

The Communion of the Saints Part 13: Spiritual Gifts for the Church



Introduction

USA Today: “The Oakland coaching staff would routinely give Russell DVDs featuring gameplans and new plays for him to study. The coaches started to suspect the rookie wasn’t doing his homework and came up with a brilliant plot to test him. One day they asked Russell how he liked the gameplan on the DVD they had sent him home with the previous night. He said he did [like it], but there was one problem: The coaches purposefully gave him a blank DVD. Their suspicions were confirmed. The player...may check all the boxes on tape, but if he doesn’t care about getting better, all of his physical gifts will be wasted.”

Introduction

1 Corinthians 12:1: “Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware (agnostic).”

HOW DO WE DEFINE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

Wayne Mack: “abilities that God has granted to Christians for the edification of others in the body and the evangelization of those outside the body.”

HOW DO WE DEFINE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

Pneumatikon (spiritual things)

- **Verse 1:** Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brethren
- The gifts are spiritual in nature
- Spiritual gifts are only for **Christians**

HOW DO WE DEFINE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

Charismaton (grace gifts)

- **Verse 4:** “Now there are varieties of gifts”
- Gifts are not earned, they are given by the grace of God
- We must not equate giftedness with **godliness**

HOW DO WE DEFINE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

Diakonion (service)

- **Verse 5:** “there are varieties of ministries”
- Spiritual gifts are given to **serve** others

HOW DO WE DEFINE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

Energematon (energy)

- **Verse 6:** “There are varieties of effects”
- The **power** of God works through our spiritual gifts

WHAT ARE THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

1 Corinthians 12:4-6: “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. 6 There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all *persons.*”

- The gifts are unified
 - The gifts are diverse
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1 Corinthians 12:8-10	1 Corinthians 12:28-30	Ephesians 4:11-12	Romans 12:6-8	1 Peter 4:10-11
Distinguishing spirits	Apostles	Apostles	Acts of Mercy	Speaking
Prophecy	Prophets	Prophets	Prophecy	Serving
Faith	Teachers	Pastors-teachers	Teaching	
Gifts of healing	Gifts of healing	Evangelists	Service	
Working of miracles	Miracles		Exhortation	
Utterance of knowledge	Helping		Giving	
Utterance of Wisdom	Administration		Leading	
Kinds of tongues	Kinds of tongues			
Interpretation				

WHAT ARE THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

- The gifts are sample lists, not **exhaustive**
- You may have a gift that is not specified in Scripture

WHAT ARE THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

Giftedness is individualized

- Christians receive gifts in **varying measure**
- **Ephesians 4:7**: “But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift.”

WHO GIVES THE GIFTS?

1 Corinthians 12:4: Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. **7** But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. **8** For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; **9** to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, **11** But one and the same Spirit works all these things.”

WHO GIVES THE GIFTS?

Repetition for a reason: To make clear the Spirit gives the gifts

- To **humble** the gifted
- To display the Spirit

WHO RECEIVES THE GIFTS?

Verse 7: “But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”

WHO RECEIVES THE GIFTS?

Ephesians 4:7: “But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift”

1 Peter 4:10: “As each one has received a *special* gift.”

- **All Christians** receives a spiritual gift

WHO RECEIVES THE GIFTS?

1 Corinthians 12:13: “For we were all baptized by One Spirit into one body.”

Pentecostalism

- The Baptism of the Holy Spirit: an experience **after** conversion that empowers a Christian for a greater service to God

WHO RECEIVES THE GIFTS?

Pentecostalism's Historical Distinctive:

- Roots in the Pentecostal Revival of 1901
- Charles Parham taught the sign of the baptism of the Holy Spirit was speaking in tongues



WHO RECEIVES THE GIFTS?

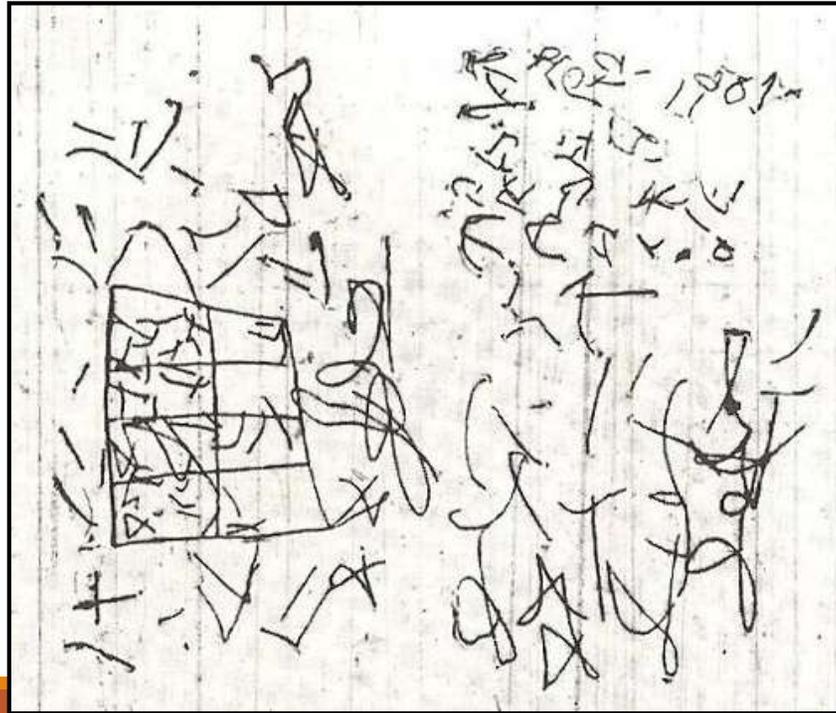
1901: Agnes Ozman

- Allegedly the first person to be baptized with the Spirit and spoke in tongues (Chinese)



WHO RECEIVES THE GIFTS?

Agnes Ozman's writings in "Chinese."



WHO RECEIVES THE GIFTS?

Pentecostalism's Doctrinal Distinctive:

- **1.** All gifts mentioned in the New Testament are existent today
 - **2.** Baptism of the Holy Spirit is an empowering experience subsequent to conversion
 - **3.** When baptism of the Holy Spirit occurs, people will speak in tongues as the sign that they have received this experience
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WHO RECEIVES THE GIFTS?

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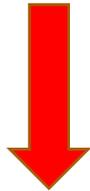
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WHO RECEIVES THE GIFTS?

Douglas Oss: “When Pentecostals speak of ‘receiving’ the Spirit as a postconversion experience, they are speaking of the work of the Spirit in which he empowers the believer in ‘charismatic’ ways for witness and service.”

PENTECOSTAL VIEW

1st Blessing:
Conversion



2nd Blessing
(Baptism of the Spirit):
Gifting, Empowerment



Pentecostalism teaches **two** class Christianity



WHO RECEIVES THE GIFTS?

1 Corinthians 12:13 (NIV): “For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body.”

- The point of the Baptism of the Spirit is the **unity** of the body

1 CORINTHIANS 12 VIEW

1st Blessing =
Baptism of the Spirit =
Conversion =
Gifting, Empowerment



The baptism of the Holy Spirit is synonymous with **conversion**

HOW DO I KNOW WHAT MY GIFT IS?

The Subjective Component:

- What interests you? (bathed in prayer and the Word)

The Objective Component:

- What does the **church** affirm you are good at?

The Providential Component:

- What ministries have a **need?**
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WHY HAVE WE BEEN GIVEN THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

Verse 7: “But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”

- The gifts are given to **display the Spirit**

WHY HAVE WE BEEN GIVEN THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

Verse 7: “But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”

- The good of the church and the world
 - The display of God’s glory and our good are **joined** together
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HOW SHOULD WE PRACTICE THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

Saturate the use of your gifts with **love**

- **1 Corinthians 13:1-2:** “If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. **2** If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.”
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HOW SHOULD WE PRACTICE THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

Do not use lack of giftedness as an **excuse**

- Some gifts are also duties given to all Christians, i.e. giving, serving, etc.

HOW SHOULD WE PRACTICE THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

Focus on spiritual **maturity**, not spiritual giftedness



HOW SHOULD WE PRACTICE THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

Spurgeon: “I do believe it is before every Christian either to serve His God with all his heart or to fall into sin. I believe we must either go forward or we must fall. The rule is in Christian life, if we do not bring forth fruit unto the Lord our God, we shall lose even our leaves, and stand like a winter’s tree, bare and withered.”

HOW SHOULD WE PRACTICE THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

Do not neglect your gifts

- **John Owen:** “God has work to do in this world, and to desert it because of its difficulties and its entanglements is to cast off His authority. It is not enough that we be just or that we be righteous or that we walk with God in holiness, but we must also serve our generation as David did before he fell asleep.”



