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THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO THE BELIEVER

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I. **BASIC CONSIDERATIONS.**

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1. Definition - The gifts of the Spirit are gracious endowments of God given to His Church for the purpose of the Church's edification and ministry. (1 Cor. 12:7; 1 Cor. 14:3-5).
2. Diversity - God has given His Church a variety of spiritual gifts (Romans 12:6-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-11; 28-30; Eph. 4:7-12), and although they are not all of the same significance (1 Cor. 12:31; 14:1), they are not to lead to pride and to a division of the Church.
3. Distribution - The Spirit of God is sovereign in distributing the gifts of grace in the Church (1 Cor. 12:11), and yet the Church is responsible for the presence or absence of these. (1 Cor. 13:31; 14:1; 2. Tim. 1:6).
4. Source - The source of these gifts is the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor. 12:9-12).
5. Purpose - The purpose (as indicated in definition) is to edify the Church. (1 Cor. 12:7).
6. Spiritual basis for exercise of every gift is love. (1 Cor. 13:1-3; 14:1).

II. **PARTICULAR GIFTS**

1. Word of Wisdom and word of Knowledge - It is the gift which finds expression in the utterance of divine wisdom and knowledge as revealed in His word.
2. Faith - It is the special gift of (wonder-working) faith which is manifested in extraordinary works of faith. (1 Cor. 13:2).
3. Working(s) of Miracles (Powers) - Gifts which lead to supernatural manifestations of divine powers in (and through) the believers. (1 Cor. 13:10).
4. Prophecy - The Special gift that enables certain persons to convey divine messages to the Church. (1 Cor. 13:10).
5. Discerning of Spirits - The Special insight and ability to distinguish between good and evil spirits, which were not always readily discerned. (1 Joh. 4:1).
6. Interpretation of Tongues - To understand and interpret to others what is being said by the one speaking in **tongues**.
7. Gift of Healing(s) - The gift which God gave to some members of His Church to perform miracles of restoration to health. (The plural would indicate that no one individual, who had this gift, could heal all diseases.) (1 Cor. 12:9).
  - (a) Healing and the Atonement. Salvation of the soul and redemption of the body are provided for in the atonement. The redemption of the body finds its ultimate realization in the resurrection (Rom. 8:23), although even in this life tokens of this gracious provision are seen in the temporal restorations to health in some instances, as seen in the ministry of Jesus and the Apostles.
  - (b) Relationship of 1 Cor. 12:9 and James 5:13-16. Whereas 1 Cor. 12:9 speaks of healing as a gift of grace, given by special endowment to certain members of the Church, James 5:13-16 speaks of healing as the result of the prayer of faith by the elders of the church. This physical restoration is related to the spiritual restoration of the person involved. (James 5:15) cf. 1 Cor. 11:30-32.

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8. Gift of Tongues - The two views regarding the nature of this gift are:
- (a) that it was the endowment to speak in foreign languages;
  - (b) that it was a gift in making ecstatic utterances. The former view holds Acts 2 to be the key to the interpretation of this gift, making no distinction between Acts 2 and 1 Cor. 12-14. (Acts 2, where evidently the "foreign language" view is correct). However, this view is inadequate to explain the phenomena as they appear in 1 Cor. 12-14. In Apostolic times it seems to have been connected in some cases with the initial Christian experience (Acts 10:46; 19:6). As far as its use in public worship is concerned Paul (1 Cor. 14-19) shows its relative insignificance. In the event that it is used, an interpreter is required (1 Cor. 14:27,28). The ultimate purpose in the exercise of all gifts is the edification of the Church. (1 Cor. 12:7; 14:17).
- It appears from our study of the New Testament as a whole, that the exercise of the spiritual gift is partly conditioned by the spiritual needs of the Church at any given time, so that in the historical development of the church, certain gifts seem to recede while others become more prominent. (See Heb. 2:2-3)