

## **SUPERNATURAL GIFTS**

The gifts of the spirit as mentioned in the bible are not developed by human capabilities but these gifts are supernatural given by God intending it to:

- **edify the church**
- **strengthen the church**
- **feed the church**
- **exhort the church**
- **encourage the church**
- **Have the Body of Christ empowered to do the work of Christ.**

You should know that these gifts are always to exalt Christ, to witness God's power, to build up the Body, and to work to enlarge the Body of Christ by sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with the lost.

In the operation of the supernatural gifts the following should be noted.

- One should be filled with the spirit -**Eph 5:8**
- Any member of the body of Christ may be used-**1Cor 12:7,11,14:26,31,1:7**
- One should be desirous of the spirit-**1Cor 12:31**
- One should not be ignorant of the gifts of the spirit-**1Cor 12:1**
- One should be motivated by love and pure desire to edify the church-**1Cor 14:12**
- One should seek to excel in the operation of the gifts-**1Cor 14:12**

In I Corinthians 12:1- Paul made mention of nine gifts of the Spirit as **SUPERNATURAL MINISTERING GIFTS-Romans 12:3-8, 1Corinthians 12:8-10, 28-30, Ephesians 4:11**. These gifts are used by ministers of God to minister to the church

When it comes to these supernatural gifts, one must be guided by the fact:

- **There are differences in the gifts**
- **There are differences in their administration**
- **There are diversities in their operations.**
- **It is the same spirit of God that works all in all.**

**For the purposes of studies, and to appreciate the differences in them, differences in administration and diversities of operations the nine supernatural gifts have been grouped into three(3):**

- 1. KNOWING OR REVELATION GIFTS**
- 2. SPEECH OR SPEAKING GIFTS**
- 3. POWER OR ACTION GIFTS**

#### **A. KNOWING GIFTS(REVELATION-MIND)**

##### **I. THE GIFT OF WORD OF WISDOM-1Cor 12:8**

The first gift Paul mentions is the gift of word of wisdom. It is listed first perhaps because it is foundational to the church and this is a gift that the believer can earnestly desire (**v 31**).

##### **Characteristics:**

- It is a supernatural wisdom given by the spirit as He wills-**1Cor 12:11, Luke 21:14, 15**
- It is basically the supernatural revelation or insight into God's will, plans and purposes.
- It points into the future which is only known by God.
- It is the application of God's word in a given unknown situation- **Matt 4:3-7**
- This gift is essential in the operation of almost all the other supernatural gifts
- This gift is different from natural wisdom(**James 1:5**), human wisdom, devilish wisdom

##### **Examples:**

- **Jesus –Luke 4:1-13, 20:22-26, John 8:3-11**
- **Apostles- Acts 6:1-5**
- **Noah and the flood-Gen 6:13**
- **Lot and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah-Gen 19:12-13**
- **Joseph and the interpretation of dreams-Gen 41:1-44**
- **Prophet Agabus-Acts 21:10-11**
- **Paul and the sailors-Acts 27:21-26**

**Forms:** inward revelations, audible voices, visions, dreams, vocal gifts of prophecy, angelic visitation etc.

##### **II. THE GIFT OF WORD OF KNOWLEDGE-1Cor 12:8**

##### **Characteristics**

- It is a supernatural knowledge given by the spirit as He wills-**1Cor 12:11**

- It is an insight into God’s mind, will or plan and also that of man, knowing or unknowing-**1Sam 10:22**
- It is a revelation of the past or present of an issue- **Acts 5:1-11, 9:11**
- It is not the knowledge obtained through academics
- It is employed to uncover sin, give guidance and direction-**2Sam 12:1-10, Acts 9:11**
- It is essential in the impartation of knowledge into future happenings-**Acts 11:27-28**

**Examples:**

- **Jesus- John 1:47-50, 4:17-18**
- **Ananias-Acts 9:10-20**
- **Elisha and Gehazi-2Kings**
- **Peter and Ananias- Acts 5:3, 8, 23**

**III. THE GIFT OF DISCERNING OF SPIRITS-1Cor 12:10**

It is the gift of “distinguishing between spirits” It is able to discern scriptures and their application to believers in the church.

**Characteristics-1Cor 12:1, 3, 11**

- To discern spirits means to **know** the kind of spirit in operation-**1John 4:2-3**
- It points to the past, present and future in the operation of spirit-meaning, a combination of the gifts of word of wisdom and knowledge.
- It is a supernatural wisdom and knowledge given by the spirit as He wills-**1Cor 12:11**
- This gift is needed by almost every Christian to ascertain and have insight into spiritual operations at any given time-**1John 4:1-**

**Examples:**

- **Jesus-Luke 8:2, Mark 5:1-9**
- **Paul and the slave girl-Acts 16:16-18**
- **Peter and Ananias-Acts 5:1-10**

**B. GIFTS OF SPEECH(SPEAKING-VOCAL)**

**IV. DIVERS KINDS OF TONGUES- 1Corinthians 12:10**

This has been one of the most controversial and most misunderstood gifts of all. On the day of Pentecost, the one hundred and twenty (120) were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other languages” that is not the gift of divers kinds of tongues. What happened on the Pentecost day was the initial sign of the baptism of the Holy Ghost (**Acts 2:1-4, Mark 16:17, John 3:8**).

### **Characteristics**

- It is characterized by love-**1Corinthians 13:1**
- The literal translation in Greek is “**glossa**” which means tongues. The same “**glossa**” (language) is employed in **Acts 2:5-11**.
- With this gift, one does not speak only one kind of tongue but different kinds of tongues (languages) at the same time or different times.
- It is therefore easy for anyone baptized with the Holy Ghost to have this gift.
- It is supposed to benefit all at church gathering through interpretation- **1Corinthians 14:5**
- It benefits the individual only when he cannot interpret.-**1Corinthians 14:41,27,28,32,33**,

### **Examples:**

- **Paul-1Cor 14:18**

### **V. THE GIFT OF INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES-1Cor 12:10**

This gift is exhibited when someone is able to interpret another tongue(s) or language(s) spoken by same self or another person during a ministration of the gift of divers kinds of tongues. This is not about translation but interpretation of tongues.

### **Characteristics**

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- Whoever has the gift of divers kinds of tongues can also have this gift-**1Corinthians 14:13**
- It is very essential during the gathering of saints-**1Corinthians 14:5,15-16**

### **VI. THE GIFT OF PROPHECY-1Cor 12:10**

The literal translation used here is that it is “**publicly speaking**” or “**speaking forth**” the Word of God. This gift is associated with those who are teachers or pastors since God would not gift someone in the church to teach or preach without having an ability to do so. With this gift, one utters only in a known tongue.

### **Characteristics**

- Prophecies are meant for the edification, exhortation and comfort of the church-**1Corinthians 14:3,4**

- It is simply a combination of the gift of divers kinds of tongues and the interpretation of tongues.
- This gift is employed during church gathering-**1Corinthians 14:4**
- Prophecy is done in a known tongue-**1Corinthians14:1-3**
- Prophecies are to be judged-**1Corinthians14: 29-33 James 1:5**

**Examples:**

- **Philip-Acts 21:9-10**

### **C. POWER GIFTS(ACTION-ABILITY)**

#### **VII. THE GIFT OF FAITH-1Cor 12:9**

People with this gift are truly amazing in how they see things. They tend to exude confidence in all situations. Such people exhibit the perfect (divine) level of faith.

**Characteristics-2Cor 4:13**

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**Examples:**

- **Jesus and fig tree-Matt 21:19-22**
- **Paul and ship wreck-Acts 27:21-26**
- **Elijah-1kings 17:1,James 5:17**
- **Joshua- Jos 10:12-14**

#### **VIII. THE GIFTS OF HEALINGS-1Cor 12:9**

The gift of healing has been a controversial one. Some “faith healers” claim to have this gift yet have often been exposed to be frauds by undercover reporters.

**Characteristics- this gift is given to the church to:**

- **Deliver the sick and the suffering-1John 3:8,Acts 10:38, Luke 13:16**
- **Confirm the word of God-Mark 16:17-20, Acts 4:29,30,33**
- **Attract people to Christ-Matt 4:23,25**
- **Bring glory to God-Mark 2:12,Luke 13:13, 18:43, Jn 9:2-3**

**Examples:**

- **Jesus-John 2:7-11, Mark 1:29-31, 40-45, Luke 8:43-48**
- **Peter-Acts 5:15**
- **Peter and John-Acts 3:6-10**

## IX. THE GIFT OF WORKING OF MIRACLES-1Cor 12:9

This is the gift of “miraculous powers “is another gift of the Spirit that appears to be unique to the New Testament church.

### Characteristics:

- The manifestation of the gift is a combination of acts of faith and healings
- This requires Boldness-Acts 14:13,4:29,30
- People endowed with this gift are very Prayerful-Acts 4:29-31
- The gift is intended to Spreads the gospel-Acts 5:14-16
- Through this gift, People are converted to God-Acts 4:4, 5:14, 8:6,9:42,14:8-18

### Examples:

- In samaria-Acts 8:6
- Jesus-Matt 14:25-27,17:24-27
- In saron and lydda-Acts 9:34,35
- In joppa-Acts 14:8-18
- Paul and silas-Acts 16:15-30
- Philip-Acts 8:39
- Paul-Acts 19:11, 20:9-12
- Peter-Acts 9:40

## OTHER GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

**Romans 12:7-8** also speaks of additional gifts; (v8)“if it is servicing, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.”

In **1Cor 12:28-30**, Paul mentions other gifts

<sup>28</sup> “and god hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracle, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.”<sup>29</sup> “are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles?” <sup>30</sup> “have all the gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?”

Finally brethren the bible entreats us to covet the best gifts.-**1Cor 12:31**