the spirit and address the situation and deal with it properly.

Paul dealt with this in his ministry, a spirit of divination; he recognized it and cast it out of the girl.

Acts 16:16-18 "And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: 17 The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. 18 And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour." KJV

The gifts are given to us to be a benefit; the scriptures tell us that He divides to each of us severally as He wills, none being left out. The Holy Spirit is a giver of gifts wanting that we all would flow in the gifts.