

Lesson 13

Spiritual Gifts & Biblical Offices of the Church

Opening Verse:

1 Corinthians 12:1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

Introduction:

While the *fruit* of the Spirit displays God's character, the *gifts* of the Spirit demonstrate God's power. Thus, it is important for us to learn how to carefully operate in the *gifts of the spirit*.

In this lesson, you will learn about the different types of spiritual gifts that God has given to His body, as the *nine gifts of the Spirit* is just one of them. You will also learn about the 3 Biblical Offices of the Church that God uses to lead, guide and protect the body of Christ.

The Principle of Submission

It is very important for all of us to **have a covering of spiritual authority** that you are submitted and accountable to. For the absence of this will eventually lead us to confusion, strife and demonic influence.

Hebrews 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

God gives us His delegated spiritual authority that we need to be submitted to, for our own growth and protection. There are **3 Biblical Offices** that God uses to govern the Church:

1. **Bishops** – oversee the Elders/Pastors

1 Timothy 3:1–7 (Qualifications of a Bishop)

This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. ²A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; ³Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but

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(Bishop's Qualifications)
patient, not a brawler, not covetous; ⁴One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; ⁵(For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) ⁶Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. ⁷Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

(see also Titus 1:7–9)

2. **Pastors/Elders** – to lead their Churches; Elders have authority over the flock.

- **Elder** = a person of responsibility and authority
- There could be more than one elder in a church, but having only one SENIOR Elder per church.

Acts 14:23 *And when they had ordained them **elders** in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.*

1 Timothy 5:17 *Let the **elders** that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.*

Hebrews 13:17a *Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account,*

(see also *Titus 1:5*)

3. **Deacons**– leaders of the Church who are an extension of their Elder/Pastor; they are submitted and accountable to their Elder/Pastor.

- **They function to minister and care for the body of Christ.**
- This principle was first introduced by Jethro (Moses' Father-in-law) and we call this the **Jethro Principle**.
- In **Numbers 11:16-17** – God instructed Moses to elect 70 leaders and make them captains over tens, twenties, fifties, etc. and they dealt with ALL of the people and only the hard things were brought to Moses.

AMPC: ¹⁶ *And the Lord said to Moses, Gather for Me seventy men of the elders of Israel whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; and bring them to the Tent of Meeting and let them stand there with you. ¹⁷ And I will come down and talk with you there; and **I will take of the Spirit which is upon you and will put It upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, so that you may not have to bear it yourself alone.***

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Why don't we currently use the biblical term of the *Elder*?

Because of man's tradition. But since it's not a salvation issue, it will be easier just to maintain the traditional title of the *Pastor*.

The First Century Church started the Deacon Ministry when they recognized the need to assign **leaders** who would help to take care of the needs of the body, so that the **Elders** can devote their time to prayer and the ministry of the Word.

Acts 6:3–4 ³ *Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.* ⁴ *But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.*

- Verse 7 reports the fruit of having this biblical structure:

Acts 6:7 *And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly;*

Other References for Deacons: *1 Timothy 3:8-13, Phil 1:1*

Qualifications of Male and Female Deacons:

WUEST 1 Timothy 3:8-13:

Deacons, in like manner [should] be grave and dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy of gain, holding the mystery of the Faith in a pure conscience. And these moreover are to be first put to the test for the purpose of being approved, and then approved if they meet the specifications; then let them be serving as deacons, provided they are unaccused. ¹¹ **Women**, likewise [should be] grave and dignified, not slanderers, calm, dispassionate, and circumspect, faithful in all things. Let the deacons be one-wife sort of men [that is, married only once], ruling their children and their own households in a commendable way, for those who have ministered in the office of a deacon in a commendable manner acquire a good standing for themselves and much confidence in the sphere of faith which is in Christ Jesus

- Verses 11 – 13 cover the qualifications for the **FEMALE** deacons
- **Phoebe** was an example of a New Testament female deacon (*WUEST Rom. 16:1*).
- **Titus** was a **young** man whom the Paul mentored as a spiritual leader (*Titus 2:6-8*).

WE ALL HAVE A GIFTING!

Ephesians 4:8 *Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.*

1 Corinthians 12: ⁷ *But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.* ⁸ *For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit ...*

1 Corinthians 12:11 *But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.*

The Word of God confirms that the giftings are a promise to all of us and that it's not only for a select few. Thus, having the dimension of the SUPERNATURAL should be a normal experience for every disciple of Christ! Furthermore, our giftings are valuable for the work of God's Kingdom!

- God desires for us to operate in the *gifts of the spirit* and that we **become behind in NO gift!** (1 Cor. 1:4-7).
- We are to **DESIRE spiritual gifts** (1 Cor. 14:1).
- We are to **covet earnestly the best gifts** (1 Cor. 12:31).

DANGERS OF THE GIFTS:

- Wrong motives
- Having an unteachable spirit
- Not being submitted to the ministry (or your spiritual authority)

SAFEGUARDS:

- Never put a gift beyond consecration or dedication.
- Don't operate the gifts mechanically (God's love should motivate us).
- Take advice willingly, especially from your spiritual authority.
- The gifts are only to assist.
- Gifts are not the governing body.
- Gifts are subject to the Ministry.
- The gifts will never contradict the Bible.

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BELIEVING is a Requirement for the Gifts to Operate!

Mark 16:17–18

¹⁷ *And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.*

Types of Spiritual Gifts:

1. **The Nine Gifts of the Spirit** (1 Cor. 12: 8 - 11)
2. **The Five-Fold Giftings** (Ephes. 4:11)
3. **The Supporting Gifts** (1 Cor. 12:28)

Main **PURPOSE** of the Gifts:

1. **To edify the body of Christ**
2. **To confirm God's Word as His witness** (personal evangelism)

THE NINE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

1 Corinthians 12:8–11

⁸For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; ⁹To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; ¹⁰To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: ¹¹But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

SPEAKING/UTTERANCE Gifts:

- ❖ **Divers Kinds of Tongues** – a supernatural utterance in a language that is unknown to the speaker.
 - This is also referred to as the “*gift of tongues*.”
 - This gift demonstrates the speaking of one to three different kinds of unknown tongues, one after the other.
 - It must then be followed by an interpretation for the purpose of edifying.
 - The **main purpose** of the gift of tongues is for the **unbeliever** (unsaved guest):

1 Corinthians 14:22

Wherefore **tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not:** but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.

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AMPC: 1 Cor. 14:22

²² Thus [unknown] **tongues** are meant for a [supernatural] sign, not for believers but **for unbelievers** [on the point of believing], while prophecy (inspired preaching and teaching, interpreting the divine will and purpose) is not for unbelievers [on the point of believing] but for believers.

- ❖ **Interpretation of Tongues** – supernatural power to interpret an unknown tongue with a common or known tongue.
 - The interpretation is NOT the literal translation of the tongues but it is the general theme or message of what God has said.
 - What if someone gives a message in tongues and there is no interpretation?
1 Cor. 4:13 Let him that speak in unknown tongue pray to interpret.

- ❖ **Prophecy** – a supernatural utterance in a known language with the purpose of exhorting, edifying, or providing words of comfort, encouragement, strength, and blessing.
 - Prophecy is like the SAME thing as the interpretation, but it skips the tongues.
 - Traditionally, the gift of tongues has been a good cue for the body to anticipate a prophetic message from the Lord.
However, we need to **be ready to flow in prophecy without the gift of tongues** since the purpose of the gift of tongues is for the unbeliever.
 - Basically, the gift of prophecy demonstrates **lower levels of exhorting, edifying, words of comfort; providing encouragement, strength, and blessing.**
 - This is not the same as “foretelling,” which is mostly displayed in the “calling” of a Prophet.
 - Take note that this gift is **not intended to give direction, judgement, instruction, or rebuke.**
That is the job of the Pastor.
 - This gift can operate both publicly (ministering to the entire congregation) or **PRIVATELY** (one-on-one).
 - This is a valuable gift that can provide much comfort, encouragement and even emotional healing whenever it ministers in a very personal level.

KNOWING/REVELATION Gifts:

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- ❖ **Word of Knowledge** – Portion of divine information that God gives you about the person you are praying for.
 - It's just like a **confirmation** from God.
 - This particular gift is often used in **combination** with other gifts (i.e. the *gift of prophecy* and the *gifts of healing*)
 - It is **POWERFUL** as it builds up their faith knowing that God has heard them as He used another person (who can't read their mind) to speak about their need.
 - As God uses us in these gifts, we need to allow the **fruit of the Spirit to balance us**.
 - The fruit of **gentleness** is necessary whenever we give a *Word of Knowledge* about the person we are praying for. That expressed word can break a person if we lack the fruit of *gentleness*.

- ❖ **Word of Wisdom** – supernatural revelation on how to deal with a situation which is founded by the Word of God.
 - God's solution or the application of the principles of God's Word.
 - This gift operates well with the fruit of **peace** that confirms it.

- ❖ **Discerning of Spirits** – divine revelation of whether a spirit is of God or not.
 - **99% of the time – it is for our knowledge only, not to share with another.**
 - This gift comes very handy when you are ministering to a person as you can discern what type of spirits are influencing them.
 - This gift can also protect you as you will be able to tell who you can trust.
 - It will also help you to manage your time wisely as you minister to different people.
 - The fruit of **longsuffering** helps to balance this gift since it reveals various negative voices that should not affect our spirit in a negative way.

ACTION/POWER Gifts:

- ❖ **Gifts of Healing** – Supernatural power to heal all manner of diseases.
 - The only gift in the **PLURAL** (*1 Cor. 12:9, 28*). This means that for every sickness – God has a healing!
 - **HEALING** = to cure or to cause to be well again.
 - It can be both **gradual** or **instantaneous** (immediate).

Examples of Instantaneous Healing: These recorded healings in the book of Acts were instant.

- The lame man at the gate beautiful – *Acts 3:1-8*
- The shadow of Peter – *Acts 5:14-16*
- Many unclean spirits – *Acts 8:7*
- The healing of Saul – *Acts 9:17-18*
- The healing of Aeneas – *Acts 9:32-34*

Examples of Gradual Healings in the Bible:

- 9 of the lepers – *Luke 17:12-14*
- The blind man that needed to have his faith increased – *Mark 8:22-25*

Healing is one of our **greatest evangelistic tools!**

Why? Because people want to be well and it's a common prayer need. So we need to be ready and sensitive to flow in this gift whenever we witness to souls!

As God prompts you to pray for their healing, just pray – *By the power of Your name and by the authority of Your Word, I loose Your healing upon this body in Jesus name!*

- ❖ **Working of Miracles** – a supernatural intervention in the ordinary course of nature producing signs and wonders instantly.
 - This is the Instantaneous work of God that supersedes human ability to meet needs and accomplish what cannot be done through human methods.
 - In short, these are IMMEDIATE answers to circumstances round us.

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EXAMPLES:

- The storm stilled - *Luke 8:22-25*
- Moses and the Red Sea - *Exodus 14:21*
- Joshua and the sun standing still - *Joshua 10:12-14*
- Hezekiah and the sun - *2 Kings 20:8-10*

- ❖ **Faith** – Supernatural ability to trust God for the miraculous, or to inspire trust in God, for a particular need or circumstance.
 - These results are also instantaneous!
 - It is **God's faith operating in us.**
 - By experience, this gift has been considered to accomplish MORE supernatural results than any other gift.

Instantaneous miracles can happen when we have made ourselves available for the operation of the gift of faith: If we want results from God, **we must pray until we have crossed over into the dimension of His Spirit, into the presence of God, where we realize the limitations of our own faith and become available for the operation of the gift of faith.**

- ✓ For this gift of faith only operates in the atmosphere of complete trust in God!

The fruit of *meekness* is a good balance for this gift, as we discern and acknowledge that all power comes from our God and that there is nothing that He can't do! And we are careful to give Him all the glory for all of His mighty works!

THE FIVE-FOLD GIFTINGS

Ephesians 4:11–12

¹¹And he gave some, **apostles**; and some, **prophets**; and some, **evangelists**; and some, **pastors and teachers**; ¹²For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

- **Apostles**
- **Prophets**
- **Evangelists**
- **Pastors**
- **Teachers**

***All of these 5 gifts are necessary for the growth of the body of Christ.**

Other biblical translations of *Ephes. 4:11-12* will help us to fully understand the function and purpose of the 5-fold ministry.

Ephesians 4:11-12

AMPC:

¹¹ And His **gifts** were [varied; He Himself appointed and gave men to us] some to be apostles (special messengers), some prophets (inspired preachers and expounders), some evangelists (preachers of the Gospel, traveling missionaries), some pastors (shepherds of His flock) and teachers.

¹² His intention was the perfecting *and* the full equipping of the **saints** (His consecrated people), [that **they** should do] the work of ministering toward building up Christ's body (the church),

ERV: ¹¹ *And that same Christ gave these gifts to people: He made some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to go and tell the Good News, and some to care for and teach God's people.*

¹² *Christ gave these gifts to prepare God's holy people for the work of serving, to make the body of Christ stronger.*

PASSION TRANSLATION:

And he has appointed some with grace to be apostles, and some with grace to be prophets, and some with grace to be evangelists, and some with grace to be pastors, and some with grace to be teachers. And their calling is to nurture and prepare all the holy believers to do their own works of ministry, and as they do this they will enlarge and build up the body of Christ.

The Literal Translation of Verse 12:

The purpose of the 5 fold ministry is given to the Church for the full equipping of the SAINTS that THEY may do the work of the ministry that the Church may grow thereby.

We can then make the following statements:

- The possession of all these giftings to **work WITHIN the body** are necessary for its own growth.
- These gifts are **NOT limited to one person** (i.e. the Preacher) nor **dependent upon “visiting” Evangelists**, etc. but these giftings are available to operate in every Church.
- Thus, **every member of the body of Christ must seek to be used in one or more of these giftings** for their own personal growth, as this will also collectively benefit the health and growth of the entire body.

Note that verses 11-16 are one sentence in the *King James Version*. And so the last two verses should confirm the **GOAL of the 5-Fold Ministry: To GROW the Church Up!**

Ephesians 4:15-16:

KJV:

¹⁵ *But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:*

¹⁶ *From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.*

AMPC:

¹⁵ Rather, let our lives lovingly ^[a]express truth [in all things, speaking truly, dealing truly, living truly]. Enfolded in love, let us grow up in every way *and* in all things into Him Who is the Head, [even] Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).

¹⁶ For because of Him the whole body (the church, in all its various parts), closely joined and firmly knit together by the joints *and* ligaments with which it is supplied, when each part [with power adapted to its need] is working properly [in all its functions], **grows to full maturity**, building itself up in love.

ERV:

¹⁵ No, we will speak the truth with love. We will grow to be like Christ in every way. He is the head, ¹⁶ and the whole body depends on him. All the parts of the body are joined and held together, with each part doing its own work. This causes the whole body to grow and to be stronger in love.

PASSION/TPT:

15 But instead we will remain strong and always sincere in our love as we express the truth. ***All our direction and ministries will flow from Christ*** and lead us deeper into him, the anointed Head of his body, the church.

16 For his “body” *has been formed in his image* and is closely joined together and constantly connected as one. And ***every member has been given divine gifts to contribute to the growth of all; and as these gifts operate effectively throughout the whole body, we are built up and made perfect in love.***

- **Every part of the body has a place!** And every part is important because every part is needed!
- **Every part CONTRIBUTES to the WHOLE!**
- **We have a RESPONSIBILITY to GROW!**
- Because every part of the body needs to be developed into the FULLNESS to what it is called to be!

Difference between the GIFT of a Pastor and the OFFICE of a Pastor/Elder:

- ***Pastor*** = Shepherding = **CARING** for the sheep
- ***Elder*** = person of authority who is responsible to **LEAD** the sheep

The Greek word for *Pastor* is 17 out of 18 times translated as a SHEPHERD. So the **GIFT of a PASTOR** is to care for the sheep while the **OFFICE or function of the Pastor or Elder** is to LEAD the sheep, as God’s authority over the flock.

Therefore, It is the responsibility of the **PASTOR/ELDER** of the Church **WITH the cooperative effort of all 5 giftings** to minister to and to care for the body. The **WHOLE body** needs to participate in ministry = caring for souls.

THE SUPPORTING GIFTS: HELPS & ADMINISTRATION

– to assist in caring for the needs of the body, and to support or accommodate the ministry and offices of the Church.

1 Corinthians 12:28

²⁸ *And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, **helps, governments**, diversities of tongues.*

WUEST: *And God indeed placed some for His own use in the Church, first apostles; second, prophets; third, teachers; then workers of miracles; then gifts of healing; also those whose **ministry it is to help others**; and **administrators**; and different languages.*

AMPC: 28 *So God has appointed some in the church [[a]for His own use]: first apostles (special messengers); second prophets (inspired preachers and expounders); third teachers; then wonder-workers; then those with ability to heal the sick; **helpers; administrators**; [speakers in] different (unknown) tongues.*

CONCLUSION:

God has ordained spiritual leaders to lead and protect us: *Bishops, Pastors and Deacons*. And the Word of God admonishes us to be submitted to our spiritual authority.

Every saint is given **GIFTS** to **minister** to the body, and to **grow** in the fullness of our purpose in the body. And every gift is valuable and needed for the health and growth of the body of Christ.

The NINE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT **ASSIST** the body (to EDIFY) while the 5-Fold Giftings are necessary to **BUILD and GROW UP** the Church! Then the SUPPORTING GIFTS assist in caring for the needs of the body, as well as in supporting the Ministry and Offices of the Church.

It is God's will for all of us to **SEEK** for the gifts and to **GROW** in our ministry, as we build up the Church.