



Perhaps one of the greatest controversies in the body of believers today is the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

I remember the Charismatic Movement back in the '60's and '70's when the gifts of the Holy Spirit became widespread as a "phenomenon" in denominations. It caused a great disunity and division amongst leaders and believers. Those, like me, who experienced the truth of God's Word about His gifts, weren't satisfied with man's doctrines anymore. Once we experienced the supernatural, we wanted more.

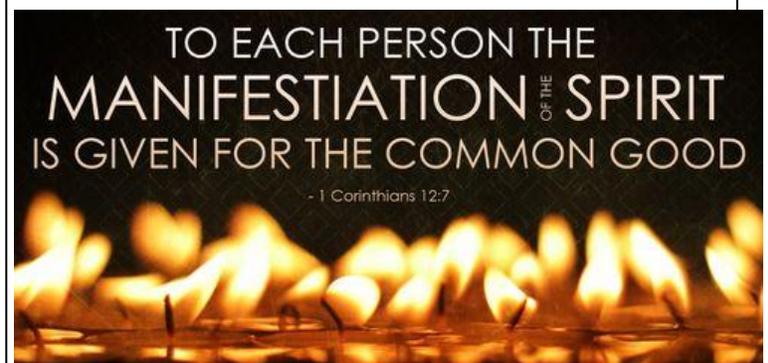
Also within those who embraced the charismatic experience there was a belief that a person could only have one gift from the Holy Spirit, which usually was the gift of speaking in tongues. And the belief circulated that speaking in tongues was the only way one could be sure that the Holy Spirit was in them. Or that that the Holy Spirit baptism automatically comes with water baptism. Many today, almost 50 years later, still believe the same false teachings. Even in Pentecostal meetings I've been to, people line up to one specific person for a healing or to another for a prophecy or another for interpretation of tongues, thinking that the Holy Spirit can't or won't issue all the gifts to a person when needed or only special people get them.

So let's do a quick study of Biblical truth to do away with man's false doctrines or theories.

### 21 Facts and Questions about the Gifts

1. Their names and number ( **1 Cor. 12: 8-10** )
2. By whom imparted ( **1 Cor. 12: 4, 8-11** )
3. Who operates them? ( **1 Cor. 12: 4-6, 11** )

4. Purpose: To confirm the Word of God ( **Mk. 16: 17-20; Jn. 14:12; Acts 1: 1-8; Rom. 12: 3-8; 15: 18-19, 29; 1 Cor. 1: 7; 12: 11, 28-31; 14: 1-40; Heb. 2: 3-4** )
5. Who may have them? Every believer ( **1 Cor. 12: 8-11; 1: 7; Rom. 1: 11; 12: 3-8; Jn. 7: 37-39; 14: 12; Mk. 16: 17-20** )
6. Can one have all of them? Yes ( **Mt. 17:20; 21: 22; Mk. 9:23; 11: 22-24; Jn. 14: 12; 15: 7, 16; Eph. 3: 19; Jas. 1: 5-8** )
7. Can you receive all of them? Yes ( **Jn. 3:34; Rom. 15:29; Acts 5: 12; Acts 14: 9** )
8. Were they manifest in O.T. days? Yes ( **Acts 1: 5; Acts 2: 4** )
9. Can gifts be misused? Yes ( **Eccl. 2:9; Num. 20: 7-13; Dt. 32: 48-52; 1 Cor. 13: 1-3; 14: 1-40** )
10. Can gifts be exercised in a backslidden condition? Yes ( **Eccl. 2:9; 1 Cor. 13: 1-3** )
11. Should one be afraid of getting an evil spirit manifestation? No true child of God should ( **Lk. 11: 11-13** )
12. Are gifts permanent or temporary? Permanent if received as a personal gift ( **Rom. 11:29** )
13. Are gifts exercised at will? Yes ( **1 Cor. 14: 15, 23-32; 1 Tim. 4: 14; 2 Tim. 1: 6** )
14. Can gifts be neglected in use? Yes ( **1 Tim. 4:14; 2 Tim. 1: 6** )



15. When should gifts be used? When needed ( 1 Cor. 12: 7; 14: 3-6, 12, 17, 26; Rom. 12: 3-8 )
16. Where should gifts be used? Where needed ( 1 Cor. 12: 7, 12-31; 14: 1-40 )
17. How can they be received? By faith and prayer ( 1 Cor. 12: 31; 14: 1; Mt. 7: 7-11 )
18. Do we need gifts today? Yes, for the same reason others of old needed them ( Mk. 16: 15-20; Jn. 10: 10; Acts 1: 8; 10: 38; Rom. 1: 11; 1 Cor. 1: 7; 12: 1-31 )
19. Can we choose which gifts we need today? Yes ( 1 Cor. 12: 31; 14: 1, 12 )
20. How can we know when we have received them? When the Spirit operates through us to accomplish their intended purpose ( 1 Cor. 12: 4-11, 28-31; 14: 1-40 )
21. Are gifts to continue throughout this age? Yes ( Mt. 3:11; 28:20; Mk. 9:23; 11: 22-24; 16: 15-20; Jn. 7: 37-39; 14: 12-17, 26; 15: 26; 16: 13-15; Acts 1 :4-8; 2: 38-39; 5: 32; 1 Cor. 1: 7 )

### Classification and Definition of Gifts

The Word of Wisdom- This is supernatural revelation, or insight into the divine will and purpose, showing how to resolve any problem that may arise.

The Word of Knowledge- This is supernatural revelation of divine knowledge, or insight in the divine mind, will or plan; and also the plans of others that a person could not know on their own.

Discerning of Spirits- This is supernatural revelation or insight into the realm of the spirits to detect them and their plans and to read the minds of people.

Prophecy- This is supernatural utterance in the native tongue, not conceived by human thought or reasoning. It includes speaking edification to people and exhortation and comfort.

The Interpretation of Tongues- This is the supernatural ability to interpret in the native tongue what is uttered in other languages not known by the one who interprets by the Spirit.

Faith- This is supernatural ability to believe God without human doubt, unbelief and reasoning.

The Gift of Healing- This is supernatural power to heal all manner of sickness without human aid or medicine.

The working of Miracles- This is supernatural power to intervene in the ordinary course of nature and to counteract natural laws if necessary.

Amazingly, I've come across leaders that know all of this information yet refuse to accept the Holy Spirit's gifts; refuse to teach about the Holy Spirit's gifts and will ask people to be quiet or leave "their" congregation if any display the gifts of the Holy Spirit! Many call manifestations of the Holy Spirit demonic!

"but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation"  
Mark 3:29

Sin against the Holy Spirit includes any willful, malicious and slanderous word spoken against the person and work of the Holy Spirit or ascribing the work of the Holy Spirit to satan. One may blaspheme and insult the Holy Spirit in ignorance and be forgiven (1 Tim. 1: 13)

Those who believe Holy Spirit baptism comes automatically with water baptism please study Acts 19: 1-7.

There are many misconceptions, misunderstandings, false doctrines, and ignorance amongst people regarding the Holy Spirit, who He is, what He can do and what He does with a person that surrenders to Him.

Allow Him to be God in your life. Step aside (your will) and let Him manifest His gifts through you. Allow Him to act freely within your life and within meetings and assemblies of believers. Allow him to provide the strategy, the weapons and timing when coming against the enemy or when evangelizing or when faced with a situation in front of you (i.e. a person needing healing). Ask the Holy Spirit right now to guide you; to comfort you; to teach you; to manifest His will through you; correct you and keep you on the right path. Don't stray from His leading as He knows much better than you what is required in a situation, even if it doesn't make sense to you at the time.

The Holy Spirit and His gifts working through you is God's desire over relying on your plan or your words to achieve His goals (1 Cor. 2: 4-5; 4: 20). Remember, the Book of Acts is about the acts of the Holy Spirit!

Good Hunting!