

# POWER ACADEMY

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Switching On Your Faith

Module 1: The Basics

Lesson 8: The 9 Spiritual  
Gifts

## Power Academy Session 4

### Lesson 8 – The 9 Spiritual Gifts

1. 1 Corinthians 12:1 – *“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant.”*
  - a. The Lord really wants us to know what these gifts are and how to use them!
  - b. The gifts operating through us are for the benefit of others, not for the benefit of ourselves. So, the gift of healings and the gift of faith are not what we have been given by God to benefit ourselves.
  - c. For example: There have been “healing evangelists” who have died from things that they had prayed for hundreds of times before. They operated in the spiritual gift of healings, a spiritual gift working through them for the benefit other people. However, receiving healing for themselves is an entirely different thing.
    - This doesn’t mean that healing isn’t available to us as believers! It just means that we need an understanding of our authority in Christ and what Jesus purchased for us at the cross.
    - We have been given all power and authority over all sickness and disease. So, when we need healing in our own personal bodies, we are not operating in a gift of the spirit. Instead, we are operating in our God-given authority.
  
2. 2 Corinthians 3:4-6 – *“<sup>4</sup> And we have such trust through Christ toward God. <sup>5</sup> Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, <sup>6</sup> who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.”*
  - a. *The Modern English Version* says, “**Who has made us able ministers of the new covenant.**” We are called to be ministers of the New Covenant, and the gifts equip us to do the work of the ministry.
  - b. God is the one who makes us sufficient! We are more familiar with our personal weaknesses; however, it is God who gives us the power and ability to be who He created us to be. Say, “I am sufficient as a minister of the New Covenant!”
  - c. The fruit of the spirit is talking about your character and your nature (Galatians 5:22-23). However, the gifts of the spirit are power gifts that are uniquely given in specific times of need. These are not the same as what we constantly have access to as believers.
  
3. 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 – *“<sup>4</sup> There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup> There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. <sup>7</sup> But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: <sup>8</sup> for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another the working of miracles,*

*to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup> But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.”*

- a. The *MEV* says in verse 6, “*There are various operations, but it is the same God who operates all of them in all people.*”
  - b. This distinction is made because although it is the same God who works all of the gifts, He uses people to do so. So, they will be packaged with our personalities, because it requires the cooperation of our “flesh suits”! So, these things may look differently, based on who is ministering, it is the same God behind them.
  - c. Jesus ministered differently to different people throughout the Gospels because people receive differently.
  - d. We have diversities of gifts because people receive differently.
  - e. God will not change your personality or ask you to be someone different than who you are! He just wants us to be available and willing to be used by Him.
4. The gifts must be motivated by love.
- a. The gifts exist for the edification, exhortation and comfort of the saints. They are to heal and empower people!
  - b. If you are a prophet, you can prophecy. You can place a demand on the spiritual gift that is operating in you, but if you aren’t doing that in love, you can cause a lot of harm. The gifts and callings of God are without repentance, so you can operate in a gift, but if you aren’t operating in love, it’s like a surgeon operating without anesthesia! That person will feel pain, and they could die on the table, regardless of the skill and accuracy of the surgeon.
  - c. 1 Corinthians 12:31 – “*But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.*”
    - Right after 1 Corinthians 12, regarding the spiritual gifts, Paul goes into “The Love Chapter” in 1 Corinthians 13. Everything has to be motivated by love.
    - When we understand God’s love, we will want to make ourselves available to bless other people.
    - As you enter into your intimate love relationship with Jesus, you aren’t going to have to force a gift out! The gifts of the spirit operate naturally in the lives of believers who are connected in intimacy with Jesus.
    - We minister to other people out of the overflow of our relationship with the Lord. If we aren’t people of love, we won’t be people of faith and power. Jesus first, and the gifts flow from relationship.
  - d. 1 Corinthians 14:26 – “*...Let all things be done for edification.*” We want the people who meet us to leave us better than when they came.
  - e. 1 Corinthians 14:1 – “*Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.*”

5. It takes faith to operate in the spiritual gifts.
  - a. Romans 12:6 – *“6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith.”*
  - b. Galatians 5:6 – *“...faith working through love.”*
  - c. If God is going to download to you, by the power of the Spirit—a word of wisdom, a word of knowledge, or a prophetic word—it is going to take faith to hear from God, to understand that He is speaking to you, and then to step out in boldness and share that word with someone else.
  - d. It takes faith to speak out in a word in tongues, or to stand up in a congregation and give an interpretation of that tongue. It takes boldness, and our cooperation.
  
6. Word of Wisdom
  - a. This is a specific piece of knowledge revealed to you by the Spirit—something that you couldn’t otherwise know in the natural—that specifically refers to something in the future.
  - b. Example: God told Carlie that her family was going to move to the United States, attend Charis Christian Center, and that Ashley was going to be mentored by Pastor Lawson Perdue.
  - c. Words of wisdom do not mean that the person giving them is meant to operate in the office of a prophet.
  
7. Word of Knowledge
  - a. A word, a phrase, a part of what is going on in someone’s life in the present, or the past.
  - b. A revealed fact about a person, place or thing.
  - c. It can expose something, or even help recover something. It can show you something that you need to know.
  - d. When Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman at the well, He said, *“You have well said, ‘I have no husband,’<sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly”* (John 4:17-18). That was a word of knowledge about her life.
  - e. It affected her so much, she went to the town and told them, “Come and see this Man, who told me all the things I ever did!” This word of knowledge was a dinner bell for the Gospel to be preached to the whole community.
  - f. Example: A woman came to Carlie for prayer, and she was doubting if God loved her or even existed. She wouldn’t tell Carlie what was wrong, but that God would have to tell her. Carlie spent a few moments praying in tongues, and out of nowhere came the word, “liver”. She told the woman she felt that something was wrong with her liver. She received healing, but what that meant to her was that God was real, and He did love her.

- g. Words of wisdom and knowledge are very practical, and they will stir up faith in people to the point that they can receive from God—healing, clarity and direction, and even convicted.
  - The Holy Spirit is gentle, so we have to be careful not to call out someone’s sin in front of everyone! (Love covers a multitude of sin.) However, the Holy Spirit will gently bring correction to people, to arrest their flesh so they can be delivered from destructive behavior patterns.

## 8. The Gift of Faith

- a. This is the ability to believe that God is going to act on our behalf.
- b. This is not the faith to believe and receive that is common to every believer.
- c. This is a special dispensation of faith, given by the Holy Spirit for a specific assignment. It operates very strongly in the areas of protection and provision, like Daniel in the lion’s den.
- d. The reason it is different from the other gifts is that it doesn’t necessarily require action on our part. It is just a special ability to believe that God is going to act on our behalf.
  - Daniel didn’t speak to the lions or command their mouths shut. He didn’t have to kill the lions. He just believed, and God protected him (Daniel 6).
  - Elijah and the ravens. God told Elijah to go to the brook Cherith and the ravens would feed him there. All Elijah had to do was go, but he didn’t have to speak to the ravens, or command the ravens (1 Kings 17).
- e. You will often see the gift of faith combined with the working of miracles, like when someone is raised from the dead. (Often, the gifts come grouped together.)
  - Example of Carlie confronting the man who tried to break into their home.
  - The gift of faith can be visible by a boldness that isn’t “normal”.

## 9. Gifts of Healings

- a. Notice that this is plural.
- b. You might find that you see more success when you pray for certain things than you do for others.
- c. When the Holy Spirit begins to reveal these patterns to you, you can see that you have been operating in gifts of healings in those particular areas.
- d. There is a supernatural power that is released that goes beyond our normal authority as a believer.

## 10. The Working of Miracles

- a. This is active. There is a place where we need to get involved.

- b. It is the suspension of natural law.
- c. When Moses parted the Red Sea, it was a working of a miracle: it took an action on Moses' part. The waters divided, and the ground was dry. This superseded natural laws.
- d. Usually there is something where God starts with something natural, and a supernatural power gift is released in connection with that starting point of a natural element.
- e. Jesus turning the water into wine: it started with a natural element, and the miracle transformed it into another element.
- f. Another example is the multiplication of the loaves and fish feeding the five thousand.
- g. God takes His super and it meets our natural.
- h. Miracles don't just drop from Heaven: usually we have a part to play, we must take an action.
- i. Supernatural strength, like with Samson or when Elijah killed hundreds of prophets of Baal with the sword, are also examples of the working of miracles.
- j. The difference between the working of a miracle and a healing is that a healing is a supernatural speeding up of the body's natural ability to heal itself. A miracle would be if something is created that wasn't there before, the suspension of natural law.

#### 11. The Gift of Prophecy

- a. This isn't about telling someone their future, or fortune telling. This is edification, exhortation and comfort.
- b. It is hearing the Holy Spirit and allowing Him to speak through you.
- c. It is an inspired message from God to someone else.
- d. 1 Corinthians 13:9 – *“For we know in part and we prophesy in part.”*
- e. The spiritual gifts flow through our personalities and through our flesh, so sometimes, we will get it wrong! The Holy Spirit isn't saying the wrong thing, but sometimes we are practicing in how we are hearing Him. As you pursue the spiritual gifts, and grow in faith in that area, the more clarity comes in the hearing and the grace of the delivery.
- f. When giving a word of wisdom, word of knowledge, or word of prophecy, it is always good to say, “I think God is saying...” and ask permission to give them the word.
- g. When receiving a word from someone else, it should confirm what the Lord has been speaking to you. If it doesn't, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the truth of the matter to you. And understand that the Lord is working through people, and sometimes they miss it.

#### 12. The Discerning of Spirits

- a. This is the supernatural ability to see into the spirit realm.

- b. There is no such thing as “the gift of discernment.” This is not the gift of suspicion, or the discerning of people, or just the discernment of evil spirits.
- c. This is the ability to sense if something is of a human spirit, the Holy Spirit, or evil spirits.
- d. For example, you are listening to someone and you just know in your knower that they aren’t telling the truth. Perhaps it is someone telling you something completely “off the chain,” yet the Holy Spirit reveals to you that it is actually the truth.
- e. This can also be discerning the motive behind something: a human spirit, the Holy Spirit, or evil spirits.
- f. Examples: Jesus spoke to the Pharisees, saying, “You are of your father, the devil.” He also exercised discerning of spirits when he knew that Judas would betray Him.

### 13. The Gift of Tongues

- a. Just like with the other gifts, this is different from your everyday personal prayer language.
- b. This says “different kinds of tongues,” which is the only time that actually says “different”. Multiple times in the scripture it says that “they were all filled with the spirit, and they all began to speak in tongues.” The gift of tongues is for some people, some of the time.
- c. This is God speaking through you to other people, as the Spirit wills.

### 14. The Interpretation of Tongues

- a. If a word in tongues is given, then it will always come with an interpretation.
- b. If someone speaks in tongues, with no interpretation, then it will not benefit the body through revelation and edification.
- c. When a word is given in tongues, it is always appropriate to wait for the interpretation.
- d. This is not a translation, it is an interpretation, so it isn’t word-for-word. Sometimes there can be more than one interpretation.
- e. Many times the person who gives the word in tongues will also give the interpretation as well.

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