

8) Speaking In Tongues - Is the divine ability to speak in languages unknown to the speaker. This was an outward sign that the Holy Spirit was now given to all believers, and for the purpose of validating that the Holy Spirit was from God [Jn 14:15-20; Ac 1:4-5](#). This gift demonstrated the authenticity of the gospel, and that the message was from God. The first dramatic and miraculous scriptural example of speaking in tongues is described in [Ac 2:1-12](#), with the original outpouring of the Holy Spirit, where 120 believers were gathered together on the Day of Pentecost, and the Holy Spirit was manifested to them in the form of tongues of fire. They began to speak in divers languages which were unknown to them personally [Ac 2:1-4](#), but which were the native tongues of many of the visitors gathered there during the Feast Day of Pentecost [Ac 2:5-12](#). The Greek word "glossa" which is translated as tongues refers to human languages. Therefore, the meaning of the phrase "began to speak with other tongues" in [v 4](#), means human languages. [Verse 6](#), mentions that the multitude who came together, were confounded or bewildered. Why? because the believers were speaking the various languages of the multitude who were gathered. The gift of speaking in tongues was given to the early church so they could preach the gospel throughout the nations, and in all known languages.

9) Interpretation of Tongues - It is the ability to translate a foreign language into the hearer's language. It is for the purpose of communicating God's Word to a person of another language. The person with the gift of interpreting tongues could understand what the tongues-speaker was saying, although he did not know the language spoken. Next, the tongues-interpreter would proceed to communicate the tongues-speaker's message to everyone else so that all could understand the truth being spoken, and therefore, would benefit all. Speaking in tongues and interpretation of tongues work together. Otherwise, what is being spoken in a foreign language will not be understood by all [1 Cor 14:5-6](#). Although the apostle Paul stated in [1 Cor 14:19](#), that he would "rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue," he was not opposed to tongues-speaking if it was practiced properly. In [1 Cor 14:26-29](#), Paul mentions that there should be only 2 or 3 tongue-speakers and one should interpret. Tongues were to be a sign for unbelievers [1 Cor 14:22](#). God can use the gift of tongues to communicate His Word to people of many different languages. Paul's concern was that everything be done for the edification of the church [1 Cor 14:5,12](#).

Scriptural References:

2 Samuel 14:17-20
Psalm 37:4
Psalm 111:10
Isaiah 28:11-12
Matthew 16:17
Mark 16:15-18
John 14:26
John 16:13
Acts 2:4-11,22
Acts 3:1-10
Acts 6:8
Acts 8:6-7,14-17
Acts 13:6-12
Acts 14:3
Acts 16:16-18
Acts 17:11
Acts 20:9-12
Acts 28:3-6
Romans 12:3-8
1 Corinthians 2
1 Corinthians 12
1 Corinthians 13:1-3
1 Corinthians 14
Ephesians 1:17
Ephesians 3:4-5
Ephesians 4:10-16
1 Thessalonians 5:19-22
1 Timothy 4:1,14
2 Timothy 1:6
Hebrews 2:1-4
Hebrews 5:13-14
James 5:14-18
1 Peter 4:10-11
2 Peter 3:15
1 John 4:1-4

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Supernatural Gifts Of The Holy Spirit

What are the spiritual gifts mentioned in the Bible? Do they apply today? If so, how do they apply to the church?

What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit? The manifestation gifts as revealed in 1 Cor 12:7-10 include: 1) Wisdom. 2) Knowledge. 3) Faith. 4) Healing. 5) Miraculous Powers. 6) Prophecy. 7) Discernment. 8) Speaking in tongues. 9) Interpretation of tongues.

Spiritual gifts are powers, abilities, skills or knowledge given by God to faithful Christians, which only operate through the Holy Spirit. They are not natural talents or abilities. They are manifestations of the Holy Spirit Ro 12:3-6; 1 Cor 12:11. The purpose of the manifestation gifts are for the building up, strengthening, edifying and exhorting of the body of Christ, to be more effective witnesses for Jesus, and especially to bring glory, honor and praise to God. They serve to reveal the supremacy, authority and power of God. Always remember that God is credited for the gifts and their results; not humans. All faithful Christians will use their time productively, efficiently and wisely to further the gospel by exercising and developing the gifts of the Holy Spirit. God gives a different gift or combination of gifts to each true believer, always according to His sovereignty, purpose and will. The spiritual gifts have not been withdrawn from the church. It must grow, exercise and develop the gifts of the Holy Spirit, while it waits for the return of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior 1 Cor 1:4-9. The first crucial step to receiving the gifts of the Holy Spirit is to repent and be baptized (*Read Tract - 'Repent Or Perish!' and 'Baptism - Requirement For Salvation?'*). We are to demonstrate the power of the Holy Spirit, through the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The gifts of the Holy Spirit in 1 Cor 12:7-10, can be divided into three categories:

Revelation gifts:

1) Wisdom - Wisdom is taught in the Bible Ps 111:10; Pr 9:10. Wisdom is associated with fearing the Lord, which means to stand in awe of and revere God, and is demonstrated through love and obedience to His Word. A word of wisdom is only a minuscule portion of God's total wisdom. Wisdom means to receive divine guidance and direction. It describes one who can understand and speak openly Biblical truth in skillful application to life situations with all discernment. The ability to communicate spiritual wisdom. Wisdom shows us what to do about or how to use the information. The prophet Daniel received wisdom from God Da 1:17 (KJV); 2:14-24. In Ac 10, we learn that the gift of wisdom is used to guide and direct the servants of the Lord in their ministries. God may inform them about whom He wants to save. Wisdom can produce open doors, spiritual awakenings, achievements, accomplishments and progression. Peter was being directed by God to bring the message of the gospel to a Gentile named Cornelius. The gifts of wisdom and knowledge work together. If one lacks wisdom, he is encouraged to pray for it so that he may do the will and work of God Jas 1:5-6.

2) Knowledge - Is obtaining divine information which comes directly by the Holy Spirit. It means receiving insight and understanding about the facts. Or in other words, understanding truth with the insight that comes through the power of the Holy Spirit. Believers who have this spiritual gift can understand some of the deep, hidden, secret things of God and mysteries of His Word. They also have the ability to communicate spiritual truth and memorize scriptures. They can also instantly distinguish between which is scriptural and which is not. Supernatural knowledge comes only through the Holy Spirit. God reveals only a tiny portion of His total knowledge. For example, the Lord revealed to the prophet Samuel through the word of knowledge, that Saul would be anointed king 1 Sam 15:1. Daniel was given knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. He could also understand all kinds of dreams and visions Da 1:17-21. In Ac 9:10-19, the Lord said to Ananias in a vision, that Saul (Paul) was His chosen vessel to proclaim the gospel to the Gentiles. God speaks in many different ways. For example: mainly via His Word. But also through angels, visions and dreams. He may speak in our minds, through circumstances, impressions and feelings.

3) Discernment of Spirits - The word 'discern' means "to recognize and distinguish between, perceive, detect or recognize." Discernment of spirits is essential to the unity, functioning and strengthening of the body of Christ. Every true believer has discernment to some degree, which will increase as he matures in the faith. Mature believers who are empowered by the Spirit of God and are acquainted with the advanced truths of God's Word, have trained themselves to discern between good and evil Heb 5:13-14. There are people however, who have the God-given ability to distinguish between truth and deceptive doctrines of demons. They have the unique ability to instantly "spot" erroneous teaching. They follow the admonition in the Bible, of testing the spirits 1 Jn 4:1-4 and rightly dividing the Word of truth Ac 17:11; 2 Ti 2:15-18. This gift is to protect the church from Satan's deception Mt 24:4-5. Discernment can come in various ways. For example, one may actually hear what is happening in the spiritual realm, which I've personally experienced shortly after repentance, where I was able to hear a great spiritual battle between the good and evil angels, or good and evil forces. It was very powerful indeed. It sounded like many good angels knocking the evil angels to the ground with their supernatural power. I only heard it for about 2 minutes. But there was a lot happening in that short space of time. The battle was sudden, loud and noisy, continuous and swift, fierce and intense. This is a relentless spiritual warfare that is being waged between good and evil in the spiritual realm, with God's angels (ministering spirits) continually guiding and helping God's elect, fighting their battles, and protecting them from Satan and his evil forces. Scripture foretells that the ultimate destiny of Satan and his demons is the lake of fire Mt 25:41; Rev 20:10. God's triumphant plan for humanity will prevail, and His Kingdom will be established here on the earth, where the firstfruits of God's salvation will assist Christ in ruling over the remnant of humanity still alive at His return, as kings and priests Rev 20:5-6. Discernment may also come through visions, where one can actually see what is in the spiritual realm, but is not there in the physical realm. Scriptural examples include: 1) Jesus discernment of the presence of angels. In the Garden of Gethsemane, while Jesus was praying, He was the only one who saw the angel from heaven Lk 22:43-44. 2) In the Book of Revelation, the apostle John received a vision of three unclean or impure spirits that looked like frogs, which came out of the mouth of the dragon, beast and false prophet Rev 16:13. 3) John the Baptist saw the Spirit of God descending upon Jesus like a dove Mt 3:13-16. 4) Paul also had received surpassingly great visions and revelations from the Lord 2 Cor 12:1-10. 5) Paul discerned the spirit of divination in a female slave. The abominable practice of witchcraft, sorcery and divination is rampant in the congregations. According to 1 Cor 5:1-13, tolerance of sins such as: sexual immorality; idolatry, which includes witchcraft and greed; slander; drunkenness; and swindling in the church are condemned. One must not even associate with a person who calls himself a "brother" but is involved in any of these sins. Instead, he must be expelled. The leaven must be removed. Yeast or leaven represents sin. It takes a little yeast for the whole batch of dough to rise. In other words, it takes one member who is engaged in a grave sin, such as witchcraft (which is idolatry) or sexual immorality, to corrupt a whole church. Discernment may also come in the

form of a person seeing what is in the physical realm, but seeing it with the understanding of the Holy Spirit 1 Jn 4:6. For example, discernment is crucial: 1) To distinguish between true and false teaching. Discernment is also required to understand spiritual matters Ps 119:125; 1 Cor 2:14. 2) To distinguish between true and false prophets 1 Jn 4:1. 3) To discern between the righteous and the wicked, or good and evil Eze 44:23-24. A discerning heart is to differentiate between right and wrong, and is essential for administering justice 1 Ki 3:9-12. Other examples of discernment, include: recognizing whether the Holy Spirit is operating within a person, or whether a person is demonically oppressed or demon possessed. He may also identify which evil spirits are present. For example, Jesus discerned the presence of evil spirits and identified which ones were operating in people. In the gospel, physical sicknesses and impairments were frequently attributed to evil spirits. For example: deaf and mute spirit Mk 9:25, and spirit of infirmity Lk 13:11-17 (*Read Tract - 'You Can Be Set Free!'*).

Power gifts:

4) Faith - Every believer possesses faith to some degree according to Ro 12:3. But to have the spiritual gift of faith, according to 1 Cor 12:9, is to have "miraculous" faith, which is defined as an extraordinary confidence in Almighty God, and His omnipotence, omnipresence and omniscience; His Word and the fulfillment of His promises. Scriptural examples of extraordinary and unshakable faith are found in Hebrews 11, called the "faith chapter" or "the hall of faith." Some of the most heroic acts recorded in scripture, include: Conquering Kingdoms, administering justice, shutting the mouths of lions, quenching the fury of the flames, escaping the edge of the sword and routing foreign armies, among many others. Elijah was a man of extraordinary faith and his prayer worked miracles Jas 5:17-18. Those who have the spiritual gift of faith will inspire and encourage other believers. They will also have confidence that any hindrances to the gospel will be overcome, and that God's plan and purpose will prevail. Today, those who exhibit extraordinary faith are the ones who will have the confidence to persevere in their God-given mission to proclaim the Gospel throughout the world despite trials, challenges, pressures and difficulties that may arise, and regardless of the attempts made by Satan to plant his agents (human and demonic) in every situation and circumstance along the way. Extraordinarily faithful people will have the courage to persist fervently and zealously in their God-given assignment that means a great deal to the Kingdom of God; and resist Satan's temptations, so that in the end they will win an overwhelming victory!

5) Healing - Is the supernatural manifestation of the power of God that miraculously heals one of sickness and/or disease. Once can receive the ability to heal the sick by the power of God, according to God-given wisdom and knowledge. Peter had this unique gift Ac 3:1-11. Philip, through the power of the Holy Spirit healed the paralyzed Ac 8:6-8. Note that 1 Cor 12:9, mentions "gifts" of healing in the plural, which may be a sign that there are subcategories of healing, or a wide range of skills or abilities. For example, the power to do dramatic healings, such as making the lame walk. Or more subtle healing, such as healing an emotional wound. Also, the healing may be spiritual, physical or emotional. The gift of healing was more prominent in the New Testament church to confirm God's power and that He was working in the church. The power to heal is only from God. Although God still does heal today, His healing through this gift belonged primarily to the apostles of the first century church to confirm their message was authentic and that they were God's true messengers. There are pre-requisites for healing, and God always heals in His own time, and in His own way. God may heal directly through prayer, or through human instruments, such as healing someone through a person's ministry Jas 5:13-16 (*Read Tract - 'Divine Health And Healing'*).

6) Miracles - An extraordinary event in the physical realm that exceeds all human ability, and is ascribed to a supernatural cause. The gift of working of miracles is exercising the spiritual ability to perform miracles through the power of the Holy Spirit. God did extraordinary miracles through Paul Ac 19:11-12. Great signs and wonders were performed through Stephen Ac 6:8-9. Philip also had the ability to cast out demons out of many demon-possessed people Ac 8:6-8. There is much controversy about whether the spiritual gifts, such as miraculous powers and healing are still in operation today. Some believe they don't apply to the church today. While others believe they are still operative to this day. We must remember that absolutely no human has the natural ability to heal or perform miraculous signs and wonders. The power to perform miracles and heal comes only from God. Jesus was "accredited" by "miracles, signs and wonders" Ac 2:22. According to 1 Cor 12:10, 28-30, "ordinary" Christians were at times given the gift of miracles. There is no record in the Bible that mentions the gifts of the Holy Spirit have ceased. Again, the gift of miraculous powers was given primarily to the apostles of the first century church, to confirm God's message Ac 14:3; and to show that they were genuine apostles who were truly sent by God, and their message was genuine. The apostles performed many extraordinary deeds through the Holy Spirit (power of God), such as miracles, signs and wonders including: healing, casting out demons, and even raising the dead 2 Cor 12:12. Apostles were "marked" by miracles, signs and wonders.

Vocal Gifts:

7) Prophecy - According to Thayer's Greek Lexicon, the word "prophecy" means "to utter forth, declare, a thing which can only be known by divine revelation." It means to declare the divine will of God and to make known His truth. To receive direct word or message from God. It is designed to inspire and influence people to act on the truth. The purpose of prophecy is to declare the divine, inspirational truth of God primarily to the church. Or it may even declare God's will in specific circumstances. It was intended for believers, but it would have a positive effect on unbelievers, since they would hear and understand and be convicted of their sins 1 Cor 14:22-24. The Old Testament prophets spoke God's message, and were divinely inspired, moved and impelled by the Holy Spirit 2 Pe 1:21. It never came by human impulse. The prophecies they received were clear, direct and specific. Many prophecies recorded in the Bible are dual, meaning that there is an initial or preliminary fulfillment, but the true fulfillment is yet to occur. Prophecy has already been completely revealed in God's Word. Prophesying will be frequently manifested in the last days Joel 2:28. The prophecies that are to be proclaimed throughout the world are the ones which are revealed in the Bible. We must commit ourselves solely to the scriptures. Today, there are no new prophecies that God has given to man. If any man declares that he has new messages from God, that are not mentioned in the Bible, then that person is a false prophet. We must always test all prophecy to see if it lines up with scripture 1 Th 5:19-21, as there are many false prophets 1 Jn 4:1-6. In the early church, the gift of prophecy allowed early Christians to convey new revelation and truth from God, because at that time they did not have the completed Bible as we do today. We are to desire spiritual gifts, which is one of the evidences that we are pursuing love. We are to especially desire the gift of prophecy, which will edify (enlighten) the church. It is for the edification, exhortation, consolation and comfort of others 1 Cor 14:1-4. Philip had four daughters who prophesied Ac 21:9.