

Doctrine



*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path...
The entrance of Your words gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple. Psalm 119:105,130*

Distinctives

The Gifts of The Holy Spirit

THEOLOGY

We Believe God is revealed in Scripture as:

The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

We believe God is Triune, or commonly known as the Trinity view of God's nature.

DOCTRINAL DISTINCTIVES

The Scripture teaches that there are abilities endowed upon the believer by God, at the time and place of His choosing, through those He uses for the specific gifting. These are commonly referred to as “gifts” of the Holy Spirit. They are enumerated and context for them is given in 3 main passages of scripture. *Romans 12:3-8, 1 Corinthians 12:1-28 and Ephesians 4:7-12.*

We will look at this topic in these areas.

1. What Are the Enumerated Gifts and Where They Are Found in Scripture?
2. Are They All Still in Operation in the Church Today?
3. Have Some of the Gifts Ceased?
4. What is the Reason for the Rivaling Views?
5. What is the Orderly Operation of the Gifts?
6. What are the Dangers of Abusing These “Gifts” with Counterfeit Manifestations?

What Are the Enumerated Gifts and Where Are They Found in Scripture?

1. **Apostle (Eph 4:11)** (Greek: *apostolos*). One sent forth---as God sent forth his Son, Jesus---into the world with the message of salvation (*Heb. 3:1*). Jesus, in turn, sent forth His twelve apostles, empowered by the Holy Spirit with the good news of salvation (*Matt. 28:19-20*), and universal authority in matters of doctrine for His disciples. These twelve apostles became the first building blocks to be placed on the firm foundation of Jesus Christ (*Eph. 2:20: 4:11,12*). They were also given the responsibility to equip saints for ministry within the church as well as minister to their surrounding community. Each new generation has submitted to the authority of Jesus Christ, His apostles, and their writings up to this very hour. Paul was the last apostle to be placed on the foundation of Jesus Christ eliminating any need for new apostles (*1 Cor. 15:9*). He became a prime example of a man who discovered his gifts and wrapped his life around them; "...I was appointed a preacher, and an apostle and a teacher" (*2 Tim. 1:11*).

2. **Prophecy (Rom. 12:6, Eph. 4:11, 1 Cor. 12:10)** (Greek: *propheteia*). The spiritual ability to speak forth the mind and counsel of God. Prophets in the Old Testament were used by God to speak to Israel about current and future events. Jesus was the prophet to come (*Deut. 1:8-18; Acts 2:22-23*). The prophets in the body of Christ were called to speak forth the word of God about present and future events (*Acts 2:17-18; 11:27-28*), equip the saints for ministry (*Eph. 4:11,12*), as well as edify, comfort and encourage believers within the body of Christ and reveal the secrets of men's hearts (*1 Cor. 14:3, 23-25*). **Agabus** (*Acts 21:10-11*) and the **four daughters of Philip**, the evangelist, were given the gift of prophecy among so many (*Acts 21:9*).

3. **Evangelist (Eph. 4:11)** (Greek: *eulangelistes*). The spiritual ability to communicate the good news of Jesus Christ's redemptive story to a dying world lost in their sin and shame (*Romans 3:23*). Jesus modeled this gift of evangelism with Nicodemus (*John 3:16*). The good news is, in the words of Paul; "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved" (*Rom. 10:9,10*). The evangelists were also called of God to equip others to develop their spiritual gifts (*Eph. 4:11,12*). **Philip** was known as an *evangelist* (*Acts 8:4-13, 21:8*).

5. **Ministry (Rom. 12:7)** (Greek: *diakonia*, the root for deacon). The spiritual ability to meet the physical needs of people within a given community of believers or unbelievers. One of the first examples of the serving gifts in action was recorded in *Acts 6:1-6* when the apostles selected seven men out of their group to minister to the poor Hellenistic Jewish widows who needed food. This in turn set the apostles free to minister with their spiritual gifts **Phoeba**, (*Acts 16:1*).

6. **Encouragement (Rom. 12:8)** (Greek: *parakaleo*). The spiritual ability to come alongside a person who may be hurting spiritually or emotionally and offer them a word of comfort concerning the past and a word of encouragement, admonishment (truth in love), and challenge so that they will be able to walk in the steps of the Spirit in the future. A man named Joseph was renamed **Barnabas** (son of encouragement) by the apostles because of his ministry to the early church in Jerusalem (*Acts 4:36-37*).

7. **Giving (Rom. 12:8)** (Greek: *metadidomi*). The spiritual ability to give financially or materially to the needs of others within the body of Christ or the community in which they live. They express this spiritual gift in simplicity to the glory of God without drawing attention to themselves. **Barnabas** sold a field and gave the money to the apostles for the good of the church (*Acts 4:36-37*).

8. **Leadership (Rom. 12:8)** (Greek: *proistemi*). The spiritual ability to stand before a group of people and lead them in a deep walk with the Lord, or mission project, the building of a new community of Christians, or an elders meeting, etc. The apostle **James** gave leadership to the council of Jerusalem (*Acts 15*).

9. **Mercy (Rom. 12:8)** (Greek: *eleos*). The spiritual ability to manifest pity and give aid to those who are physically, emotionally or spiritually help-less. The ability to express compassionate loving action and lift up the one who is downtrodden and to do it joyfully. **Tabitha**---"...this woman was abounding with deeds of kindness and charity, which she continually did" (*Acts 9:36f*).

10. **A word of wisdom (1 Cor. 12:8)** (Greek: *sophia*). The spiritual ability to perceive life and truth from God's perspective and then apply that wisdom to specific situations. Wisdom can be discerned by its fruit. *But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere* (James 3:17). **James** used his spiritual gift of wisdom at the Jerusalem council (*Acts 15:31-21*). He was given a vision, while living in Asia Minor, to preach the gospel in Europe (*Acts 16:6-10*).

11. **A word of knowledge (1 Cor. 12:8)** (Greek: *gnosis*). The spiritual ability to communicate spiritual truth which has been acquired through the investigation of God's word, or by direct revelation. Stephen was a great example of a man of spiritual wisdom and knowledge when he spoke before the Supreme Court and broke open the scriptures to show them that Jesus was their Messiah (*Acts 7:1-53*).

12. **Faith (1 Cor 12:9)** (Greek: *pistis*). The spiritual ability to see what isn't, believe it to be, and trust God to do it in His way and time. Faith to move mountains. Paul was given a vision, while living in Asia Minor, to preach the gospel in Europe (*Acts 16:6-10*).

13. **Healings (1 Cor. 12:9)** (Greek: *iaomai*). The spiritual ability to heal one who is sick. Note that Paul called it the gifts (plural) of healings which may mean this gifted person could make one who is sick whole---either spiritually, emotionally, or physically. Physical healing is a symbol of how God wants to heal all of us spiritually. An example: **Peter** and **John's** experience with the lame man at the temple gate (*Acts 3:2-10*).

14. **Miraculous powers (1 Cor. 12:9)** (Greek: *dunamis*). The spiritual ability to do works of a supernatural origin and character, such as could not be produced by natural agents and means. **Philip** (*Acts 8:13*), and **Paul** (*Acts 13:9-12*).

15. **Discerning spirits (1 Cor. 12:10)** (Greek: *diakrisis*). The spiritual ability to discern from God's word between the spirit of evil and of God, the flesh and the spirit, and truth and error, before the fruit is evident. **Paul** had this experience with Elymas the magician (*Acts 13:9-12*).

16. **Helps (1 Corinthians 12:28)** (Greek: *antilepsis* or *antilempis*). The spiritual ability to come alongside others and support them and their ministry in physical ways. See Paul's list of friends in *Romans 16:6,12*.

17. **Administration (1 Cor. 12:28)** (Greek: *kubernesis*). The spiritual ability to give guidance, pilot, or steer. The spiritual ability to be a helmsman for a local church in helping direct its life and order. One who deals with people and not paper. The idea of governing as seen in the ministry of **Stephanas** (*1 Cor 16:15-18*).

18. **Tongues (1 Cor. 12:10)** (Greek: *glossa*). The spiritual ability to speak an unknown foreign language without learning it beforehand. The gift of tongues is to be used publicly to bring praise to God (*1 Cor. 14:2*), to edify the body of believers (*I Cor. 14:5*), and to be used as a sign of judgment against unbelieving Jews (*I Cor. 14:21-22*).

19. **Interpretation (1 Cor. 12:10)** (Greek: *hermeneis*). The spiritual ability to translate the foreign language of the person speaking to the audience listening. The one who does the translation of that foreign tongue would be able, by the spirit, to interpret without learning the language beforehand (*1 Cor. 14:27*).

Two Rivaling Views of the Gifts in the Church

Are They Still in Operation in the Church Today?

Continualist View

This is the view of Calvary Old Path. We believe the gifts of the Holy Spirit have continued to the present age. We believe the need for them is as much needed today as they have ever been.

Have Some of the Gifts Ceased?

Cessationist View

There is a rivaling view of the gifts known as cessationism. It is the belief that the gifts of tongues, prophecy, word of knowledge, healing (ceased) ended with the close of the apostolic age, or end of the late first century as the last books of the New Testament were completed.

There are gifts then that both sides agree are in operation today. The differences are simply which ones ceased, and why. We will answer this as we continue our examination.

The problem and division is complex, the reason is quite simple. In essence it all comes down to one word in one passage.

What is the Reason for the Rivaling Views?

1 Corinthians 13:8-10

⁸ Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part. ¹⁰ But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

In verse 10 we see the word “perfect” and when that has come, then the gifts mentioned. (Prophecies, Tongues, Knowledge and other “sign” gifts) will cease.

The Cessationist view holds that the perfect (Greek *Teleios*) is the scripture, completed with the writings of John the Apostle, thus the sign gifts ceased with the end of the Apostolic age. Within the Cessationist camp there are minor variations of belief as to which gifts this passage applies to, if more than those mentioned in verses 8 and 9.

The Continualist View holds that all of the gifts continue today since the perfect, as we hold, is Jesus and not the writings of the New Testament books at the close of the apostolic age. When we look at why those are chosen in *1 Corinthians 13:8-9* it is clear from the first 3 verses of the chapter. They are mentioned there to describe those who use them with bad motivation, and since they are quite visible, could be used for self-seeking reasons. The day will come when no such gifts, or any of the others will be

needed, and that is when we see Jesus, face to face. It is the belief of Calvary Old Path, therefore, that the “perfect” is Jesus. We read a few verses later in the chapter:

¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. ¹² For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

For this passage to have a complete and literal fulfillment we will need to see Jesus. God’s word is indeed perfect, but we are not. No matter how old we are in our faith and no matter how mature, we still lack the maturity to know anything but “in part” I do not know as I am known. God knows me better than I know myself. When He is revealed, face to face, I will then be able to see clearly and not “dimly”

What is the Orderly Operation of the Gifts?

The *14th* chapter of *1 Corinthians* speaks about the correct operation and best of the outward, supernatural gifts, within the church.

Corinth seemed to have a good deal of excesses within the church and Paul makes a point explaining what the excesses are, and then offers corrective teaching as to their proper operation. It is the Holy Spirit who does the work, but there is also a need to pay attention and ensure people are not abusing the church with man made, false signs and wonders.

Paul gives a very concise concluding thought at the end of the chapter where we read.

³⁹ Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues. ⁴⁰ Let all things be done decently and in order.

The “decently” means honest and seemly. Also in verse 40 is the word “order” which means a fixed position. Given those two words means the operation needs to be fixed and honest. The Holy Spirit is not a show, but to demonstrate the power of God, for the benefit of the church, and for the evangelism of the unsaved world. Unfortunately the problems which were taking place can be assumed to continue, since we believe the devil never gives up.

What Are the Dangers of Abusing These “Gifts” with Counterfeit Manifestations?

Given the nature of the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit, it only stands to reason that there may be counterfeit exercising of gifts. In fact, it should be expected, as Paul warned:

2 Thessalonians 2:8-10

*⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. ⁹ **The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,** ¹⁰ and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*

And

2 Corinthians 11:12-15

*¹² But what I do, I will also continue to do, that I may cut off the opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the things of which they boast. ¹³ For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ **And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.** ¹⁵ **Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness,** whose end will be according to their works.*

What we can expect, given Paul’s warning to those churches then is a continuation of such deception today. To think otherwise is to assume the devil is no longer interested into deceiving the church. Since that possibility isn’t worth debating, what should be the position of the church in examining such potentials?

We believe simply that any alleged work of the Holy Spirit should meet the biblical standard set forth in scripture. As Paul told Corinth, such things must be done “decently and in order” as we have already examined.

Part of decency and orderly would easily be seen in who is the focus of such things. Watching much of the modern charismatic movement of today's church, the spectacle is what grabs all the attention, followed closely by the person on stage conducting the service.

In addition, when we review the first century church, when a miraculous work of the Holy Spirit took place, it wasn't for the spectacle's sake, but as a platform for a reasoned proclaiming of the gospel, so it was almost exclusively done publicly for the unsaved, not for the bedazzling of the church.

Further Research on the Dangers of Abusing These “Gifts” with Counterfeit Manifestations

YouTube Channel:

Chris Quintana Old Path Theology

Talking Points: Revival and The New Apostolic Reformation

michaelsenministries.com

thelightofdeception.com

bereanresearch.org

lighthouse trailsresearch.com



On the Path Discernment Ministry

Discernment is always mentioned in scripture in a favorable light. Discernment was promoted as a way to avoid error and cause the believer to continually be seeking and watching with vigilance. Accordingly, these materials are provided for you in order to assist you in growing in your knowledge and understanding of God's Word. We have taken great care to give a thorough and expansive explanation of the positions of the church.

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These booklets are provided to explain Old Path's teachings on topics of theology and doctrine. Should you have questions on doctrinal matters or would like further clarity on these positions, you can email us and we will assist you by researching the needed matters. However, we do not provide these booklets with the intention of debating.