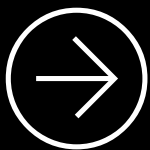


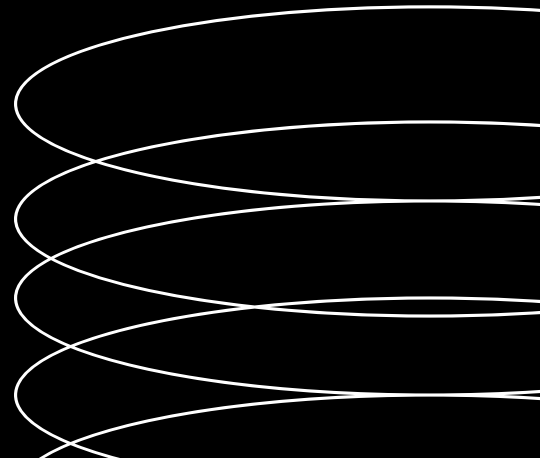


Supernatural

21 day devo



21 DAY GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL GIFTS
A biblical guide
to study, prayer and
practice of the spiritual gifts!





DAY 1

Starting Your Journey

DAY 1 - STARTING YOUR JOURNEY

In 2009, the Barna Group, an organization that studies sociological trends, performed a study on spiritual gifts. The results could have been more encouraging.

- 15% of Christians did not know their gift
- 28% of Christians said they did not have a spiritual gift
- 20% claimed (strangely) the spiritual gifts are not Biblical.

A quote from the Barna study can be found below:

“Between those who do not know their gift (15%), those who say they don’t have one (28%) and those who claimed gifts that are not biblical (20%), nearly two-thirds of the self-identified Christian population who claim to have heard about spiritual gifts have not been able to accurately apply whatever they have heard or what the Bible teaches on the subject to their lives.”

This study is very sobering in light of Paul’s opening statement about spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12. DAY 1

1 Corinthians 12:1

NOW ABOUT THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

1 Corinthians 12:1

"Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed."

Paul begins his famous passage in 1 Corinthians on spiritual gifts with a warning - don't be uninformed! Some versions of the Bible say "unaware," and others say "ignorant." And yet, two out of three Christians today are completely clueless regarding spiritual gifts. Most churches don't equip people with spiritual gifts, and many people don't have the confidence to express their God-given talents.

Later in 1 Corinthians, Paul commands the early church that "Everything must be done so that the church may be built up." The purpose of spiritual gifts is to strengthen the church. Strong churches build strong people who in turn have strong families. Strong families build strong communities. Could it be that spiritual gifts are a significant key in seeing God transform our society?

Make a choice today to no longer be ignorant but instead live in pursuit of discovering your spiritual gifts and talents. As you develop a heart to serve others and strengthen the church, God will make a way for you to discover your gifts.

DAY 2

Gifts

DAY 2 - GIFTS

David wrote in Psalm 103, “Praise the Lord Oh my soul, and forget not all his benefits!” Do you know that there are benefits to walking with God? God desires to bless and give good gifts to His Children.

Spiritual gifts are one of our many benefits as we walk with Christ.

Pastor Robert Morris, in his book, “The God I Never Knew,” describes four benefits of the Holy Spirit. These benefits are part of what happens in our lives as we pursue a deeper connection with the Holy Spirit. We will explore these benefits together as we journey through our Spiritual Gifts Devotional as a church family...



4 benefits of the Holy Spirit

HE GIVES US BENEFITS

“1. **Power** - Acts 1:8 says, “You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.” Many Christians spend their entire lives without the power available through the Holy Spirit. Have you ever felt defeated by a certain sin that you struggle with or by circumstances? The Holy Spirit gives us the power to live victoriously!

2. **Love** - One of the Holy Spirit’s roles in our lives is to fill us with God’s love (see today’s verse), and if we don’t open our hearts to Him, we have a difficult time walking in love. Imagine the impact the Church would have if we all walked in love.

3. **Fruits** - In Galatians 5:22, Paul talks about the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. We can all agree that life would be better if we had more of these fruits.

4. **Gifts** - The last benefit is what we call the gifts of the Spirit, which are words of wisdom, words of knowledge, faith, gifts of healings, working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, different kinds of tongues, and the interpretation of tongues. I’ll talk more about these gifts later in the devotional, but I want to preface them by pointing out the many miracles that have taken place through these gifts.”

He Gives Us Benefits, - The God I Never Knew

Which of the four benefits of walking with the Holy Spirit do you need in your life? Spend a moment reading Psalm 103 today and thank God for all His benefits!



DAY 3

Power

DAY 3 - POWER

The first benefit we discussed about walking with the Holy Spirit is power.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” - Acts 1:8 (NIV)

Power is a peculiar concept. Most often, this word stands at odds with other Christian virtues such as humility, service, purity, generosity, surrender, and kindness. When you hear the word “power”, what comes to mind for you? A sports car? Electricity in a home? Perhaps you think of a dictator. Maybe you think of power struggles such as racism, classism, or sexism. Power is not something that most people in the Church openly articulate as a personal ambition of theirs.

Power is a key word.

As a follower of Jesus, do you walk in power? Power is a key word in the New Testament.

- *“I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with **power** from on high.” - Luke 24:49 NIV*
- *“But you will receive **power** when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” - Acts 1:8 NIV*
- *“When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them **power** and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.” - Luke 9:1-2 NIV*
- *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the **power** of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.” - Romans 1:16 NIV*
- *“The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine **power** to demolish strongholds.” - 2 Corinthians 10:4 NIV*
- *“My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s **power**, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God’s **power**.” - 1 Corinthians 2:4-5 NIV*
- *“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great **power** for us who believe. That **power** is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms...” - Ephesians 1:18-20 NIV*

You are made to be empowered as a Spirit-filled believer. You are made to wield powerful weapons. You are made to be a power-filled person. The same Holy Spirit and power that raised Christ Jesus from the dead lives in us and wants to be unleashed through us! (Ephesians 1:18–20, Romans 8:11) This power enables us to carry on the mission of God.

As we begin our journey into the spiritual gifts, pause today and ask God to fill you with His Power.



DAY 4

Love

DAY 4 - LOVE

“Follow the way of love,” Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 14, “and eagerly desire the spiritual gifts.” What do spiritual gifts have to do with love? To answer that question, it’s helpful to know some of the background on the book of 1 Corinthians.

Paul wrote 1 Corinthians to a church in disarray. People were in sexual sin, worship was out of control, and the church was on the brink of disaster. If there were a church in the times of the New Testament deserving of a reality show, it would have been the church at Corinth.

You see, the relational culture of a church affects every aspect of that church’s ministry - including the ministry of spiritual gifts. Unhealthy people tend to use spiritual gifts as a prize, a way to find their identity, and as a means of drawing attention to themselves. This is why, before Paul lays down the process for orderly worship in a church service (in 1 Corinthians 14), we have 1 Corinthians 13.

The way of love.

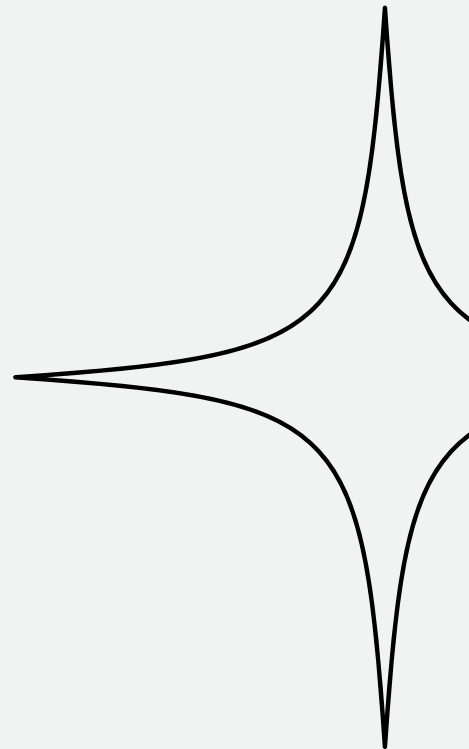
You've probably heard 1 Corinthians 13 read before at a wedding. It's a beautiful, poetic description of love. The text can be inspiring to anyone who desires to grow in love. That's a fine application, but we must remember that 1 Corinthians 13 is written to a dis-ordered church.

As we pursue the power of the Holy Spirit to transform our world, we must constantly re-commit to doing Christ's ministry in Christ's way - which means love. Walking with the Holy Spirit will produce love, temperance, deference, and order in our lives - not confusion, selfishness, and covetousness. 1 Corinthians 13 also reminds us that gifts one day will "cease." In Heaven, love is what remains.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 13 together today in the *Message Version* of the Bible, translated by Eugene Peterson. The fresh wording may inspire you to use your gifts today in a more kind, honoring, and loving way. Let's commit to following the way of love together as a community!

*Love never gives up.
Love cares more for others than for self.
Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.
Love doesn't strut,
Doesn't have a swelled head,
Doesn't force itself on others,
Isn't always "me first,"
Doesn't fly off the handle,
Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,
Doesn't revel when others grovel,
Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,
Puts up with anything,
Trusts God always,
Always looks for the best,
Never looks back,
But keeps going to the end.*

- 1 Corinthians 13, MSG





DAY 5

Fruits

DAY 5 - FRUITS

Over the last few years, after COVID and various other crises, the global supply chain fell apart. Many people waited weeks or even months for online purchases to be delivered. It became commonplace for stores to have less inventory available. At the supermarkets, Americans experienced what is common in many other parts of the world - bare grocery shelves.

We had gotten used to a world without seasons. Amazon Prime could deliver most purchases to our homes the next day. At the grocery store, every fruit and vegetable was always available. Even though a farmer might consider a strawberry, brussel sprout, or pumpkin seasonal, most fruits and vegetables were available at our stores year-round from 1990 to 2020. But this is not reality - fruits and vegetables do grow in seasons. There are times of planting and times of reaping. And nothing healthy or important genuinely arrives at our door instantly. Important things take time.

Maturity takes time.

This is the way of the fruit of the Spirit. The gifts of the Spirit are imparted to us by the grace of God. We can't earn them or control them. The fruits of the Spirit are grown over time according to our Christian maturity. We can't microwave them, stream them on Netflix, or get them overnighted on Amazon Prime. Developing maturity takes time.

One of the Holy Spirit's primary purposes is to make us like Jesus - holy (it's His first name). He does this by teaching us how to cultivate the fruit of the spirit in our life.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

- Galatians 5:22-23

In which of the above areas are you “planting” right now? These are the areas where you have to work hard to grow in your life. In which areas are you “harvesting?”

These are the areas you have planted in previous seasons. We will never “arrive” in our journey of growing the fruit of the Spirit. Walking with the Holy Spirit is a lifelong endeavor. As we eagerly desire the Spirit's gifts, the Holy Spirit's fruit will constantly be growing in our lives.

DAY 6

Gifts Part 1

DAY 6 - GIFTS, PART 1

A helpful book to many business leaders and communicators is “Start with Why.” As we begin our deep-dive into all of the spiritual gifts, let’s start with why. Why does God give us spiritual gifts? Three potential reasons are listed below.

- They strengthen the church
- They transform our world
- They give glory to God

Paul tells the church in Corinth, “to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.” (1 Cor 12:7 NIV) The gifts are meant for the common good of those in our world, both in the church and outside of the church.

Spiritual gifts strengthen the church. When the gifts are used within the church, they are able to strengthen, encourage, and build up one another. The gifts build faith, they minister to us in places of desperate need, and they promote unity and Godly interdependence.

To give Him glory.

Spiritual gifts transform our world. There are many societal problems which will never be solved with human solutions. When the gifts are used outside of the church, they have the ability to demonstrate God's nature and power and to draw people unto Him. When people experience something supernatural, it points them to a supernatural God

The use of gifts has many purposes. But above all, the greatest purpose is to bring glory to the Giver - God.

Any manifestation of the Spirit's power exalts the name of the Lord. When someone is healed, we should praise God. When a prophetic word brings encouragement, we should praise God. When we witness a miracle, we should praise God.

"Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think." - Ephesians 3:20 NLT

Perhaps the most significant reason for any gift God has given is to bring Him glory. Today begin a daily habit of praying for spiritual gifts. It might make sense to combine this habit with something you already do, like making your morning tea or coffee. As you pray for the spiritual gifts, don't disqualify yourself.

Your spiritual gifts are not about you! God wants to give them to you to bring Himself glory.

DAY 7

Gifts Part 2

DAY 7 - GIFTS, PART2

Because the spiritual gifts are a bit mystical, and oftentimes poorly taught, it's easy to see them as optional. A study of the book of Acts, however, will lead one to the opposite conclusion.

The Book of Acts, written by the Apostle Luke, is a description of the acts of the early apostles as they spread the gospel from within Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. The book has also been referred to as the "Acts of the Holy Spirit." Once you see the many examples of the gifts of the Holy Spirit at work in Acts, it will be easy to understand why.

The below chart summarizes the activity of the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts. You'll see the chapter and verse of the miraculous work of the Holy Spirit. Because we should also judge a supernatural work by its fruit (Jesus said, "by their fruit you will know them" in Matthew 7), also included in the chart are the results. By reading the results, or fruit, of the activity of the Holy Spirit you'll begin to understand how the Holy

Spirit is the main character in the book of Acts - at work in building, strengthening, and expanding the early church. The use of gifts has many purposes. But above all, the greatest purpose is to bring glory to the Giver - God.

The Holy Spirit in Acts

Acts	Manifestation of Holy Spirit	Corresponding Result
2:4-41	Speaking in foreign tongues, & Peter gives a word of wisdom	3,000 added to their number (2:41)
2:42-47	Apostles perform many wonders and signs	The Lord added to their number daily those being saved (2:47)
3:1-10	Peter heals a lame man	2,000 added to the church (4:4)
4:8-12	Peter filled with Holy Spirit and word of wisdom	confounded the opposition and revealed Christ, (4:13) stopped an argument (4:14)
4:31	Building shaken/filled with Holy Spirit again	prayers answered, bold preaching, radical generosity that met all the needs of the community (4:33-34)
5:12-16	Apostles perform many wonders (paul's shadow)	more and more men and women believed and added to their number (5:14) Specifically all the sick who were being brought to the believers were healed (5:16)
5:17-21	Apostles freed from prison by angels	gained an audience before the Sanhedrin and were let go with "only" a flogging (5:40)
6:8-10, 15	Stephen performed great wonders and signs. Stephen given words of wisdom, angelic manifestation	Stephen confounded his opposition (6:10), he then gained an audience before the high priest and Sanhedrin, and he received an opportunity to preach the gospel (6:12), ultimately, after being martyred, the church became stronger as they scattered and preached the gospel wherever they went! (8:4)
8:6	Philip preaches and performs signs in Samaria	numerous demonic deliverances and many healings of the paralyzed and lame, great joy filled the city (8:7-8)
8:26,29	Philip receives words of knowledge	Philip leads the ethiopian eunuch (important official) to the Lord and baptizes him (8:38)

8:39-40	Philip teleportation	Philip was miraculously able to suddenly preach in all the towns from Azotus to Caesarea (8:40)
9:10-16	Ananias receives a word of knowledge regarding Saul (Paul)	God uses Ananias to heal Saul (9:17-19)
9:17-19	Ananias heals Saul of his blindness, which the Lord had struck him with	the greatest apostle of all time was saved, baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit (His testimony is recorded in Acts 9, Acts 22, Acts 26)
9:32-35	Aeneas healed of paralysis	"All those who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord." (9:35)
9:36-41	Peter raises Tabitha, or Dorcas, to life	many people heard and believed in the Lord (9:42)
10:4-6	Cornelius receives a word of knowledge about Simon Peter	This opens the door for a powerful gospel partnership between a Jew and a gentile
10:10-16	Peter receives a prophetic vision/word from the Lord	This prepares Peter to receive Cornelius and other gentiles into the family of God
10:19-20	Peter receives a word of knowledge about the men sent by Cornelius	This opens the door for a powerful gospel partnership between a Jew and a gentile
10:44-46	As Paul was preaching in Caesarea, the Holy Spirit fell on those listening, specifically gentiles. They spoke in tongues and praised God.	Peter instructs those who had received the Holy Spirit to be baptized with water. (10:47)
11:15	Peter recalls the Holy Spirit coming upon him and his companions at the house of Cornelius just as he "had come on us at the beginning."	Upon hearing this testimony, the Jewish believers in Jerusalem welcomed gentiles into the fold.
11:27-28	Agabus gives a prophetic word about a severe famine that would spread throughout the Roman world.	The famine takes place. The disciples respond by sacrificial giving to their brothers and sisters in Judea, through the means of local church leadership. (11:29-30)
12:7-17	Peter delivered out of prison by an angel	Peter's ministry continued
12:21-23	God smites Herod, so that he dies	but the word of God continued to spread and flourish. (12:24)
13:6-11	Elymas, the sorcerer, smitten with blindness	the proconsul believed because he was amazed (13:12)

14:3	Paul and Barnabas speak boldly and perform signs and wonders	persecution increases (14:5) but they fled and continued preaching (14:7)
14:8-10	Paul heals a lame man in Lystra	made a way to preach apologetics to the religious greeks (14:14-17)
15:12	“Barnabas and Paul [declared] how many miracles and wonders among the gentiles God had worked through them”	Opened the hearts of James and the Jewish leaders to receive gentiles into the fellowship (15:13-19)
15:28	The apostles and elders receive a word of wisdom regarding regulations for gentile believers	The gentiles were strengthened and encouraged, and the Jewish and gentile believers experienced peace and unity (15:31-33)
16:16-18	Paul casts out a spirit of divination	Led to Paul and Silas’ imprisonment and miraculous escape (16:19-40)
16:25-26	Paul and Silas's prison doors opened by an earthquake	Suicidal jailer saved, he and his entire household were baptized (16:29-34)
18:9-10	Paul receives a word from the Lord	This gives Paul peace to remain in Corinth for a year and half (18:11)
19:1-6	Paul teaches about Baptism of the Holy Spirit; believers received HS	They prayed in tongues and prophesied
19:11-12	Paul does extraordinary miracles; people even took handkerchiefs and aprons that he had touched to the sick	Numerous healings and deliverances reported (19:12)
19:13	People using Jesus' name in vain are beaten by evil spirits	Jesus’ name held in high honor (19:17), mass confession of sins (19:18), sorcerers burn their scrolls (19:19), the gospel spread and grew in power (19:20)
20:9-12	Paul restores young Eutychus to life after falling	Eutychus lives and the community is greatly comforted. (20:12)
27:22-26, 31	Paul gives a prophetic word/word of wisdom regarding God sparing the lives of the ship passengers	Hope was instilled (implied), Paul grew in influence on the ship (27:33-36), No one onboard perished (27:44)
28:3-6	Paul shakes off a poisonous viper	Paul’s ministry continues
28:7-9	Paul heals the father of Publius and others	All the island’s sick people were healed (28:9), Paul and his companions were honored and given supplies for their journey (28:10)

By observing these biblical examples, we can see the powerful effect that the gifts have in advancing God's kingdom and the building up of the Body. This is what Paul is referring to as "the common good." The gifts are not for show or for glorifying ourselves. They are gifts from God to empower his body for the work of ministry, and to edify the Church.

I think we can all agree that it is important for the Kingdom of God to grow and expand, especially through the local church! The rest of this devotional will focus on growing in your individual spiritual gifts.

Consider: Which story in Acts stirred your faith the most? Which Bible character above surprised you? Read those stories in the Bible above. Ask God to teach you something new and/or stir fresh hunger in you for deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit.



DAY 8

The Lists of Gifts

DAY 8 - THE LISTS OF GIFTS

1 Corinthians 12:4 teaches us “There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.” So, what are the gifts the Holy Spirit gives? What are the different kinds?

Below you will find lists of spiritual gifts as found in Scripture. Notably, you’ll see the gifts in three categories - motivational gifts, equipping gifts, and manifestation gifts.

Motivational Gifts:

These gifts are found in the Bible in Romans 12 and used to determine one’s motivation for serving. The impact of these gifts varies according to one’s influence and level of faith.

- Prophecy
- Ministering / Helps to Others
- Teaching
- Giving
- Exhortation
- Leadership & Administration
- Mercy
- Hospitality

Equipping Gifts:

These gifts are found in Ephesians 4 and are Biblically described as the “gifts of Christ” to raise individuals up for special ministry. People with these gifts have a call to equip the body of Christ in their area of gifting.

- Apostolic Ministry
- Prophetic Ministry
- Teaching Ministry
- Shepherding Ministry
- Evangelistic Ministry

Manifestation Gifts:

These gifts are found in 1 Corinthians 12 and are for every believer to use to build up and strengthen the church.

- Words of wisdom
- Words of knowledge
- Faith
- Healings
- Miracles
- Prophecy
- Discerning of spirits
- Speaking in tongues
- Interpretation of tongues

As you see the lists of gifts, it can be a little overwhelming. Don't worry - the Bible says that God promises to give the Holy Spirit to those who ask (Luke 11:13). Continue to ask the Holy Spirit to flow into your life and the gifts will flow from you when you encounter needs in other people.

Spiritual gifts, like other types of gifts, are unmerited graces which are given at the discretion of the giver. If one receives a gift, the correct posture should be one of gratitude. If we do not receive a certain gift, we should not feel entitled to it, nor resent its Giver. Instead, be thankful for the grace of God on your life and let your desire for more of God lead you to prayer. Ask God for the gifts while remaining faithful with what he has already entrusted to you. For as Jesus taught us, “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much” (Luke 16:10)

If you're interested in diving into each of these types of gifts, it is important to read the Bible's description of the gifts in context. Passages you can read for further exploration include:

- Romans 12
- 1 Corinthians 12
- Ephesians 4

DAY 9

Prophecy

the gateway gift

DAY 9 -PROPHECY: THE GATEWAY GIFT

“Eagerly desire the spiritual gifts,” Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 14:1, “especially the gift of prophecy.”

What is prophecy? Prophecy, defined in 1 Corinthians 14:3, is “speaking to another on God’s behalf with the purpose of encouraging, strengthening, or comforting them.” If you’ve been in a healthy church, you’ve probably experienced New Testament prophecy, whether you knew it or not!

Why does Paul put such an emphasis on the gift of prophecy? Prophecy is the *gateway gift*. Hearing from God in new ways opens up new opportunities in our life. When we begin to hear from God, a gateway is created for the other gifts to flow freely.

Three reasons prophecy is important:

1. Prophecy is a sign that the Holy Spirit is with us.
2. Prophecy is a primary means of building up the church
3. Everyone can prophesy

Prophecy is a sign that the Holy Spirit is with us.

Acts Chapter 2 is one of the most known passages in the entire Bible. The chapter describes the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, tongues of fire, and gives us the template of the early church (2:42-47). It's interesting to note that a major theme of Acts 2 is also prophecy. God goes as far as to say that "in the last days," when the Holy Spirit is poured out, there will be "prophecy."

"In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams."
- Acts 2:17

It's not always promised that everyone will be healed, saved, or even feel God's presence when we gather. It is promised that prophecy will happen when the Holy Spirit is poured out. Prophecy is a sign that the Holy Spirit is with us.

Prophecy is a primary means of building up the church.

In 1 Corinthians 14, Paul creates order in the church of Corinth by describing how to operate in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. He shares this "the one who prophesies edifies the church" (1 Cor 14:4). Prophecy is emphasized in the Bible because true words from God have a way of building us up like nothing else can.

Everyone can prophesy

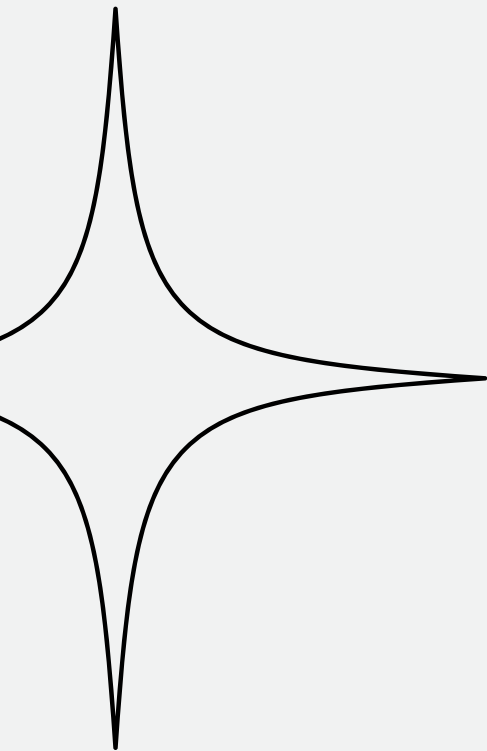
Beautifully, the Bible promises that "you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged" (1 Corinthians 14:31). Because everyone that knows the Lord has been given the ability to prophesy, prophecy is a wonderful gateway to operating and learning about the other gifts.

Pastorally, we must remember that prophecy needs to be tested and developed in local congregations (1 Corinthians 14:29-33). There are some important distinctions to make when studying prophecy - New Testament prophecy is not the same as Old Testament prophecy nor does it serve the same function as prophetic ministry. In this devotional

we are discussing the encouraging nature of New Testament prophecy for every believer. Remember, the Bible does command us to test prophecy (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

That being said, we must remember the command of 1 Corinthians 14 to have a special desire for prophecy.

Consider: Read Acts 2:17. Invite to speak to you today and in the days ahead. Consider using a journal to begin writing down what you feel God has spoken to you. Invite a trusted friend to help you test those things against the measures of “encouragement, strengthening, or comfort.”





DAY 10

Words of Wisdom

DAY 10 - WORDS OF WISDOM

Have you ever been in a situation where you simply did not know what to do? Or you did not know how to decide between two totally impossible options? You needed a word of wisdom.

To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, - 1 Cor 12:8 NIV

Perhaps the most classic example in the Bible of the word of wisdom comes from Solomon. We can learn a lot about wisdom from Solomon.

- Solomon taught in Proverbs that the beginning of wisdom is the “Fear of the Lord” (Proverbs (9:10). Respecting God’s holiness and supremacy acknowledges that His supernatural understanding is beyond ours.

- Some key areas of our life will always require wisdom. We will often need wisdom for *relationships* - the dynamics Solomon explores in the Song of Songs regarding love, marriage, and friendship are keys that point to the necessity of relational wisdom. Stewarding our money and possession also requires wisdom. We see this demonstrated through Proverbs and Ecclesiastes.
- Wisdom comes to those who ask. How did Solomon get his wisdom? Through an encounter with God, He asked God for a listening ear (1 Kings 3).

While wisdom is important to steward personally, the *gift of words of wisdom* is when God provides us with wisdom for others. Solomon walked in this, too. After Solomon's encounter with God in 1 Kings 3, he demonstrates his wisdom for others in a wise ruling.

Now two prostitutes came to the king and stood before him. One of them said, "Pardon me, my lord. This woman and I live in the same house, and I had a baby while she was there with me. The third day after my child was born, this woman also had a baby. We were alone; there was no one in the house but the two of us.

"During the night this woman's son died because she lay on him. So she got up in the middle of the night and took my son from my side while I your servant was asleep. She put him by her breast and put her dead son by my breast. The next morning, I got up to nurse my son—and he was dead! But when I looked at him closely in the morning light, I saw that it wasn't the son I had borne."

The other woman said, "No! The living one is my son; the dead one is yours." But the first one insisted, "No! The dead one is yours; the living one is mine." And so they argued before the king.

The king said, "This one says, 'My son is alive and your son is dead,' while that one says, 'No! Your son is dead and mine is alive.'" Then the king said, "Bring me a sword." So they brought a sword for the king. He then gave an order: "Cut the living child in two and give half to one and half to the other."

The woman whose son was alive was deeply moved out of love for her son and said to the king, "Please, my lord, give her the living baby! Don't kill him!" But the other said, "Neither I nor you shall have him. Cut him in two!" Then the king gave his ruling: "Give the living baby to the first woman. Do not kill him; she is his mother."

When all Israel heard the verdict the king had given, they held the king in awe, because they saw that he had wisdom from God to administer justice."

- 1 Kings 3:16-29

The Holy Spirit gives to us a word of wisdom; revealing Himself as the wisest of counselors. A word of wisdom is a supernatural revelation that brings vital understanding for what should be done in a challenging time or circumstance.

Consider: Where do you need a word of wisdom today? As you encounter people in need, don't forget to ask!





DAY 11

Words of Know- ledge

DAY 11 - WORDS OF KNOWLEDGE

Chat GPT is an artificial intelligence online chatbot. Basically, you can ask it any question and it can give you an answer. Sounds like magic, right? While the technology is amazing, it's hardly magic. Chat GPT functions as an internet aggregator and learning mechanism, pulling from various sources on the web to answer your query.

In our world, even when a person or computer's knowledge seems extraordinary, it comes from somewhere. A corporate attorney may have vast knowledge of his or her field, but this may be through a photographic memory. A musician may have the ability to learn and play songs of all genres, but this is a result of high-level pattern recognition.

Words of knowledge, a gift of the Holy Spirit, function on a different plane than earthly knowledge. The knowledge does not come from this earth. The knowledge comes from the spiritual realm.

Sounds bizarre, right? But, do you believe that God knows and can reveal secrets?

- “It is he who reveals profound and hidden things” - Daniel 2:22
- “The secret things belong to the Lord” - Deuteronomy 29:29

Words of knowledge are often given from the Lord to increase our faith and to let us know who God wants us to bless, reach, or share the message of the Gospel. For example, Ananias was given words of knowledge regarding Saul.

In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, “Ananias!” “Yes, Lord,” he answered. The Lord told him, “Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight.” - Acts 9:10-12

Because Saul was adversarial to the Gospel, God needed to get someone’s attention. So, he used a dramatic word of knowledge! Without a word of knowledge, Ananias would have never reached Saul, who eventually became the Apostle Paul.

Words of knowledge increase our faith. The faith of Nathanael increased when Jesus used a word of knowledge to call him to discipleship.

Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.” 49 Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.”] - John 1:48-49

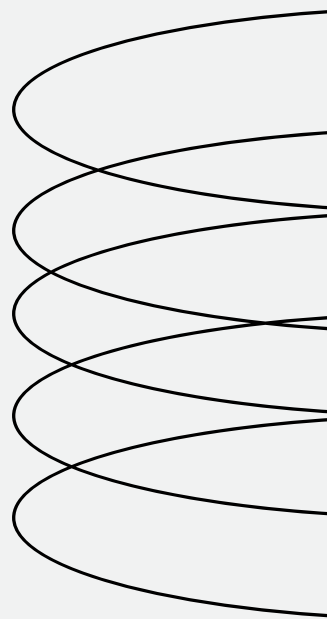
As you are seeking to develop this gift, start with prayer. Take equal-or-more time in prayer preparing for any ministry and outreach. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what it is that the Father is up to that day. Like Jesus, we ought to be about our father’s business, and we should do nothing that we don’t first see him doing. (John 5:19) You might expect to receive a visual impression of the people he is wanting to touch through you. You might receive specific names or attributes about people. But don't stop there! Make sure to then inquire of the Lord what it is that he is wanting to communicate or do through you.

It can be easy to avoid words of knowledge out of fear of making a mistake. This is why the Bible commands us to do all things in love. When we are learning, with a heart to bless, there is much grace for us to be on a growth journey in the spiritual gifts.

As you listen for the Holy Spirit's leading, record your various words, names, pictures, or themes. This will both serve as a guide for you as you go, but also as a testimony afterward. Sometimes it will seem appropriate to share your word of knowledge with a person before or after you meet them. And sometimes it was only intended as a means to help you find them.

Then, over time, you will gain an understanding for the process of receiving and acting upon words of knowledge. It takes time to learn what this feels like. There are many noises occurring in our minds, mostly consisting of our own thoughts and distractions. This is why prayer and listening is essential for ministering with words of knowledge.

Consider: Read John 1:48-49. Imagine what it must have been like to be Nathanael and have Jesus know something specific about Him...to feel seen. Pray God would help you build others up in a similar way through the gifts of the Spirit.





DAY 12

The Gift of Faith

DAY 12 - THE GIFT OF FAITH

The word “faith” appears in the New Testament 287 times. Faith is a major means of how God works in our lives and how He uses us to transform the world around us.

Hebrews defines faith as a “confidence” and “assurance of things we cannot see (Hebrews 11:1). What does that mean practically?

In our natural selves, we live by faith everyday. When we flip a light switch, we have faith that electricity will turn the light on. When we open our computers we have faith that the Wi-Fi will connect us to the internet. When we text a loved one, we have faith they will communicate back. When we mail a letter, we have faith it’s going to the right place.

In all of the above instances we have confidence and assurance that something unseen is happening as a result of our actions and beliefs. This is exactly how faith works in the supernatural realm. Faith is the confidence and assurance that God is working after we take a step of obedience.

Beyond simply a general faith in God's purposes and activity in our lives, the gift of faith is specific. When a gift of faith comes upon our lives, we have confidence and assurance about a certain situation or person. This is when the Holy Spirit gives to us the gift of faith. The gift of faith is a unique dispensation of faith, deposited into a person for a specific purpose. The gift of faith is a unique dispensation of faith in God for an extraordinary outcome.

Jesus described the potential for us to operate in the gift of faith when He taught us principles of divine outcomes. In Matthew 9, Jesus shared this "according to your faith it will be done to you" (9:29). There are times when God waits for us to grow in faith. As we grow, we see God move.

The Bible says that faith comes from hearing, and hearing comes from the word of God. (Romans 10:17) The best way to grow in faith is to get a word from God. Like Mary, then we are able to say "let it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38).

So, if you want to receive the gift of faith for various circumstances or situations in your life and ministry, stay rooted in the word of God. This is essential to knowing who God is, what he has already accomplished, and what he is capable of doing. If there is a situation in your life where you need God's miraculous intervention, ask Him for a promise to stand on today. That promise will increase your faith.



DAY 13

Gifts of Healings

DAY 13 - GIFTS OF HEALINGS

In Matthew 9, some men brought a friend who was paralyzed to Jesus. What he initially says to the paralytic has nothing to do with physical healing. “Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven”. But then, when some of the religious teachers became offended, he asked them, “Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? The obvious answer is that the first is easier to say but harder to do. But in order to prove to them that he was not merely talking a good game, he continued... “But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the paralyzed man “Get up, take your mat and go home.” Then the man got up and went home.”

Does God heal today? We live in a world plagued by sin, darkness, and disease. Some days are surrounded by grief and suffering. In the midst of all this pain the answer is, yes! God heals!

Listed below are three of the many reasons you can believe in God’s healing presence today in your life.

1. God hasn't changed
2. Healing was paid for on the cross
3. God cares about the whole person

God hasn't changed.

The Bible says that Jesus Christ is the "same," "yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:6). Just as Jesus healed people in the Gospels, He is healing people today.

Jesus' ministry was full of healings, as was the ministry of the disciples. Healings are certainly a gift to the recipient and their loved ones; something to be celebrated and cherished. But they are, more importantly, a testimony to the power and authority of God, who forgives sins, and promises us eternal life where our bodies will never decay. (Psalm 16:10)

God hasn't changed. He is the same God who introduced Himself in Exodus 15 as "The Lord, Your Healer" (Exodus 15:26).

Healing was paid for on the cross.

It's easy to push healing to Heaven. While it's true that in the Resurrection we will all be glorified, there is a reason that Christ taught us to pray "on earth as it is in Heaven" (Matthew 6). This prayer demonstrates an important spiritual truth - there are times when God's eternal Kingdom breaks into our present reality.

Healing is part of what Jesus purchased in His sacrifice on the cross. Isaiah 53 demonstrates that "by His wounds, we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5). The blood of Jesus was spilled so that our entire person could be made new and right in the presence of God.

This is why the ministry of healing so often accompanies the communication of the Gospel, in the New Testament and also today. Healing is part of the message of Christ's atonement!

God cares about the whole person.

"May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." - 1 Thessalonians 5:23

It's interesting to note that the 1 Corinthians 12 gift is often misquoted, that the Bible speaks of "gifts" of "healing," plural. This is because God wants to heal the **whole person**. Some people need physical healing, while others need deep emotional care. Even more need physical deliverance from darkness. Jesus himself "healed all those who were oppressed by the devil" (Acts 10:38). Rather than having an obsession with physical healing, healthy believers will see God's healing graces in every part of life. The Gospels teach us this by using the Greek word for "saved", *sozo*, interchangeably for incidents of spiritual, emotional, and physical healing. The Gospel is not simply good news for our spiritual lives. God desires to change us from the inside out.

It's an amazing truth. Christ paid for your healing!

How does God heal today? While many people receive healing through doctors and natural interventions, gifts of healing refer to supernatural incidents of God's healing touch through prayer and presence.

Are all healed? No, obviously not. It's also important to know that "all" were very rarely healed in the Bible, except in a few rare instances as Jesus matured in ministry (Matthew 15). There are many factors that influence our ability to receive healing including timing, spiritual issues, and how God is working in our lives. Remember, the healing is not up to us. The asking is up to us.

Should we pursue healing? Absolutely. Healing is part of the divine message of the Gospel.

Pray for God's healing power, today!



DAY 14

The Gift of Miracles

DAY 14 - THE GIFT OF MIRACLES

As we progress in our study of spiritual gifts, the gifts we examine become increasingly more mystical. While healing is controversial enough in-and-of-itself, what about miracles?

Did you know that 39 out of the 40 miracles that Jesus performed in the Gospels occurred in the marketplace? Jesus knew the importance of the world seeing His supernatural power. That's why He encouraged people to "believe on the evidence" of miracles (John 10:38).

One of the reasons we don't see miracles is that we may not be looking in the right place. Rather than looking for miracles at church we should be looking for miracles through the church that change the world. Our world has so many needs to bring to God for solutions and prayer! For as many needs as there are in life, there are opportunities for miracles.

Consider the below list of miracles seen in the Bible. Where do you need a miracle today?

- Financial miracles (Matt 17:24-27) - Like the coin discovered in the fish's mouth, God has the ability to create financial provision from the strangest circumstances.
- Multiplication miracles (Matt 14:29-31) - Just as Jesus multiplied food, He is able to physically multiply resources in our lives today.
- Sustaining miracles (Deuteronomy 29:5). Israel experienced miracles in the desert when their shoes did not wear out for 40 years.
- Miraculous circumstances - The burning bush and David's defeat of Goliath are examples of miraculous circumstances.
- Nature miracles - Jesus's interactions with storms, animals, and the fig tree show us God's supernatural providence even over nature.
- Favor Miracles - Nehemiah, the Apostle Paul, Daniel, and Joseph were all given miraculous favor to kings. This is a form of God's miraculous intervention.
- Miracles of guidance (Exodus 13:21) - God guided Israel through a pillar of fire. He guided the Magi using a divine star.
- Resurrections (John 11) - The raising again of Lazarus demonstrates not merely a healing, but a miraculous bringing of life.
- Recovery of sight, speech, and sound - Many times, people who could not hear, speak, or see were miraculously touched by Jesus. Beyond healing, these people were given something they *never had*.
- Miracles of ethnic unity (Acts 2:5) - The ethnic unity of the early church was truly miraculous and an evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit.
- Miracles that serve as signs of God's presence (Acts 2:1-4) - At Pentecost we see miraculous signs of God's presence that confirm His work in the hearts of the early disciples.
- Miracles of generosity (Exodus 36:5) - The Hebrews were miraculously generous to give towards the building of the tabernacle. Their generosity was such that Moses had to ask them to stop giving!

- Miracles of transportation - How did Elijah outrun Ahab? How did Phillip appear to the Ethiopian eunuch? God used miracles of transportation.
- Miracles of timing (John 10:12-14) - Remember when God paused time for Joshua to win a battle? This was a miracle of timing.

The above list is not even exhaustive of God's creative and miraculous works. The best way to see miracles is to talk about them, and to be around needs! God loves to meet needs with miracles.

Consider: What need do you see today that God may want to meet with His miraculous power?



DAY 15

The Gift of Discerning of Spirits

DAY 15 - THE GIFT OF DISCERNING OF SPIRITS

It's more obvious now than ever - our society is in a spiritual war. Have you ever wondered if there are spiritual forces influencing a person or situation in your life that are beyond what your eyes can see?

Catholic Charismatic minister Francis Macnutt defines the gift of discerning of spirits in this way:

“This God-given ability enables us to distinguish whether a person is influenced by the Holy Spirit; by natural, human, psychological or created causes; or by an evil spirit.”

Many people have wrongly confused discernment (exhibiting keen insight and judgment) with the spiritual gift of discerning of spirits. It's a tragedy that the spiritual practice of discerning spirits cultivated in the early disciples of Christ has been mostly lost in today's Western church. Many modern Christians are surprised when they learn that God actually calls us to “test” spirits present in a situation or person.

Discerning spirits gives us important spiritual information on a person, place, or situation. Through discerning we learn...

- What to avoid
- What to attack
- What to allow
- What to affirm

What to avoid - Not all spirituality is true spirituality. The apostle John warned his followers of “false prophets” (1 John 4:1). Occultism and paganism is on the rise in our society today. There is also a proliferation of illegal drugs and non-Christian ideologies. God calls us to *test all things* and *hold fast to what is good* (1 Thessalonians 5). “Dark spirituality” should be avoided and can lead us into spiritual bondage.

What to attack - Discerning of spirits shows us what to attack in prayer. When we begin to perceive the enemy’s work in an area (like our personal life, our family, a key relationship, our society) we begin to learn how to pray. It’s also important to maintain a posture of humility and wisdom in spiritual warfare by only taking on your God-given assignments. We simply can’t be a part of every battle.

What to allow - At times, spiritual discernment will show us that there are things in our lives or under our leadership that are not “evil” but simply a result of human immaturity. These things are to be treated graciously and with healthy boundaries.

What to affirm - A positive aspect of the discerning of spirits is that the gift can also show us where God is at work! At times we can be like Elisha’s servants, whose eyes are opened to see that “those who are with us are more than those who are with them” (2 Kings 6).

Discernment, like all the gifts, requires balance. We must remember that even after a great victory in spiritual warfare Jesus called His disciples not to reflect on their greatness, but that their names were “written in heaven” (Luke 10:20).

Discernment can come in various forms such as dreams, God’s gentle voice, spiritual sensations, impressions, and even an “inner-knowing.” As you cultivate spiritual discernment God will begin to develop your divine intelligence. Be open today to the discerning of spirits and ask God to show you the spiritual forces behind situations in your life. This will show you, most importantly, how to pray! Ask Him what to pray or how to act on what you hear.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. - Ephesians 6:12



DAY 16

The Gift of Tongues

DAY 16 - THE GIFT OF TONGUES

The conclusion of our exploration of the “manifestation gifts” found in 1 Corinthians 12 today leads us to the gift of tongues. Utterances in tongues are perhaps one of the more complex and fascinating areas to explore in the spiritual gifts. Today’s devotional will simply be a brief introduction to the topic in the form of a “frequently asked questions” guide.

Frequently Asked Questions about the Gift of Tongues

What does speaking in tongues mean?

The word Paul used to describe speaking in tongues is glossolalia, literally meaning “the fluid vocalizing of speech-like sounds.” We see the first appearance in the Bible of tongues when the disciples are filled with the Spirit at Pentecost. Instantly, the new disciples speak in the languages of 15 different ethnic groups!

Do people still speak in tongues today?

While many evangelicals in America are unaware of the power of speaking in tongues, the global church has almost fully embraced this gift of God's grace. Behind Roman Catholics, Christians who speak in tongues and embrace the full work of the Holy Spirit now number as the second largest Christian group on earth, at 500 million strong. Nearly 100% of church growth worldwide is occurring in churches that have embraced these mysterious movements of the Holy Spirit. Yes, people speak in tongues today - and many are "normal" people who are doing God's work in transforming society every day...500 million of them, to be exact!

Why do people pray in tongues privately?

Paul said that "I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you" (1 Corinthians 14:18). What was Paul writing about? He was introducing the concept of tongues as a form of private prayer.

The Holy Spirit gives to us the gift of praying in tongues, which enables us to commune with the Lord without hindrance. When we pray in the Spirit we are edified, enabled to pray in concert with the Spirit's leading, and then, streams of living water flow from us and serve as a catalyst for other supernatural ministry and manifestations of the Holy Spirit. It's a divine mystery, but God uses it.

Praying in tongues is the "groan inwardly," literally "cry" or "sigh," (Romans 8:23) that God gives us to pray when we are out of wisdom and words.

The Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God. - Romans 8:26-27

What about "corporate" speaking in tongues, or tongues given to a group?

Paul wrote 1 Corinthians 14 to establish orderly worship in the church at Corinth. One issue in the church was the improper use of tongues.

To summarize Paul's words, the purpose of a church gathering is to edify and build one another up. So, if tongues are expressed, they must be interpreted. Otherwise, people won't know what's going on. In the passage Paul writes that tongues are a "supernatural sign" for "unbelievers" (14:22). Tongues must be given with an interpretation (14:28). If there is no process or person for interpretation, the speaker should be silent so others can be edified and not distracted.

Many of the imbalances we see regarding tongues and Pentecostal expressions of Christianity could be avoided just with a simple reading of 1 Corinthians 14.

What about other languages?

In the book of Acts, tongues occurred in 15 known languages. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 13 that there are tongues of "men and angels." Some tongues are a heavenly language, and others are a known language. At times, tongues have been given and someone present has realized - "Wait! I know that language!"

What about interpretations?

Just as speaking in tongues is a gift, interpreting tongues is also a spiritual gift. Interpretation is not a translation (breaking down the words into meaningful syllables). Instead, God will give the interpreter a spiritual sense of the message being communicated. If the interpretation is tested and viewed as helpful or godly, the leadership of the meeting or congregation should respond accordingly.

Do I have to speak in tongues?

No, you do not have to speak in tongues. But, you should want to, because it will build you up!

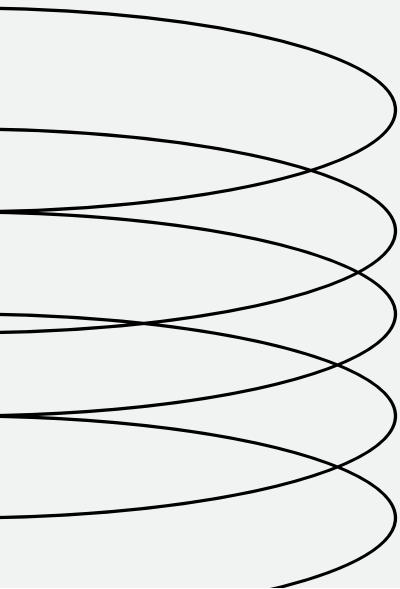
Paul acknowledges in 1 Corinthians 12:30 that "all" may not speak in tongues. More important, however, is to never *forbid* tongues. Just because an aspect of the Holy Spirit's work is complex or mysterious does not mean we should forbid it. Instead, seek a church where "all things are done decently and in order" (1 Corinthians 14:40).

"do not forbid speaking in tongues." - 1 Corinthians 14:39

Is speaking in tongues the only sign of being filled with the Holy Spirit?

Many times in the book of Acts when people are filled with the Holy Spirit, they did speak in tongues. There were also other signs of the Holy Spirit's presence, like prophecy (2:17), boldness (4:31), and joy (13:52).

Here's a challenge for you. When you are ready, ask God for the gift of tongues. Just let Him know you are ready for a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit. Watch your spiritual hunger grow, and see what God does!





DAY 17

The Motiva- tional Gifts

DAY 17 - THE MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS

While the manifestation gifts are given to us for many different contexts, motivational gifts place us in the proper setting. Our motivational gifts help us find our job path, our fitting in the Body of Christ, and our highest impact place in ministry. Theologian R.T. Kendall writes that each of us “whether by temperament, nature or the Spirit – finds he is in one of the seven categories of Romans 12:3-8.”

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

- Romans 12:4

Just as Paul relates in Romans 12:4, it's easy to understand motivational gifts as parts of the body. We are all part of the Body of Christ with a unique role in advancing Christ's Kingdom.

- **Prophecy-gifted** people are the eyes of the body of Christ. These foretell and forthtell things to come.
- **Service-gifted** people are the hands of the body of Christ. They are willing to get it done.
- **Teachers** are the mind of the body of Christ. Their thoughtfulness and analysis brings strength and clarity.
- **Generous givers** are the arms of the body of Christ. Without them, there is no expansion.
- **Exhorters** are the mouth of the body of Christ. They proclaim God's truths to others.
- **Leader-administrators** are the head of the body of Christ. They put the rest of the Body in place.
- **Mercy-gifted** people are the heart of the body of Christ. They connect us to God's heart for others.

Do you see how we all need each other? Romans 12 also reminds us that these gifts must be practiced in humility, and in accordance with our favor, maturity, and faith.

Preacher Charles Stanley created a great metaphor to see how these motivational gifts color our response and approach to life.

Seven friends, each of whom happen to coincidentally have a different motivational gift, are at a small gathering in a friend's home.

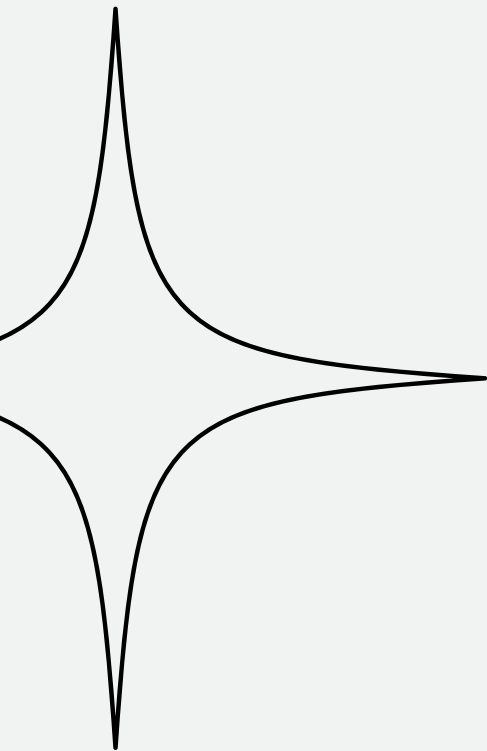
They have eaten dinner and the hostess is bringing in dessert on a tray when, lo and behold, the tray tips and the desserts are all spilled, some on the table and some on the floor. What a mess.

Here is how the seven friends responded based on their gifts.

- **Prophecy:** "That's what happens when you're not careful."
- **Server:** "Oh, let me help you clean it up."
- **Teaching:** "Now the reason that fell was, it was too heavy on one side. You need to always be balanced."
- **Exhortation:** "Now next time, let's serve dessert with the meal."
- **Contributor:** "I'd be happy to buy a new dessert."
- **Mercy:** "Don't feel badly, it could have happened to anyone."
- **Facilitator:** "Jim, would you get the mop? Mary, would you pick this up here? Sue, help me fix some other dessert."

Where do you see yourself in the story? That may reveal part or one of your motivational gifts. You may have a combination of 2 or 3 motivational gifts. Sometimes God is developing different gifts at different times.

Today, consider the roles you have had in work and ministry that have been most life-giving to you. How did that relate with a motivational gift?





DAY 18

Ministry Equipping Gifts

DAY 18 - MINISTRY EQUIPPING GIFTS

The gifts of the Spirit are for every Christian. We learn in 1 Corinthians 14:26 that “whenever” we come together we should expect God to minister through spiritual gifts and that they “all” should be expressed for the “strengthening of the church.”

Beyond the ministry of every one of us, God also gives gifts for equipping the church. Ministry equipping gifts, doctrinally referred to as gifts of Christ are given so that the entire Body of Christ will be built up.

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. - Ephesians 4:11-13

These gifts are sometimes remembered using the acronym APEST.

- Apostolic - Apostolic equippers are given the responsibility for equipping the church to take new ground and expand the great Commission.
- Prophetic - Prophetic equippers are tasked with calling the church to respond to God, God's word, and to deeply hear God's voice.
- Evangelistic - Evangelists equip us all to have a heart for lost and broken people.
- Shepherds - Shepherds equip us to live healthy and whole lives and relate to Christ as our Good Shepherd.
- Teachers - Teachers equip us to have doctrinal strength, discernment, and thoughtful Christian lives.

Think of your Christian life today. Can you think of a leader in your life that fulfills one of these equipping categories? Pray that God would expand their ministry and reflect on what you have learned from them. Pray that God will call a new generation of APEST leaders to spread the good news of Jesus to the ends of the earth.





DAY 19

Finding Your Gifts

DAY 19 - FINDING YOUR GIFTS

Wow! Do you realize you are 19 days into discovering your spiritual gifts? By now you have studied the 9 manifestation gifts, the 7 motivational gifts, and the 5 equipping ministry gifts.

By now, you're probably wondering, *what are my gifts?*

There are three ways you can know how God has gifted you. You can remember it using the words MOVE TO, MOVE FROM, MOVE IN.

- “Move to” - Do others move *to* you for certain ministry needs? Do you find others pulling on you for wisdom, for mercy, for leadership, for generosity? They may not know it, but God is showing them you have that gift. Do you often find yourself in the midst of certain types of problems or emergencies? Those situations just see to *move to* you are showing you your gifting. God is developing you.

Why do people move to you? For what reason?

- “Move from” - Is there something that naturally happens in your life when you connect with God? Do you find yourself ready to encourage people, or motivated to pray for healing? These are the things that “move from” your relationship with the Lord. This is a sign that God is birthing spiritual desire in you.

What moves from you? How do you desire to impact the world?

- “Move in” - Spiritual gifts flow in us from the inside out. Where has God moved in your life? Have you desperately needed healing, or found yourself a person who sought mercy from the Lord? These will be signs of how God wants to use you to impact your world.

Where is God moving in you? How might that overflow and impact the world around you?

As you can see, discovering your spiritual gifts is more of an art than a science. You will discover your spiritual gifts in partnership with Christ.

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. - John 15:5



DAY 20

Activating Your Gifts

DAY 20 - ACTIVATING YOUR GIFTS

There are two primary ways to steward your spiritual gifts and also discover new gifts you might have -activation and impartation.

- **Activations** are habits you can develop that will allow you to cultivate a deeper spiritual life and greater faith pertaining to spiritual gifts.
- **Impartation** is a spiritual grace that comes from the Lord through others, sometimes through the laying on hands. This is a way that we can receive greater spiritual gifting.

As we end this 21-day journey of learning about spiritual gifts, it's time to reflect. Grab a journal or notes app on your phone and prayerfully respond to some of the following prompts.

My Spiritual Habits - Start getting activated:

- If you've never read through the book of Acts, this would be a great time to begin. Now, you'll have a greater understanding of what is going on when the disciples move in spiritual gifts.
- Try and set aside 5 minutes a day to wait on the Lord and ask Him to fill you with the Holy Spirit. It might be helpful to play some worship music during this time.
- Start each day welcoming the Holy Spirit into your life. He is the giver!
- Pray for one person and ask for a prophetic word for him or her. Text it to them!
- Begin a habit of praying *right then* when you are confronted with a need for healing

My Current Gifts - Questions to Ponder:

- What spiritual gifts do I already know I have been given?
- How am I stewarding those gifts?
- Where can I find a small group gathering to express and serve others with my spiritual gifts?

Gifts I Desire - Questions to Ponder:

- What gifts is the Lord putting on my heart to hunger for and eagerly desire?
 - What environments can I place myself in to learn about those gifts?
-



DAY 21

Prayer of Impartation

DAY 21 - PRAYER OF IMPARTATION

I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong— that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith. - Romans 1:11-12

Part of Paul's ministry was the ministry of impartation - laying hands on others in the church as a means of faith. The purpose of this impartation was to release the grace of spiritual gifts.

There are many ways you can position yourself for a greater impartation of the Holy Spirit. Listed below are a couple of ideas. Make sure you pick one as we end our 21-day journey!

Opportunities for Impartation:

- Find someone operating in a gift you desire and ask them to pray for you by laying on of hands.
- Attend a conference or special meeting where you know spiritual gifts will be practiced.

- Listen to a podcast pertaining to the gift or ministry you want to grow in.
- Spend 30 minutes to an hour in extra-dedicated time with God. Ask God to impart to you a greater sense of His Presence during this time.
- Go on a fast and ask God to fill you with His Spirit during this time.
- Travel to a place you know where God is moving.

Cultivating and stewarding your spiritual gifts is a lifelong journey. Congratulations on finishing this 21-day devotional. Many people in your life will be blessed as you discover and steward your gifts!

