

Gifts For The Church, part 2

Spiritual Gifts 2: Message

Give thanks to God that through a variety of temporary spiritual gifts, He:

- provided for the early church
- delivered the vital NT Scriptures and
- launched strong, vibrant local churches

Laid the foundation for the church (Eph 2:20)

Apostle

- Official delegate of Jesus Christ
- Delivered the gospel message and other NT truths
- Established and built up the earliest churches

**Foundational
Gifts**

Laid the foundation for the church (Eph 2:20)

Prophet

- Received direct revelation of truth from God
 - Foretelling future events
 - Forthtelling (rebuke, call for repentance, encourage, comfort)
- God revealing truth through a spokesman

Foundational
Gifts

Revelatory Gifts

Purposes:

- To provide God's people with the inspired, NT Scriptures (2 Pet 1:21)
- To provide wisdom and guidance for local churches until the NT Scriptures completed

Distinguishing of spirits

- Tied to prophecy (1 Cor 12:10)
- Same words used in both passages: prophecy, spirits, distinguishing (1 Cor 12:10; 14:29-32)
- Distinguished true from counterfeit prophecy

Revelatory
Gifts

Word of wisdom

- Coupled with word of knowledge
- Received a divine message from God when special insight was needed
- (1 Cor 12:8; 1 Cor 2:6-16; 13:8-12)

Revelatory
Gifts

Word of knowledge

- Associated with prophecy and tongues (1 Cor 13:8-12), ceased with them
- Received a divine message from God when particular understanding of truth was needed
- (1 Cor 12:8)

Revelatory
Gifts

Sign Gifts

Purposes:

- Authenticated God's spokesmen until we had the NT Scriptures
- Supernatural signs authenticating Jesus, apostles, prophets, and those preaching and teaching (1 Cor 14:22)

What we have today in the NT Scriptures is a divinely certified record of many signs which assure us of who were truly God's spokesmen

Sign Gifts

- Authenticated apostles (2 Cor 12:12; Heb 2:4; Rev 2:2)
- Confirmed Holy Spirit given to all groups uniting them (Acts 2:1-13; 5:12; 8:4-17; 9:18; 10:44-48; 11:15; 15:8-12; 19:1-7)
- Bore witness that Christ was sent from God the Father (Mt 8:17; 12:28; Lk 7:18-23; Jn 5:36; Jn 11:42)
- Confirmed the gospel (Rom 15:19)
- Can't persuade men to believe like the word of Christ can (Lk 16:31 ;Jn 4:41-42; Rom 10:17)

Kinds of tongues

- Biblical tongues were real human languages (Acts 2:1-11; 1 Cor 14:9-11)
- Supernatural signs to authenticate those preaching and teaching

Interpretation of tongues

- Ability to interpret message

Sign Gifts

Faith

- Supernatural faith (1 Cor 13:2)
- Example: Paul before shipwreck in Acts 27

Sign Gifts

Supernatural faith is seen in how Paul's "great faith exercised in the midst of disaster laid hold of God's promise and brought hope and safety to everyone with him"

John MacArthur, *The MacArthur NT Commentary: 1 Corinthians*, p. 300

Gifts of healing

- Variety of illnesses and variety of healing methods (note plurals used)
- No one today has the gift of healing
- God heals people today but not through gift of healing

Sign Gifts

Effecting of miracles

- A miracle is when God works by going contrary to the natural laws He created
- God does work miraculously today, but that is not the gift of miracles
- Jesus (Jn 2:11; 20:30-31; Acts 2:22);
- Apostles (Acts 14:3)

Sign Gifts