

CHRISTIANITY 101 LESSON 7: SPIRITUAL GIFTS



10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10

What are spiritual gifts?

- Gifts given by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit for the betterment of the Church
- So how many gifts are there? It's hard to put an exact number on things but 5 key passages talk about them in detail, they are: 1 Cor 7:7, 1 Cor 12:2-10, 1 Cor 12:28, Romans 12:6-8, 1 Peter 4:11
- Gifts include things like: teaching, administration or leadership, celibacy, faith, healing, tongues, giving, ETC.
- Does everyone have gifts? 1 Peter 4:10
- It sure doesn't seem that way... 1 Timothy 4:14
- How do I know how I am gifted?
- Can I seek other giftings?
- Are gifts of the spirit different than fruit of the spirit?

Let's break down the "sign" gifts... Tongues, Healing, Miracles, and Prophecy. These gifts we given as "signs" of the truth of the Gospel.

Healing:

Jesus used healing throughout his ministry to confirm who he was - Paralytic, bleeding woman, Lazerus

Peter & John - Acts 3:1-8

Elders called to pray for the sick - James 5:14-15

A quick example from Honduras...



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Tongues & Interpretation:

"Speaking in a tongue is prayer or praise spoken in syllables not understood by the speaker" Wayne Grudem p 421 Biblical Doctrine

- At Pentecost there is an undoing of the curse of Babble
- Not understood by the speaker
- Not for the building up of the Church if there is no interpretation - 1 Cor 14:9-19
- Doesn't render the speaker "uncontrollable" 1 Cor 14:27-28
- What about "Proof of receiving the Holy Ghost" ?

Prophecy:

- A Prophet in the OT was given the Word's of God to call the People of God back to God.
- NT Example...Peter before the Court in Acts 4
- Prophecy is NOT fortune telling - It should be tested 1 Thess 5:19-22
- All good preaching has elements of receiving a revelation from God, bringing it to his people, & pointing the Church back to God.

Miracles:

- Parting of the Red Sea, Water from a stone, Sun stands still, walking on water, feeding of the 5000, healing, and so on.
- An generalized gathering of the unexplainable and not normative moves of God - Rain in Honduras



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Cessationist VS Continuist

Cessationist argue that the sign gifts have ceased as they are no longer needed to confirm the testimony of the Gospel.

- John MacArthur is a very popular Cessationist pastor who has taught from this theological view point

Continuist argue that the sign gifts are still active today:

- Continuist tend to fall along a spectrum from Charismatic to "Open but Cautious"
- Many cautious continuist would argue that far more abuses take place in the name of the signs gifts than legitimate occurrences.
- Many cautious continuist would insist the Bible gives the body plenty of wisdom on how to handle the gifts in worship, especially that of tongues. Disorder worship in the name of "gifts" shouldn't be tolerated.

The Church of God General Conference would welcome cessationist or continuist into its membership

Additional Resources:

Are Miraculous Gift For Today? Four Views Series by Zondervan