

There are nine gifts of the Holy Spirit revealed in Gods' word. Even as we live in a natural world, we also live in a spiritual world. These gifts enable us to function effectively in the spiritual world.

Since these are gifts, we don't have to work for them. Every one of us can receive these gifts from our Lord. The apostle Paul emphasized the importance of the gifts of the Holy Spirit to all believers when he wrote, *"Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant."* (**1 Corinthians 12:1**)

God wants you to have them, so ask for them, desire them and pray to receive them. *"But earnestly desire the best gifts ..."* (**1 Corinthians 12:31**)

THE NINE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The nine gifts of the Holy Spirit are mentioned in (**1 Corinthians 12:8 – 11**), and can be categorized into three groups.

Group #1: The Revelation Gifts (Hearing)

- The word of Wisdom.
- The word of Knowledge
- Discerning of Spirits.

Group #2: The Vocal Gifts (Speaking)

- Tongues
- Interpretation of Tongues
- Prophecy

Group #3: The Power Gifts (Doing)

- The Gift of Faith
- Working of miracles
- The Gifts of healings.

The Purpose of the Gifts:

- **Stewardship** – We are good stewards when we minister in gifts. *"as each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."* (**1 Peter 4: 10**)
- **Established** – We become established in our spiritual life by using the gifts. *"For I long to see you that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established."* (**Romans 1:11**)
- **Spiritual up building, encouragement & consolation** – The church is spiritually progressed, built up, encouraged, and consoled. *"But the one who prophesies speaks to men for their up building and constructive spiritual progress and encouragement and consolation."* (**1 Corinthians 14: 3 AMP**)
- **Profits Everyone** – *"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all."* (**1 Corinthians 12:7**)
- **Identified** – We are identified as a true believer through the gifts of the Spirit. *"and these signs will follow those who believe; In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues*

The Revelation Gifts (Hearing)

- **The Word of Wisdom** – The gift of the word of wisdom is the application of knowledge that God gives you. This kind of wisdom is not gained through study or experiences – it is a gift. Yet it is not a substitute for study or experience.
 - God told Moses to speak to the rock and water will come out of it (*Numbers 20:8*). But Moses disobeyed and smites the rock (*Num 20.12, Deut 3:26*). On an earlier occasion God tells him to smite the rock (*Exodus 17:5,6*)
 - Moses turns the bitter waters at Marah sweet by cutting a tree into it. (*Exodus 15: 22 – 25*)
 - King Solomon's wisdom (*1 Kings 1 – 11*)
 - The temptation of our Lord Jesus (*Luke 4: 1 – 14*)
 - The apostle Paul's warning of disaster on the ships voyage (*Acts 27: 9 – 10*)

There are three types of wisdom:

- The wisdom of God (*1 Cor 2: 6–7*)
- The wisdom of the world (*1 Cor 2:6*)
- The wisdom of man (*Ecc. 1: 16 – 18*)
- **The word of Knowledge** – The word of knowledge is a definite conviction, impression or knowing that comes to you in a similitude (a mental picture), a dream, through a vision or by a scripture that is quickened to you. It is supernatural knowledge that you need regarding situations, circumstances or problems.
 - Noah knew about the flood and how to build the ark, because God revealed it to him. (*Genesis 6: 13-22*)
 - God revealed to King David his son Solomon will build the house of God and His courts and not King David. (*1 Sam 17: 1-2, 1 Chronicles 28:6*)
 - Joshua knew Achan's sin by the word of knowledge (*Josh 7: 10-11*)
 - Elisha knew about Gehazi lying to Naaman through the word of knowledge (*2 Kings 5: 20 – 27*).

The Gifts of the word of wisdom and the word of knowledge function together. The word of wisdom tells you what to do with the knowledge from the word of knowledge.

- **Discerning of spirits** – Discerning of spirits is the supernatural ability given by the Holy Spirit to perceive the source of a spiritual manifestation behind a person, situation, an action or a message and determine whether it is of God, the devil or man.

There are three dimensions of the Spirit world:

- The world of the Spirit of God
- The world of the Spirit of enemy
- The world of the Human spirit.

We are in contact continually with all three. The gift of discerning of spirits enables you to tell which spirit is operating.

- The Spirit of God – The apostle Peter discerned the Holy Spirit in Cornelius (*Acts 10: 30 – 35*)
- The Spirit of the enemy – The apostle Paul perceived the demon spirit in a slave girl even though she was speaking the truth. (*Acts 16: 16 – 18*)
- The Human Spirit – The apostle Paul discerned a jealous, bitter human spirit operating in Simon the sorcerer.

The Purpose of the Gifts

- Not to find fault or criticize.
- Not mind reading or psychic phenomena.

- Bound saints can be delivered.
- Protects and guards our Christian life.
- Plans of satan can be discerned.
- False revelations can be detected.

We are to test the Spirits: *"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world."* (1 **John 4:1**)

You can test whether or not a Spirit of God in these 5 ways:

1. Checking what it does. (**Col 3:15**) Does it bring peace? If it brings confusion or you are troubled in your heart, it is not God.
2. Listening to what they say. (1 **John 4: 1 – 3**) Does it line up to God's word ?
3. Watching who is exalted. (1 **Cor 12:3**) Is Jesus Christ exalted as the Son of God and as Lord and Savior?
4. Observing what they do. (**Matt 7: 15- 20**) Jesus said false prophets are known by their fruits.
5. Seeing what it brings. (2 **Cor 3:17**) The Spirit of the Lord brings liberty, not bondage and captivity to a person or thing.

The three vocal gifts (Speaking)

1. Tongues
2. Interpretation of tongues
3. Prophecy

• Tongues

Through the new birth (Salvation) God transforms our heart (**2 Cor 5:17**). Through the baptism of the Holy Spirit God transforms our tongue.

This gift comes into operation when we are baptized in the Holy Spirit. *"and they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues .."* (**Acts 2:4**)

There are five types of other tongues.

1. **The Language of men** - *"Though I speak with the tongues of men .."* (1 **Cor 13:1**)
"On the day of Pentecost the disciples filled with the Holy Spirit spoke in the languages of the listeners, although they did not know their languages." (**Acts 2: 4 -11**)
2. **The Language of Angels**
"Though I speak with the tongues of ... angels." (1 **Cor 13:1**)
3. **The Language of the Holy Spirit** *"... but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us"* (**Rom 8:26**)
4. **The Language of Heaven** - The apostle Paul talks about a person he knew who heard the language of heaven.

"I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago, such a one was caught up to the third heaven...., how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words which it is not lawful for a man to utter." (2 **Cor 12: 2- 4**)
5. **The Language of the Lord** - *"For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people."* (**Is 28: 11**)

These tongues must be interpreted through the gift of Interpretation of tongues, so you can understand what God is speaking.

Manifestation of the gifts of tongues.

- Prayer language to God – Even as God speaks to you, you can also speak to Him. *(1 Cor 14: 2)*
- Helps in worship by singing in the Spirit. *(1 Cor 14: 15)*
 - Warfare – when you sing in the Spirit, God executes vengeance, punishments and binds the principalities and powers of darkness with chains of iron. *(Psalm 149: 6 – 9)*
 - Victory – The enemy is confused and defeated when you sing in the Spirit *(2 Chron 20: 22)*
 - Brings the presence of God *(Psalm 22 : 3)*
 - Deliverance – bondages are broken *(Acts 16: 25)*
Spirit of heaviness leaves *(Is 61: 3)*
 - Brings rest and refreshing to your soul *(Is 28: 11 – 12)*
- Builds your faith *(Jude 20)*
 - Edifies you *(1 Cor 14: 4)*
 - Sign to unbelievers *(1 Cor 14: 22)*
This happened on the day of Pentecost *(Acts 2: 6 -11)*

• Interpretation of Tongues

“Therefore let him who speak in a tongue pray that he may interpret...” (1 Cor 14: 13)

When a person is speaking in tongues seven things can occur. The interpretation of tongues gives the interpretation of what is being said in tongues.

1. Speaking mysteries to the Lord *(1 Cor 14 : 2)*
2. Edifying himself *(1 Cor 14: 4)*
3. Edifying the Church *(1 Cor 14: 5)*
4. Magnifying the Lord *(Acts 10: 46)*
5. The Holy Spirit making intercession *(Rom 8: 26)*
6. God speaking some important issues *(Is 28: 11)*
7. Building up his faith *(Jude 20)*

When you pray in tongues, you can ask the Father to give you the interpretation and He will give you the gift. You can then understand what you were saying in tongues. It will also help you understand what others are saying.