SPIRITUAL GIFTS

STUDENT GUIDE | ADULT CLASS

GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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Introduction: Pursuing the Greater Gifts and Growing in the Spirit

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Living for God Through Spiritual Maturity

In a world that values natural talent and personal success, God calls us to something greater: spiritual gifts. These gifts, empowered by the Holy Spirit, reveal God's power and presence in the church. They are given to build up the church body and glorify God, but their effectiveness depends on spiritual maturity, rooted in the fruit of the Spirit.

Scripture Focus

- **1 Corinthians 12:1 (NKJV):** "Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant."
- **Galatians 5:22-23 (NKJV):** "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."

Reflection Starter

What's a natural talent or ability you're passionate about? How could it be used to serve others?

Think About This: *(Refer to the Gifts and Fruit Alignment Chart below)*

- How are spiritual gifts different from natural talents?

- Why is it important for spiritual gifts to be supported by the fruit of the Spirit?

- Which spiritual gift or fruit of the Spirit do you desire to grow in the most? Why?

Gifts and Fruit Alignment Chart

Grace Gifts (Romans 12:4-8)	**Spiritual Gifts** (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)	**Fruit of the Spirit** (Galatians 5:22-23)
Prophesying: Declaring God's truth boldly.	Word of Wisdom: Applying God's wisdom.	Love: Choosing to put others first.
Serving: Meeting practical needs with humility.	Word of Knowledge: Revealing divine understanding.	Joy: Finding delight in God's presence.
Teaching: Explaining God's Word clearly.	Faith: Trusting God for the impossible.	Peace: Resting in God's control.
Encouraging: Offering comfort and hope.	Healing: Being a vessel for God's healing power.	Patience: Enduring difficult times.
Giving: Sharing resources generously.	Working of Miracles: Demonstrating God's power.	Kindness: Acting with compassion.
Leading: Guiding with diligence and integrity.	Prophecy: Speaking a timely word from God.	Goodness: Living a life of integrity.
Showing Mercy: Extending compassion cheerfully.	Discernment: Recognizing truth from error.	Faithfulness: Staying true to God's calling.
	Tongues: Speaking in a heavenly or foreign language.	Gentleness: Using strength with humility.
	Interpretation of Tongues: Explaining messages.	Self-Control: Exercising discipline.

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for the gifts You've placed in each of us. Help us to grow in maturity through the fruit of the Spirit, so we may use our gifts to glorify You and build up the church. Teach us to serve with humility, love, and faithfulness. In Jesus' name, amen.

Take Action This Week:

1. **Identify Your Gift:** Reflect on your talents and spiritual gifts. Write down one way you can use them this week.
2. **Grow in the Fruit:** Choose one fruit of the Spirit to intentionally develop this week.
3. **Serve:** Find a practical way to use your gifts to bless someone in your community or church.

Be ready to reflect on how God is helping you grow.

Additional Scripture

- Romans 12:6-8
- Ephesians 4:11-13
- 1 Peter 4:10-11
- Matthew 25:14-30
- Acts 2:1-4
- 2 Timothy 1:6-7

The Word of Wisdom

Living by Divine Revelation

The Word of Wisdom is a supernatural revelation given by the Holy Spirit that provides divine insight into God's plans, purposes, and solutions to complex situations. It surpasses human understanding and is designed to advance God's kingdom. Unlike general wisdom gained through experience, this gift is a direct impartation from the Spirit, intended to guide decisions, align actions with God's will, and bring clarity to specific circumstances. By understanding and operating in this gift, believers can actively participate in God's divine timeline and purposes.

Scripture Focus

- **1 Corinthians 12:8 (NKJV):** "For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom…"
- **James 1:5 (NKJV):** "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him."
- **Proverbs 2:6 (NKJV):** "For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding."

Reflection Starter

Have you ever faced a situation where you needed clarity beyond what you could figure out on your own? How did you seek God's guidance?

Think About This:

- Why is the Word of Wisdom critical for believers today?

- How can you discern the difference between human wisdom and the Word of Wisdom given by the Holy Spirit?

- Share an example from Scripture or personal experience where God's wisdom brought clarity to a difficult situation.

Notes:

The Word of Wisdom is a supernatural revelation by the Holy Spirit that reveals God's plans and purposes. Its purpose is to guide decisions, solve complex issues, and align actions with God's will. This gift is not derived from human intellect or experience but comes directly from the Holy Spirit. Examples include Joseph interpreting Pharaoh's dream (Genesis 41) or modern instances where believers receive divine insight for decisions that align with God's purpose.

Additional Scripture

- **1 Corinthians 14:1**
- **1 Corinthians 12:31**
- **Ephesians 4:7**
- **1 Peter 4:10-11**
- **James 1:5**
- **Proverbs 2:6**

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for the gift of wisdom that comes through Your Spirit. Teach us to seek Your guidance in every decision and to rely on Your revelation instead of our own understanding. Help us to align our actions with Your will and use the wisdom You provide to glorify You and build up Your church. In Jesus' name, amen.

Take Action This Week:

1. **Seek God's Wisdom:** Identify a situation in your life where you need clarity. Pray and ask God for a Word of Wisdom.

2. **Reflect on Scripture:** Meditate on James 1:5 and Proverbs 2:6. Write down what these verses reveal about God's character.
3. **Share with Others:** Be attentive to opportunities where God may use you to share a Word of Wisdom with someone in need.

Be prepared to reflect on how God reveals His wisdom to you and through you.

The Word of Knowledge

Understanding God's Omniscience

The Word of Knowledge is a supernatural revelation from the Holy Spirit that conveys specific facts or truths about a situation, person, or event that could not have been known through natural means. This gift highlights God's intimate involvement in the lives of His people, often bringing encouragement, guidance, or correction to align with His purposes. It is not based on human intellect or learned information but is a direct impartation from the Spirit to demonstrate God's power and sovereignty.

Scripture Focus

- **1 Corinthians 12:7-8 (NKJV):** "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit…"
- **John 4:17-18 (NKJV):** "Jesus said to her, 'You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband.'"
- **2 Kings 6:12 (NKJV):** "And one of his servants said, 'None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom.'"

Reflection Starter

Have you ever experienced a moment when someone knew something about you that only God could reveal? How did that impact your faith?

Think About This:

- How does the Word of Knowledge affirm God's power and care for individuals?

- What steps can you take to remain sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading?

- Why is love and sensitivity essential when operating in this gift?

Notes:

The Word of Knowledge is a supernatural revelation of specific information through the Holy Spirit. Its purpose is to reveal hidden truths, provide guidance, or affirm God's power. This gift comes directly from the Holy Spirit and not from human reasoning or experience. Examples include Jesus revealing the Samaritan woman's life (John 4) and Elisha warning Israel (2 Kings 6). Modern examples might include a pastor privately addressing a hidden issue with love, leading to restoration. Operating in this gift requires love, sensitivity, and stewardship to ensure God's character is reflected and His people are edified.

Operating with Love and Sensitivity

To use the Word of Knowledge effectively, believers must follow biblical principles such as speaking the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15) and restoring others with gentleness (Galatians 6:1). The goal is to encourage, restore, and glorify God without causing shame or harm. Stewardship is vital—handling revelations carefully builds trust and reflects Christ's character. Delivering a Word of Knowledge with love brings healing, unity, and edification.

Additional Scripture

- 1 Corinthians 12:7-11
- Ephesians 4:15
- Galatians 6:1
- Proverbs 3:5-6
- Psalm 139:1-4

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for Your intimate knowledge of our lives and for the gift of the Word of Knowledge. Help us to remain sensitive to Your Spirit so we can hear Your voice clearly. Teach us to deliver Your revelations with love and care, always seeking to restore and encourage others. May this gift glorify You and build up Your Church. In Jesus' name, amen.

Take Action This Week:

1. **Ask for Sensitivity:** Spend time in prayer, asking God to help you recognize the Holy Spirit's voice.
2. **Study Biblical Examples:** Reflect on John 4:17-18 and 2 Kings 6:12. Consider how God used the Word of Knowledge to guide and restore.
3. **Practice Love and Care:** If you sense God revealing something about someone, ensure you deliver it with gentleness and respect, seeking their edification.

Be prepared to reflect on how God uses this gift in your life to impact others.

The Gift of Faith

Trusting God in Extraordinary Circumstances

The Gift of Faith is a supernatural endowment of trust in God for a specific need or situation. This faith goes beyond the saving faith that all believers possess and is imparted by the Holy Spirit to accomplish God's purposes in extraordinary circumstances. The Gift of Faith enables believers to take bold actions, trust in God's provision, and witness miraculous outcomes without doubt or fear. Often working alongside other gifts, such as healing and miracles, this gift is crucial in advancing God's kingdom.

Scripture Focus

- **1 Corinthians 12:9 (NKJV):** "To another faith by the same Spirit…"
- **Matthew 17:20 (NKJV):** "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."
- **Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV):** "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."
- **Daniel 6:23 (NKJV):** "So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God."

Reflection Starter

Have you ever faced a situation where you had to trust God completely? What gave you the confidence to move forward?

Think About This:

- What distinguishes the Gift of Faith from general or saving faith?

- Why is it important to remain humble and obedient when operating in the Gift of Faith?

- How does the Gift of Faith inspire others to trust in God?

Modern-Day Example

A missionary faced the challenge of crossing a hostile territory to deliver Bibles. Despite warnings, they prayed and felt an unshakable assurance that God would protect them. Miraculously, they crossed without harm, and the mission succeeded. This unwavering trust in God's intervention exemplifies the Gift of Faith in action.

Operating with Boldness and Humility

- **James 2:18 (NKJV):** "Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works."
- **Galatians 5:6 (NKJV):** "Faith working through love."

The Gift of Faith should inspire boldness while remaining rooted in humility and dependence on God. It must never be used for self-glorification but for advancing God's kingdom. Stewarding this gift responsibly means trusting God's timing and will, even when the outcome is not immediate or expected.

Additional Scripture

- 1 Corinthians 12:7-11
- Matthew 21:21
- Hebrews 11:33-34
- James 1:3-4
- Psalm 37:5-6

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for the supernatural gift of faith that allows us to trust You in impossible situations. Help us to operate in this gift with boldness and humility, always seeking to glorify You and advance Your kingdom. Teach us to depend on Your timing and will, even when outcomes are uncertain. May our faith inspire others to trust in You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Take Action This Week:

1. **Identify a Challenge:** Pray and ask God to strengthen your faith for a specific situation where you need His intervention.
2. **Study Biblical Examples:** Read Daniel 6:23 or Matthew 17:20 and reflect on how God worked through extraordinary faith.
3. **Encourage Someone:** Share an example of how God's faithfulness in your life has strengthened your trust in Him.

Be prepared to reflect on how God uses the Gift of Faith in your life to inspire and impact others.

The Gifts of Healing

Restoring Health Through the Holy Spirit

The Gifts of Healing are supernatural endowments given by the Holy Spirit to restore physical, emotional, or spiritual health. This gift demonstrates God's compassion and power, offering a tangible expression of His love and care for His people. Unlike natural medical skills, the Gifts of Healing operate entirely through the Holy Spirit and often serve as a testimony to God's presence and glory. This lesson explores the biblical foundation, modern applications, and the importance of faith and humility when stewarding this gift.

Scripture Focus

- **1 Corinthians 12:9 (NKJV):** "To another gifts of healings by the same Spirit..."
- **James 5:14-15 (NKJV):** "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up..."
- **Mark 16:17-18 (NKJV):** "And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons... they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."
- **Matthew 8:16-17 (NKJV):** "When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: 'He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses.'"

Reflection Starter

Have you ever experienced or witnessed divine healing? How did it impact your faith?

Think About This:

- What role does faith play in operating in the Gifts of Healing?

- How can believers reflect God's compassion when ministering healing to others?

- Why is humility essential in stewarding this gift?

Modern-Day Example

A church held a healing service, praying over a man diagnosed with an incurable disease. After being anointed with oil and prayed for in faith, the man returned to his doctor and found no trace of the illness. The healing brought glory to God and strengthened the faith of the congregation.

Operating with Compassion and Integrity

- **Matthew 14:14 (NKJV):** "And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick."
- **1 Corinthians 13:2 (NKJV):** "And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith... but have not love, I am nothing."

The Gifts of Healing must be exercised with love and compassion, reflecting God's heart for those who are suffering. Integrity is crucial, ensuring that the focus remains on glorifying God rather than seeking personal recognition. The goal is always restoration and the advancement of God's kingdom.

Additional Scripture

- 1 Corinthians 12:7-11
- Matthew 10:8
- Acts 3:6-8
- Isaiah 53:5
- Luke 5:17

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for the Gifts of Healing, which reveal Your compassion and power. Teach us to operate in this gift with faith, love, and humility, always seeking to glorify You. May we reflect Your heart to those who are suffering and bring hope, restoration, and testimony of Your greatness. In Jesus' name, amen.

Take Action This Week:

1. **Pray for Healing:** Identify someone in your life who needs healing and commit to praying for them daily, asking God to reveal His power.
2. **Study Biblical Healings:** Reflect on Mark 16:17-18 and James 5:14-15. Consider how faith and compassion were demonstrated.
3. **Share God's Love:** Offer encouragement or assistance to someone who is struggling with illness, showing God's care and compassion through your actions.

Be ready to reflect on how God works through the Gifts of Healing to transform lives and build faith.

The Gift of Miracles

Displaying God's Sovereignty

The Gift of Miracles is a supernatural manifestation of divine power that goes beyond natural laws to accomplish God's purposes. This gift reveals God's authority over creation, circumstances, and even time, providing undeniable evidence of His sovereignty and glory. The Gift of Miracles serves to confirm the message of the gospel, strengthen the faith of believers, and reveal God's compassion. This lesson explores the biblical foundation of miracles, modern applications, and how to steward this gift with reverence and faith.

Scripture Focus

- **1 Corinthians 12:10 (NKJV):** "To another the working of miracles..."
- **Exodus 14:21-22 (NKJV):** "Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground..."
- **John 6:11-14 (NKJV):** "And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples... and they filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves."
- **Acts 3:6-8 (NKJV):** "Then Peter said, 'Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.' And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength."

Reflection Starter

Have you ever witnessed or heard about a miraculous event that strengthened your faith? How did it impact your view of God's power?

Think About This:

- How does the Gift of Miracles display God's authority over creation?

- Why is faith essential in witnessing and operating in the Gift of Miracles?

- How can believers ensure that God receives the glory in miraculous interventions?

Modern-Day Example

During a natural disaster, a community prayed fervently as floodwaters threatened their village. Miraculously, the waters receded just before reaching the homes, defying all weather predictions. The event brought many to faith as they witnessed God's intervention.

Operating with Faith and Reverence

- **Hebrews 2:4 (NKJV):** "God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will."
- **John 14:12 (NKJV):** "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father."

The Gift of Miracles requires unwavering faith and a deep reverence for God's sovereignty. It should always be exercised to glorify God, not for personal recognition or gain. Miracles serve to advance God's kingdom and point people to Him.

Additional Scripture

- 1 Corinthians 12:7-11
- Luke 9:16-17
- Matthew 14:25-33

- Acts 9:40-42
- Hebrews 11:29-30

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for the Gift of Miracles that reveals Your power and sovereignty. Teach us to operate in this gift with faith, humility, and reverence, always seeking to glorify You. Help us to trust in Your timing and will as we step out in boldness to see Your kingdom advanced. May every miracle point people to Your greatness and compassion. In Jesus' name, amen.

Take Action This Week:

1. **Pray for Bold Faith:** Ask God to increase your faith and give you opportunities to witness or participate in His miraculous works.
2. **Study Biblical Miracles:** Read Exodus 14:21-22 or John 6:11-14 and reflect on how God's power was displayed.
3. **Share a Testimony:** If you or someone you know has experienced a miracle, share the story to encourage and strengthen others' faith.

Be ready to reflect on how God uses the Gift of Miracles to reveal His glory and draw people to Him.

The Gift of Prophecy

Revealing God's Heart

The Gift of Prophecy is a divine ability to receive and communicate a message from God for the purpose of edifying, exhorting, and comforting others. It reveals God's heart and intentions for His people, providing guidance, encouragement, and sometimes correction. Unlike the Old Testament office of the prophet, this gift is available to believers as the Holy Spirit wills, emphasizing its role in strengthening and unifying the Church. This lesson examines the biblical foundation, practical use, and the importance of love and discernment in stewarding this gift.

Scripture Focus

- **1 Corinthians 12:10 (NKJV):** "To another prophecy..."
- **1 Corinthians 14:3 (NKJV):** "But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men."
- **Acts 21:10-11 (NKJV):** "And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. When he had come to us, he took Paul's belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, 'Thus says the Holy Spirit, "So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles."'"
- **Joel 2:28 (NKJV):** "And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy..."

Reflection Starter

Have you ever received a word of encouragement or direction that you believe was inspired by God? How did it impact your faith or actions?

Think About This:

- How does the Gift of Prophecy differ from the role of a prophet in the Old Testament?

- Why is love essential when operating in this gift?

- Why is it important to have prophecy judged before delivering it?

Modern-Day Example

A believer received a prophetic dream about a friend walking through a storm but eventually finding shelter. Feeling moved, the believer shared the word immediately, interpreting it to mean that their friend should leave a challenging job situation. However, the friend was not in a place emotionally or spiritually to act on the word and felt burdened by the pressure to decide. Later, after discussing the dream with a mentor, the believer realized the storm represented a season of testing and that the word was meant to encourage endurance, not immediate change. Had the prophecy been judged first, it could have been shared at the right time and with the appropriate interpretation, providing comfort and guidance rather than stress.

Judging Prophecy Before Deliverance

- **1 Corinthians 14:29 (NKJV):** "Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge."
- **1 Thessalonians 5:20-21 (NKJV):** "Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good."

Before delivering a prophetic word to an individual, it is important to have it judged by specific spiritual leaders. This process ensures the prophecy is accurate, aligns with Scripture, and is delivered with the right heart and intention. Judging prophecy protects both the giver and the receiver, avoiding misunderstandings, emotional harm, or misrepresentation of God's will.

Operating with Love and Discernment

- **1 Corinthians 13:2 (NKJV):** "And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge... but have not love, I am nothing."

Prophecy must be delivered with love, humility, and a heart to serve others. Discernment is crucial to ensure the message is truly from the Holy Spirit and not influenced by personal bias or emotion.

Additional Scripture

- 1 Corinthians 14:1
- Jeremiah 23:28
- 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21
- Ephesians 4:11-12
- Romans 12:6

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for the Gift of Prophecy that allows us to hear and share Your heart. Help us to operate in this gift with love, humility, and discernment, always seeking to edify and strengthen others. Teach us to steward this gift wisely, ensuring that every word aligns with Your will and brings glory to You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Take Action This Week:

1. **Pray for Discernment:** Spend time asking God to help you recognize and respond to His voice with humility.
2. **Test and Confirm:** If you sense a prophetic word, seek guidance from spiritual leaders before sharing it.
3. **Encourage Someone:** Use Scripture or a word of encouragement to build someone up, reflecting God's heart.

Be ready to reflect on how God uses the Gift of Prophecy to strengthen and guide His people.

The Gift of Discernment of Spirits

Perceiving Spiritual Realities

The Gift of Discernment of Spirits is the supernatural ability to perceive and distinguish between different types of spirits, including the Holy Spirit, angelic beings, human spirits, and demonic influences. This gift enables believers to navigate spiritual realities with wisdom and clarity, protecting the Church from deception and guiding individuals toward God's truth. It must always be exercised in love and not condemnation. Our battle is not against flesh and blood (Ephesians 6:12). The ultimate goal should be to restore individuals or pray for their deliverance, aligning with God's heart to bring healing and redemption.

Scripture Focus

- **1 Corinthians 12:10 (NKJV):** "To another discerning of spirits..."
- **1 John 4:1 (NKJV):** "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world."
- **Acts 16:16-18 (NKJV):** "And it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us... But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, 'I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.'"

Reflection Starter

Have you ever sensed that something happening around you had a spiritual influence? How did you respond?

Think About This:

- How does the Gift of Discernment of Spirits differ from natural intuition or perception?

- Why is this gift essential in protecting the Church from deception?

- How can believers cultivate humility and wisdom when operating in this gift?

Modern-Day Example

During a prayer meeting, a believer sensed a heaviness in the room and discerned it was due to spiritual oppression affecting one of the participants. After privately sharing this discernment with a leader, they prayed together for deliverance, and the atmosphere shifted as peace and freedom replaced the oppression. This highlights how the Gift of Discernment of Spirits can protect and edify the Church when handled with care.

The Importance of Love and Restoration

- **Ephesians 6:12 (NKJV):** "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."
- **Philippians 1:9-10 (NKJV):** "And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent..."

The Gift of Discernment of Spirits must always be exercised in love and humility, seeking God's guidance for each situation. This gift is intended to build up the body of Christ, not to judge or condemn others. It should aim to restore individuals or pray for their deliverance, reflecting God's heart for healing and redemption.

Additional Scripture

- Ephesians 6:12
- James 1:5
- Philippians 1:9-10

- Hebrews 5:14
- 1 Thessalonians 5:21

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for the Gift of Discernment of Spirits that helps us navigate spiritual realities with wisdom and clarity. Teach us to use this gift with love, humility, and dependence on the Holy Spirit. May we reflect Your heart in every situation, seeking restoration and deliverance for others. Help us to protect and build up Your Church for Your glory. In Jesus' name, amen.

Take Action This Week:

1. **Pray for Sensitivity:** Spend time in prayer asking God to help you grow in spiritual discernment and recognize His guidance.
2. **Study Biblical Examples:** Reflect on Acts 16:16-18 and how discernment was used to bring deliverance and glorify God.
3. **Encourage Restoration:** If you sense spiritual oppression in a situation, pray for wisdom to approach it with love and humility.

Be ready to reflect on how God uses the Gift of Discernment of Spirits to protect and edify His Church.

The Gift of Tongues

A Supernatural Expression of Worship and Edification

The Gift of Tongues is a supernatural ability given by the Holy Spirit to speak in a language unknown to the speaker, often for prayer, worship, or the edification of the church. This gift serves as a sign of God's power and presence, fostering spiritual connection and unity within the body of Christ. This lesson explores the biblical foundation, purpose, and proper use of the Gift of Tongues in alignment with spiritual maturity and love.

Scripture Focus

- **1 Corinthians 12:10 (NKJV):** "To another different kinds of tongues..."
- **Acts 2:4 (NKJV):** "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."
- **1 Corinthians 14:2 (NKJV):** "For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries."
- **1 Corinthians 14:27-28 (NKJV):** "If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret. But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God."
- **1 Corinthians 13:1 (NKJV):** "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal."

Reflection Starter

Have you ever experienced or witnessed the Gift of Tongues in action? How did it affect your understanding of God's power?

Think About This:

- How does the Gift of Tongues differ from natural languages?

- What role did the gift play during Pentecost, and how does it apply today?

- Why is interpretation important when the Gift of Tongues is used publicly?

- How can using this gift strengthen one's relationship with God?

Proper Use of the Gift of Tongues in the Church

- **Public Use:** The gift should be used in order and with interpretation to ensure it edifies the congregation (1 Corinthians 14:27-28).
- **Private Devotion:** Speaking in tongues privately is a deeply personal form of prayer and worship that builds up the individual's spirit (1 Corinthians 14:4).
- **Rooted in Love:** The gift must be exercised in love, ensuring it serves to build up the church rather than cause confusion or division (1 Corinthians 13:1).

Misconceptions or Concerns About Speaking in Tongues

- **"It's Just Gibberish or Not Real"**: Scripture describes it as a supernatural gift (1 Corinthians 12:10; Acts 2:4).
- **"It's Required for Salvation"**: Salvation is by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9); tongues is a gift, not a requirement.
- **"Only for the Early Church"**: The gift continues as part of the Holy Spirit's work today (1 Corinthians 13:8-10).
- **"You Shouldn't Speak in Tongues Without an Interpreter"**: Interpretation is required for public use, but personal use does not require an interpreter (1 Corinthians 14:2, 27-28).
- **"It's the Most Important Gift"**: All gifts are valuable, but prophecy and gifts that edify the whole body are greater in public settings (1 Corinthians 14:5).
- **"It's Always Public"**: Tongues can be used privately for personal prayer and worship (1 Corinthians 14:28).
- **"It's Not for Everyone"**: The Spirit distributes gifts as He wills (1 Corinthians 12:11), and tongues is one of many gifts available to believers.

Additional Scripture

- Acts 2:4
- 1 Corinthians 14:5
- Ephesians 2:8-9
- Romans 8:26-27
- Jude 1:20

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for the Gift of Tongues that allows us to connect with You in a deeper way. Teach us to use this gift with love, order, and humility, always seeking to glorify You. Help us to discern when and how to exercise this gift so that it builds up the church and strengthens our personal relationship with You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Take Action This Week:

1. **Personal Prayer:** Spend time asking the Holy Spirit for understanding and guidance about the Gift of Tongues. If appropriate, seek to experience it in your personal prayer life.
2. **Reflect on Love and Order:** Read 1 Corinthians 13 and 14, focusing on how to use spiritual gifts with love and in an orderly way.
3. **Seek Edification:** If you feel led to use this gift publicly, ensure that interpretation is available to edify the congregation.

Be ready to reflect on how God uses the Gift of Tongues to deepen your faith and strengthen His Church.

The Gift of Interpreting Tongues

Bringing Clarity to the Body of Christ

The Gift of Interpreting Tongues is the supernatural ability to interpret the message spoken in tongues so that the entire church can understand and be edified. This gift works in conjunction with the Gift of Tongues and ensures that messages given in an unknown language bring clarity, encouragement, and alignment with God's Word. This lesson explores the purpose, use, and importance of interpreting tongues in building up the body of Christ.

Scripture Focus

- **1 Corinthians 12:10 (NKJV):** "To another the interpretation of tongues..."
- **1 Corinthians 14:13 (NKJV):** "Therefore let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret."
- **1 Corinthians 14:27-28 (NKJV):** "If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret. But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God."

Reflection Starter

Why is it important for the Gift of Tongues to be interpreted in public worship? How does this ensure that the message builds up the church?

Think About This:

- Why does Paul emphasize the need for interpretation when tongues are spoken publicly?

- How does interpretation ensure that the church is edified?

- What are the potential risks of using tongues publicly without interpretation?

Operating in the Gift of Interpreting Tongues

- **1 Corinthians 14:5 (NKJV):** "I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification."
    - Interpretation elevates the message in tongues to the level of prophecy, making it understandable and impactful for the congregation.
- **Ephesians 4:29 (NKJV):** "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers."
    - The goal of interpretation is to edify and impart grace, ensuring that the message aligns with God's character and purpose.

Modern-Day Example

During a church service, someone spoke in tongues, and another believer was prompted by the Holy Spirit to interpret. The interpretation revealed a message of encouragement and hope for the congregation, aligning perfectly with Scripture and confirming what the pastor had planned to preach that day. This brought unity and strengthened the faith of everyone present.

Application

1. **Seek Understanding:** Pray for the ability to interpret tongues if you feel called to this gift (1 Corinthians 14:13).
2. **Practice Discernment:** Reflect on how interpretations align with Scripture and God's character.
3. **Foster Unity:** Commit to using this gift to edify the church, ensuring messages bring

clarity, encouragement, and unity.

Additional Scripture

- 1 Corinthians 14:1
- 1 Corinthians 14:19
- Romans 12:6-8
- Colossians 3:16
- Philippians 2:1-2

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for the Gift of Interpreting Tongues, which brings clarity and understanding to the body of Christ. Teach us to use this gift with humility, love, and discernment, ensuring that every interpretation aligns with Your Word and builds up the Church. Help us to rely on the Holy Spirit for guidance and to foster unity within the congregation. In Jesus' name, amen.

Take Action This Week:

1. **Pray for Discernment:** Spend time asking the Holy Spirit to help you recognize and interpret messages in tongues if you feel led to operate in this gift.
2. **Study Biblical Examples:** Reflect on 1 Corinthians 14:13 and Ephesians 4:29 to understand the purpose and importance of interpretation.
3. **Encourage Edification:** Use your words this week to build up and encourage others, practicing the principles of clarity and love that guide this gift.

Be ready to reflect on how God uses the Gift of Interpreting Tongues to bring clarity and unity to His Church.

Focused Study | Receiving the Gift of the Holy Spirit

Understanding the Gift of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is a gift from God that empowers believers for service, boldness, and spiritual growth. This lesson will guide you in understanding the difference between salvation and being filled with the Holy Spirit, and help you seek a deeper connection with God through the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Scripture Focus

- **Romans 10:9-10 (NKJV):** "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."
- **John 14:16-17 (NKJV):** "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you."
- **Acts 2:4 (NKJV):** "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

Reflection Starter

Have you ever felt a desire for a deeper connection with God or greater boldness in your faith? What steps have you taken to seek Him more?

Think About This:

- What is the difference between salvation and being filled with the Holy Spirit?

- Why do you think Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to His disciples?

- How does the Holy Spirit empower believers?

Steps to Receive the Holy Spirit

1. **Repentance and Salvation**
    - **Acts 2:38 (NKJV):** "Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"
    - Salvation is the first step—receiving Jesus Christ as your Savior prepares your heart for the Holy Spirit.
2. **Ask in Faith**
    - **Luke 11:13 (NKJV):** "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"
    - Simply ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit.
3. **Believe and Receive**
    - **Mark 11:24 (NKJV):** "Whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."
    - Trust that God will honor His promise and fill you with His Spirit.

Interactive Prayer Experience

1. **Pray This Simple Prayer:**
    - "Heavenly Father, I come to You in faith, believing Your Word. I ask You to fill me with the Holy Spirit. I open my heart to receive Your presence and power. Thank You for this gift. In Jesus' name, Amen."
2. **Worship and Surrender:**
    - Begin worshiping God with gratitude and praise.
    - As you worship, you may feel prompted to speak in a new language. Respond in faith as the Holy Spirit moves in you.
3. **Reflect and Pray:**

    - Spend time in personal reflection and prayer, allowing God to work in your heart.
    - Be open to the laying on of hands by a leader or mentor, as shown in **Acts 8:17 (NKJV):** "Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit."

Encouragement

- **Acts 2:39 (NKJV):** "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."
- The Holy Spirit is a promise for all believers. Continue seeking God daily and trusting Him to deepen your relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Key Takeaway

Being filled with the Holy Spirit is a free gift from God that empowers believers for service, boldness, and spiritual growth. It is available to all who ask in faith and opens the door to deeper intimacy with God and the operation of spiritual gifts.

Take Action This Week:

1. **Reflect on Scripture:** Meditate on John 14:16-17 and Acts 1:8. Consider what the Holy Spirit means to your life and faith.
2. **Ask in Prayer:** Spend time in prayer asking God to fill you with His Spirit.
3. **Worship Daily:** Dedicate time each day to worship and surrender to God's presence.

Be prepared to share your experience and encourage others as you grow in your relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Focused Study | Using Gifts Without Fruit: How It Can Be Harmful

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The Power of Gifts with the Fruit of the Spirit

The gifts of the Spirit are powerful tools meant to edify the church and glorify God. However, when these gifts are used without the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, etc.), they can lose their impact, cause harm, and even lead to division within the body of Christ. This lesson explores how spiritual gifts can become problematic when disconnected from spiritual maturity and character, and how the fruit of the Spirit transforms their use.

Scripture Focus

- **1 Corinthians 13:1-2 (NKJV):** "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith... but have not love, I am nothing."
- **Galatians 5:22-23 (NKJV):** "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."

Reflection Starter

Have you ever witnessed a spiritual gift being used in a way that caused harm rather than good? How did it affect your view of the gift and the person using it?

Examples of Gifts Misused Without Fruit

1. Word of Wisdom Without Love

- **Misuse:** Advice or guidance from God is delivered harshly, without empathy.
- **Harm Caused:** The recipient feels condemned or discouraged rather than built up.
- **Example:** A leader shares a wise solution to a conflict but criticizes those involved, making

them feel small.
- **Fruit Solution:** Love ensures wisdom is shared gently and received as caring guidance.

2. Word of Knowledge Without Self-Control

- **Misuse:** A personal revelation is shared publicly when it should be private.
- **Harm Caused:** The person feels exposed or humiliated, breaking trust.
- **Example:** A believer reveals someone's struggle during a group prayer session.
- **Fruit Solution:** Self-control preserves dignity and shares knowledge in appropriate settings.

3. Prophecy Without Patience

- **Misuse:** The prophet becomes frustrated when the listener doesn't act immediately.
- **Harm Caused:** The recipient feels pressured and confused.
- **Example:** Someone prophesies a ministry call but pushes the person to act prematurely.
- **Fruit Solution:** Patience trusts God's timing and encourages without pressure.

4. Healing Without Kindness

- **Misuse:** Frustration is shown when healing isn't immediate.
- **Harm Caused:** The person feels inadequate or doubts God's power.
- **Example:** A minister blames someone for lack of faith when healing doesn't occur.
- **Fruit Solution:** Kindness provides encouragement and trust in God's plan.

5. Faith Without Peace

- **Misuse:** Bold faith pressures others to take risks without God's direction.
- **Harm Caused:** Reckless decisions lead to stress and division.
- **Example:** A leader pushes a massive project without confirmation, causing discord.
- **Fruit Solution:** Peace ensures decisions are made with calm assurance and unity.

6. Tongues Without Gentleness

- **Misuse:** Speaking disruptively without regard for others.
- **Harm Caused:** It confuses or intimidates new believers and visitors.
- **Example:** Someone interrupts a teaching session by loudly speaking in tongues.
- **Fruit Solution:** Gentleness honors others and promotes unity.

7. Discernment Without Goodness

- **Misuse:** Sin is exposed harshly and publicly.
- **Harm Caused:** The individual feels humiliated and alienated.
- **Example:** A believer calls out someone's sin during a service, causing shame.
- **Fruit Solution:** Goodness ensures discernment restores and protects, not harms.

8. Leadership Without Self-Control

- **Misuse:** Authority is used to dominate rather than inspire.
- **Harm Caused:** Fear-based culture leads to burnout and resentment.
- **Example:** A pastor insists on changes without input, causing division.
- **Fruit Solution:** Self-control leads with humility and respect.

9. Serving Without Joy

- **Misuse:** Service is given out of obligation rather than willingness.
- **Harm Caused:** Bitterness develops, discouraging others from serving.
- **Example:** A volunteer complains about their workload, making others feel guilty.
- **Fruit Solution:** Joy ensures service is uplifting for both the giver and receiver.

Key Takeaway

Spiritual gifts are powerful tools from God, but they are most effective when accompanied by the fruit of the Spirit. Without love, patience, kindness, and self-control, these gifts can cause harm rather than building up the body of Christ. Pursuing spiritual maturity ensures that our gifts glorify God and strengthen His church.

Take Action This Week:

1. **Reflect:** Spend time in prayer asking God to reveal areas where you may be using your gifts without the fruit of the Spirit.
2. **Seek Growth:** Meditate on Galatians 5:22-23 and focus on cultivating one fruit of the Spirit in your life.
3. **Practice Balance:** Use your gifts intentionally with love, humility, and wisdom, ensuring they build up those around you.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You for the gifts You have given us to serve and edify Your church. Help us to use these gifts with the fruit of the Spirit, ensuring that love, kindness, and humility guide all that we do. Reveal areas in our lives where we need to grow in spiritual maturity, and give us the strength to walk in Your character. May our gifts bring glory to Your name and build unity within the body of Christ. In Jesus' name, Amen.