

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

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I. Introduction.

A. The gifts of the Holy Spirit appear in 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12 and Ephesians 4.

B. Tongues and healing are the controversial gifts of today.

II. God decides who will get what spiritual gift. (1 Corinthians 12:11)

III. Gifts are given for our edification and the edification of the church. (1 Corinthians 12:7)

IV. The gifts are to be used in the body. (1 Corinthians 12:18)

V. Healing.

A. We have sickness because of sin. (Ecclesiastes 7:25)

B. Types of healing.

1. One Christian praying for another. (James 5:16)

2. Anointing by and prayer of the elders. (James 5:14-15)

3. The special gift of healing. The gift is plural because each gift is a special gift in itself. (1 Corinthians 12:9)

4. Medical doctors.

C. We need to come to physical healings with balance. (John 17:4; Galatians 6:7)

VI. Tongues.

A. There is a genuine gift of tongues—Scripture has not said they are ceased.

B. Tongues can be counterfeit.

C. We must be careful where we get the gift from.

D. Some get tongues from hyper-emotionalism.

E. The biblical practice of tongues should be by two or three in a given meeting and only if an interpreter is present. (1 Corinthians 14:27-28)

F. Women are to remain silent.

G. The value of tongues is self-edification. (1 Corinthians 14:4, 14)

H. Paul spoke in tongues more than everyone. (1 Corinthians 14:9, 18)

VII. Problems.

A. Tongues are not a sign of spirituality. The real mark of spirituality is the fruit of the Spirit. (1 Corinthians 1:7; 3:1-3; Galatians 5:22-23)

B. Sometimes sign gifts come from the wrong source.

C. Sometimes the sign gifts divide the body of Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:25)

D. Sometimes the sign gifts are taken as signs of the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

E. Sometimes people who have the sign gifts emphasize the experience more than anything. The Spirit's work is to glorify Jesus. (John 15:14, 26; Acts 1:8)

F. Some over-emphasize the sign gifts.

G. Some take their experience as a greater authority than the Bible. (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21; Proverbs 30:5; Luke 21:33; Hebrews 1:1-2; Luke 24:27)

Application questions:

1. What is your position on healing? Defend your answer.

2. What is your position on tongues? Defend your answer.

3. What problems with the sign gifts do you think are the greatest?
