

GIFTED, Week 3

MANIFESTATIONS OF THE SPIRIT

1 Corinthians 12.1,4,7: Now concerning spiritual gifts [pneumatikós], brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed... Now there are varieties of gifts [charisms], but the same Spirit... ⁷ To each is given the manifestation [phanérōsis] of the Spirit for the common good.

There are three different Greek words Paul uses when speaking of gifts/manifestations.

- Spirituals [Pneumatikos] = the full range of the Spirit's activity

All gifts and manifestations are collectively spirituals. Spirituals are the Spirit-empowered actions and assignments that flow from God. It is the umbrella word.

- Gifts [Charism] = "grace gifts" that seem to be lifetime callings

Charisms are often used to denote God-given permanent abilities that express a part His character. Life-long calls. Charisms may be seen in 1 Corinthians 12.27-28, Romans 12.4-5.

- Manifestations [Phanerōsis] = the 'supernatural' manifestations that belongs to the Holy Spirit exclusively

These nine gifts in 1 Corinthians 12.7-11 are not assignments, but manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the moment, and especially in the gathering, that He chooses to distribute to whoever He wants to.

While 1 Corinthians 12-14 helps us understand spiritual gifts, it is important to remember the reason Paul wrote it was not primarily to instruct on spiritual gifts, but on functioning together in love. The Corinthian church had an issue with disunity, and part of the problem was prizing certain gifts over other gifts. Paul was not addressing a lack of revival with the Corinthians; he was addressing their disunity and calling the church back to love.

Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read 1 Corinthians 12.3. Why would Paul begin this portion of scripture by first addressing the Lordship of Jesus Christ?• What does it mean that only through the Holy Spirit can someone say (and mean) "Jesus is Lord?"
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MANIFESTATIONS OF THE SPIRIT

1 Corinthians 12.7-11: To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

The Holy Spirit is the cause of all supernatural manifestations. He initiates, we respond. It's important to recognize we do not cause the manifestations of The Spirit. We can sow to the Holy Spirit, but we cannot activate the Holy Spirit. If we genuinely understand that the Holy Spirit causes all manifestations and all manifestations will glorify Christ and exalt His Lordship, then we can be protected against the biggest enemy of our spiritual life: our own flesh.

And as we'll see, the Holy Spirit initiates by empowering us. The way you experience Him empowering you is by sensing God's peace and joy in the moment He wants to express one of these gifts through you. The launch of The Church shows us the way The Spirit empowers.

Acts 2.1-4: When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.² And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Many people get nervous about environments where the spontaneous and unexpected works of the Holy Spirit can occur. But as we see here, the Holy Spirit came in a spontaneous but surprisingly well-ordered display of supernatural manifestation.

There are two phenomenon that happened in the upper room which set the tone for the work of the Holy Spirit:

- A rushing mighty wind. This means that the Holy Spirit means to snatch us above our human experience. We sense the presence of God beyond our human boundaries or our ability to emotionally work it up.
- Tongues of fire that rested. The tongues of fire did not take the disciples out of control, the tongues rested or sat on the disciples. The tongues of fire were empowering not devouring. This means the Holy Spirit wants to work within the human frame.

The tongues of fire were empowering not controlling. The tongues of fire did not suddenly control their mouths. They rested on their heads. “The Spirit giving them utterance,” was a sort of ‘aha’ moment, a moment of joyous awareness of supernatural opportunity when the Holy Spirit gave them utterance and they were able to speak out of the delight and joy in their hearts those syllables. “As the Spirit gave them utterance,” is meant to describe the process of empowering, not a process of controlling. And this is a very helpful wisdom point for moving in any one of the manifestations of the Holy Spirit.

To be empowered is the opposite of being controlled or intimidated. When we are empowered, we feel that we actually get to maximize our potential in some way. We don’t feel controlled, so much as we feel released. Our will is rightly strengthened if we are empowered. We genuinely feel that we get to do this thing!

To be empowered is to be motivated because we feel authorized by God. When we feel empowered, we feel enabled and secure to act. When the Holy Spirit wants to use us in one of His manifestations, we will feel compelled by peace, joy, and His strength to follow His leading.

Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• When empowered by the Holy Spirit we should feel confident; not anxious, not apprehensive, not afraid, not pushed, not fretful over our imperfections. These negative feelings can be an indication it is not the Holy Spirit empowering you. Are there other reasons you could experience these feelings? If so, how do you address that? Do you have a personal example?• How does “pursuing love,” other-focused versus self-focused, help us rightly discern when it is the Holy Spirit empowering us?• Do you think we always realize when the Holy Spirit is manifesting a gift in us?
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