

# e-CWIP interactive apostolic ministry training

## Class 102

### Doing the Stuff: An Introduction to Ministering in the Supernatural Session Three Pulpit Notes

#### **1. Introduction to the principal lists of Spiritual Gifts in the New Testament**

There are three main lists in the New Testament of spiritual gifts, ministries or abilities which come from God to man and which are therefore supernatural in their origin. 1

Corinthians 12:4-6 says:

*Now there are differences of gifts, but the same Spirit. (charismata = grace gifts, or “gracelets”)*

*And there are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. (diakonia = ministering or serving)*

*And there are differences of workings, but it is the same God who works all in all. (energemata = effects or operations of supernatural power)*

In this important passage we see two things: (1) there are a variety of different ways that God works through people; and (2) the Spirit, the Son, and the Father cooperate in empowering the people of God. We will examine the main New Testament lists of spiritual gifts in order to understand how to better cooperate with God in their exercise.

Gifts of the Spirit (ordered by function): 1 Corinthians 12:7-11

Word of wisdom

Word of knowledge

Discerning of spirits

Faith

Gifts of healings

Workings of miracles

Prophecy

Tongues

Interpretation of tongues

Gifts of the Father: Romans 12

Prophecy

Ministering (serving)

Teaching

Exhortation (encouragement, comfort)

Giving

Ruling (lit., *standing before people*: leading, administration, hospitality)

Mercy (compassion)

Gifts of the Son: Ephesians 4

Apostle

Prophet

Evangelist

Pastor

Teacher

## **2. Gifts of the Spirit, 1 Corinthians 12 (graces available to all).**

*But the manifestation (showing forth, appearing, or demonstration) of the Spirit is given to every man to profit with. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; to another the working(s) of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues; but all these are worked by that one and the same Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He wills. (1 Cor. 12:7-11)*

### A. Introductory Thoughts

- It is possible for a believer to manifest any one of these 9 gifts.
- They are available to all, not just to “supersaints.” However, most people frequently exercise only several, not all 9.
- The gifts do not indicate spiritual maturity, and in fact can operate in the lives of very “carnal” people. However, they will be more effective in a consecrated life, as that person will generally hear the Lord’s voice with greater clarity and be able to respond to Him better.
- While the Lord can and does amplify our human abilities, the gifts spoken of in 1 Cor. 12 are supernatural: they are the Divine ability of God operating through a

human vessel. “*You shall receive power after the Holy Spirit has come upon you...*”

- These gifts are not necessarily permanent or ongoing in a person but are given in response to the need of the moment. (More on that later!)

### *B. Categorizing the Gifts of the Spirit*

One helpful method of studying the spiritual gifts found in 1 Corinthians 12 is to arrange them in three groups of three gifts each, categorizing them by what they enable the believer to do with the Spirit’s enablement.

1. **Gifts of revelation**, which enable you to **know and perceive** things you could not know by human ability: the *word of wisdom*, *word of knowledge*, and *discerning of spirits*.

2. **Gifts of power**, which enable you to **do** things beyond human ability: *workings of miracles*, *faith*, and *gifts of healings*.

3. **Gifts of utterance or speech**, which enable you to **say and declare** the mind and purpose of God: *prophecy*, *tongues*, and *the interpretation of tongues*.

It is difficult and perhaps not even helpful to try to categorize every possible spiritual experience within the framework of these nine gifts in 1 Corinthians 12; however, it is a useful way for us to begin thinking about them.

### C. Working Definitions of the Nine Charismatic Gifts

Note: as the gifts are not explicitly defined in dictionary fashion within the Scripture, definitions like this should be viewed as an attempt to extract what we can about them from the Word, helped by our experience. These definitions present a Pentecostal and Charismatic understanding of the gifts.

1) **Word of Wisdom:** the revelation of special and specific information, insight, guidance or counsel which brings life-changing illumination. The gift of the word of wisdom is just that, a message of wisdom and not Wisdom itself, spoken of for example in 1 Corinthians 2: 6-7; Ephesians 1: 17-18; the Book of Proverbs; Daniel 1:4. There are two types of wisdom: one is earthly, James 3:14; 1 Corinthians 2: 4; and the other is divine: James 3:17; 1 Corinthians 2: 6-7. The Word of Wisdom is a fragment of God's Wisdom and does not turn people into an all-wise oracle.

Biblical (Divine) wisdom comes from God and from His written Word through research and studying but Godly wisdom is not the same thing as operating in the gift of the Word of Wisdom. Conversely, operating in the gift of the Word of Wisdom does not mean that an individual has "great wisdom". You can be "spiritual" in the sense of manifesting spiritual gifts but very immature in the sense of lacking a Christ-like character; or, you can be very mature but not very spiritual. Please note: Spirit-giftedness and maturity are not the same!

Biblical examples: Daniel 2; Acts 27: 21-25; 1 Kings 3:16-28

2) **Word of Knowledge:** knowledge of facts or details about a person or situation that has not been discovered through natural inquiry - a supernatural revelation by the Holy Ghost. This is different from being knowledgeable or intelligent. It is a fragment of God's omniscience given for the need of the moment.

a: It can reveal the cause of sickness or demonic oppression in an individual;

b: It can reveal root problems when counseling;

c: It reveals secrets of the heart for repentance;

d: It gives insight for intercessory prayer.

Biblical examples: 1 Kings 4: 2-3; 2 Kings 5: 20-27; 2 Kings 6: 8-12; John 1:47 - 48; 4:18, 29; Acts 5: 1-18.

(3) **Faith:** ability to believe for the extraordinary or impossible within the will of God in a particular situation. This faith is different from the measure of faith that God gives to every man according to Romans 12: 3. Biblical Examples: Acts 16: 16-18; Genesis 6: Noah; Genesis 22: Abraham; Matthew 14: 23-31.

4) **Gifts of Healings (“cures”):** ability to minister divine healing and restoration of health apart from natural means through the power of God. Biblical Examples: Jesus throughout the Gospels; Matthew 4:24; Matt. 8; Matt. 12; Mark 1; Luke 4:40; Acts 28:8

5) **Workings of Miracles:** ability to serve as a human channel through which God can perform acts which transcend the ordinary laws or course of nature. In this category there are also miracles of healings which differ from gifts of healings.

Biblical Examples: Acts 3:1-10; 4: 22; Matthew 14:15-27; John 2:1-11; 4:43-54; Acts 19:11; Acts 20: 7-12; Acts 9: 36-41; Luke 7: 11-17.

6) **Prophecy:** the ability to sense the mind and will of God, either past, present or futuristic, for a person, group or situation and to communicate it accurately through divinely anointed speaking.

Note that moving in prophecy is not the same as being a prophet as set out in Ephesians chapter 4. The manifestation of prophecy in the local Church is limited to exhortation, edification and comfort. Also, it is the only gift out of the nine that has such wide scope for ministering to and blessing the Body of Christ. Paul encourages everyone to prophesy: 1 Cor. 14:1, 31.

7) **Discerning of spirits:** the ability to know whether the spiritual source behind certain behavior is divine, human or satanic, or seeing or sensing into the spirit realm in general. There is no “gift of discernment” in general and this gift is not intended for one to go around trying to discern everything people say or do or operate in suspicion.

Biblical Examples: Mark 9:25; Matt. 16:15-23; Acts 8:23, 13: 9-12, 16:16-18

8) **Various kinds of tongues:** the God-given ability to communicate in an unfamiliar language (either human or divine). This differs from the tongues you receive as the initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost: clarification of 1 Cor. 12: 30.

Biblical Examples: 1 Cor. 14:18, 39b; Acts 2:4, 10: 46, 19: 6- 9

9) **Interpretation of tongues:** the supernatural ability to translate or interpret an unknown language either divine (angelic) or natural (human) to a person or group of people into a language they understand without any natural aids.

Biblical Example: 1 Cor. 14:1- 9

### **3. Gifts of the Father, Rom. 12:6 – 8 (ministries given to some)**

*Having then gifts [charisma] differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, according to the proportion of faith; or ministry, in our ministering [serving]; or he who teaches, in teaching; or he who exhorts, in the encouragement; he who gives, let him do it with simplicity; he who rules [or shows hospitality], with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.*

These gifts are often referred to as the “motivational gifts,” as they seem to show what interests a person or what is his fundamental makeup:

Prophecy

Ministering (serving)

Teaching

Exhortation (encouragement, comfort)

Giving

Ruling (leading, administration; the Greek word means “standing in front of others” and also has the sense of hospitality)

Mercy (compassion)

The Father, as Creator, seems to construct people with aptitudes and abilities which we commonly call "talents." However, He may also give people a supernatural ability in certain areas even if they have no natural skills or training in those areas. Although some things in this list seem more "natural," they are still called charismata, or graces, and enable a person to have an ongoing ministry and function with greater consistency and impact than what is ordinary. This is not a sudden manifestation of the Spirit for the need of the moment, but a grace on the person's life.

Of course, there are other gifts of this type mentioned in other passages, such as artistic abilities and the 1 Cor. 12:28-30 gifts such as helps, workings of miracles, and governing. Jesus and Paul also both spoke of a gift of chastity or celibacy. There are many gifts given by the Father which help to build the Church and to reveal His heart to the world!

#### **4. Gifts of the Son, Ephesians 4 (offices given to a few)**

*And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ... (Eph. 4:11-13)*

Here we see the five ministry offices or, as it often called today, the “fivefold ministry.” More than titles, these are ministry functions within the Body of Christ, each one having a unique grace, the purpose of which is to equip the Church for service and bring her to maturity generally.

Within these offices is typically found the greatest level of authority and anointing in ministry, together with the ability to impart anointings, establish people in a particular grace, and reproduce one’s ministry in others. For example, a prophet will function more accurately and strongly than even someone who has an ongoing prophetic ministry as seen in Romans 12. And a person with a prophetic ministry in turn will function at a higher level than someone who is simply exercising a simple gift or manifestation of prophecy such as we see in 1 Corinthians 12.

Aside from the operations of their ministry giftings, fivefold ministers are usually also involved in Kingdom government. This is especially true of the apostles and prophets, whom the Scriptures describe as the foundation of the Church. (Eph. 2:20)

A detailed discussion of these ministries and their function is outside the scope of this course, but here are a few points to consider:

The Ephesians 4 ministries are gifts of the Son, just as the 1 Corinthians 12 gifts are gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The purpose of these gifts is to bring the Body to maturity, which Paul describes as all of us coming to the measure of the height of the fullness of Christ.

The Ephesians 4 gifts are “personal” in the sense that they are unique to the person. They are “offices.” The gift is actually the person himself - a gift from Christ to His Church! Therefore, “evangelist” is not a gift you have in the same way that “discerning of spirits” is a gift – it is something you are. It is an element of your personal calling and the grace that comes with it is a gift from Christ, not something a person can attain through human effort.

Because these offices originate in Christ’s choice, they are not offices or titles we can assume ourselves. Nor can they even be conferred by men; the church can only recognize the grace of God in a person and respond to the Holy Spirit’s leading as to when such a person can be commissioned into the fullness of that ministry and thus be publicly recognized as standing in that office. This is the Biblical understanding of ordination. In plain English, you cannot “make yourself” a pastor or a prophet, you just are one!

It is unsound to suggest that any of these five gifts have passed away and are no longer needed today. They cannot cease until the Church has been matured.

Two simple illustrations help us to begin to understand these offices. They are based on the letter “G,” and on the human hand. They are certainly simplifications and, of course,

books can be and have been written about them, but this is a helpful place to start:

Apostles govern

Prophets guide

Evangelists gather

Pastors guard

Teachers ground

Apostles: the thumb – gives balance and grip; can touch all the others

Prophets: the index finger – points things out; does fine work

Evangelists: the middle finger – reaches the farthest

Pastors: the ring finger – wedded to the body, work closely with evangelists and teachers

Teachers: the pinkie finger – for balance and measure; does fine work