

STUDY GUIDE

SPOKEN GIFTS



POWER GIFTS

Q: "WHAT IS GOD TELLING ME TO SAY?"

Now concerning spiritual [gifts], brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant: You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led. Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit [of all]: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same [fn] Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another [different] kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

1 Cr 12:1-11

3 For by the grace given to me I bid every one among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith which God has assigned him. 4 For as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6 Having spiritual gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; 7 if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; 8 he who encourages, in his encouragement; he who shares, in liberality; he who leads, with zeal; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Rom 12:3-8

UNDERSTANDING THE SPOKEN GIFTS:

The spiritual gifts listed in 1 Corinthians are often grouped into three groups, spoken gifts, power gifts and revelation gifts.

The spoken gifts are:

- Tongues
- Interpretation of tongues
- Prophecy

Life Group Leaders note:

As you prepare to do this study, start believing God for Him to confirm His word with signs and wonders following. Expect this to be a time where your Life Group (and yourself) grows in the things of the spirit. Prepare to activate these gifts in your Life Group as you study them. Please also read the Church protocols for the use of prophecy at the end of this document BEFORE taking your Life Group.



STUFF TO DO

Whenever possible, for each of the gifts in this study go through the following steps:

— HEAD —

YOUNG	What does the bible say about this gift?
GROWING	Where have you seen this gift used?
MATURE	How could I activate it in my life?

— HEART —

YOUNG	Spend time praying together, believing God to activate this gift as you pray?
GROWING	Encourage you life group to "have a go" Remind them it doesn't matter if they mess it up.
MATURE	Lead by example - have a go yourself.

— HANDS —

YOUNG	Discuss how you could use this gift in your discipleship of others/ community/evangelism.
GROWING	How will you make room for God to minister this gift through you?
MATURE	What do you need to be careful of as you start to use this gift?



STUFF TO DO

Share a time with your Life Group when you were impacted by someone operating in one of these spiritual gifts.

Pray for anyone sick, needing a miracle or needing faith in your Life Group. Expect a miracle!

Pray together for God to empower you to operate in these spiritual gifts over the next few weeks.

PRAYER POINTS & COMING UP

SAFE CITY PROJECT
SATURDAY 22ND OCTOBER // 8 AM
CHEVALLUM STATE SCHOOL

STUFF TO THINK ABOUT

TYPES OF TONGUES OR LANGUAGES

A gift of tongues is the ability to speak divinely-inspired communication in another language not understandable by the speaker. This can be heavenly languages (1Cor 13:1) or languages that the people around the speaker understand but the speaker has not learnt (Acts 2:4-12)

INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

A gift of interpretations of tongues is the ability to understand and translate for others a divinely inspired message given in another language.

Tongues and Interpretation are separate gifts but can be used very powerfully together.

THREE USES OF TONGUES

- Worship (Acts 2:4; 1 Cor 14:4). Interpretation is not necessary. This is where we commune with, wait on, and worship, God. It's personal.
- Ministry to the church. (1 Cor 14: 4-19, 26-28). This is where God uses both gifts harnessed together to speak to the church assembled together. Remember, 1 Cor 14 is a passage addressed to the church when it is assembled together (1 Cor 14: 19, 23, 26)
- Evangelism. (Acts 2: 5-13)



USES OF INTERPRETATION

- Interpreting Tongues (1 Cor 14: 4-19) Gifted people speaking God's message to the assembled church body.
- Interpreting Foreign Languages While there are no direct scriptural verses relating to this issue, history shows us just as people can receive the gift of tongues and speak in a foreign language (Acts 2:7-12), so can people receive a gift of interpreting a foreign language.

Note: the following two areas are not strictly "interpretation of tongues" but many believe that they are examples of the use of the same gift in a different context

- C. Interpreting Dreams: Joseph — Gen 41: 14-16 (dreams plus interpretation), 41: 32 (confirmation), 41: 38 (Pharaoh convinced), 41: 39 (wisdom and discernment recognized), 41: 40 (the gift elevates Joseph. He is promoted to a position of power and prominence)
- Daniel 2: 16-23 (secret revealed in a night vision)
- Job 33: 14-16 ("in a dream, a vision of the night...He opens the ears of men")
- C. Interpreting Visions: Peter — Acts 10: 10-17 (Peter sees a vision at midday. He calls it a trance)
- Paul — Acts 26: 12-18 (v16 "I have appeared to you". This may have been an actual appearance, but see 2 Cor 12: 1 "I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord")

TONGUES, INTERPRETATIONS & PROPHECY

These gifts appear to have the same application and purpose: the delivery of a message from God to His people. (1 Cor 14: 5)

Why then, should we speak in tongues and interpret?

- It can be a starting point for developing the "seeing" faculties of the spirit man.
- It can build a person in confidence to a place where they are able to prophesy.
- It is "strange" and gets people's attention.
- It creates expectancy.
- It gives others time to seek the interpretation.

HOW TO INTERPRET A MESSAGE IN TONGUES

- Prepare your heart with worship, meditation, praise, revelation, prayer etc. (Ps 63: 1-8 – the thirsty soul)
- Speak or sing in tongues, and at the same time, expect to gain an understanding in your mind (an interpretation, not a translation) of the message in tongues proceeding from your spirit.
- Desire to interpret. (1 Cor 12: 31, 14: 1, 14: 13) Grasp the opportunity. Be courageous and don't allow your opportunity to pass you by. Silence the nerves or reluctance of your soul.
- Expect God to talk to you. You have the mind of Christ. (1 Cor 2: 16) Therefore you can think the thoughts of God. When people try to describe how they receive the interpretation, a number of expressions and words are used. Here are some: "I saw", "I felt", "I got the impression", "These thoughts came to me"



We all think in pictures, not words. However, when we do, the pictures can come and go so quickly that we hardly notice them. When beginning to use the gift of interpretation, the message you receive can be FLEETING, FAINT IMPRESSIONS. A more experienced person will learn to hold the impressions and watch until they are clearly recognized.

- Meditate on the impression. What message is in what you are seeing or knowing? Allow your spirit to witness to the correct interpretation. You will sense excitement and affirmation coming from your spirit when you think the correct interpretation. (Romans 8: 16)
- Exercise wisdom and use safeguards before speaking out the message. Now that the message has been interpreted from tongues to your known language, think carefully how you will deliver it.
- It must not harm anyone.
- It must be pleasing to God.
- It must be easily understood.

It would be wise to put the same safeguards around this gift as those around prophecy. Remember, prophecy must edify, exhort and comfort (1 Cor 14: 3). If you are tempted to interpret in a way that judges, exposes, warns etc, go back and start again. Leave these functions of prophecy to those who hold the office of one. See the Notes at the End of this section

- Determine who the message is for. Allow your spirit to “witness” again. Is it for the church? Is it for the city? Is it for an individual in the church meeting? Is it for a group in the church?
- Once you’ve interpreted successfully once, do it again as your confidence rises and your nerves subside.

PROPHECY

As in 1 Cor 12: this gift is the ability to speak a Spirit-inspired message to a specific person or persons at a specific time (This is the only item in common between 1 Cor 12 and Rom 12.)

A gift of prophecy is a Spirit-inspired message given to a specific person to be delivered to a group or individual. Paul gives more information on prophecy in the (Corinthian) church in 1 Cor 14. Prophecy was a common phenomenon in the early church [e.g.’s Acts 2:17; 13:1; 21:10].

TELLING THE DIFFERENCE

Many people speak out that which they discern as prophecy.

Here’s good advice. — Wait! Weigh and discern what’s on your heart. Allow your spirit time to witness whether the knowledge in your heart is what the person wants for themselves or whether it came from God and it’s what He wants for them.

Some people desire to be a pastor, or a prophet, or an evangelist when God wants them to be something else.

PROPHECY does not always satisfy the desire of a person’s life. It reveals the mind of God and satisfies His heart in the release of that knowledge. It only satisfies the person when their desires are the same as God’s.



TO HEIGHTEN AND HELP THE PROPHETIC GIFT:

- Use anointed praise and worship. e.g. Elisha – 2 Kings 3:15 David / Saul – 1 Samuel 16:23
- Don't stop at your first prophecy. Use it to gain confidence and open the door into deeper ministry.
- If you are a singer, sing parts or all of the prophecy to blend the spiritual power of both the prophetic and musical gift.
- At home, blend worship, pray-reading, prophecy, tongues and interpretation to build your spirit man for actual ministry experiences.

HOW TO PROPHECY

- Prepare your inner man P.P.P.P.P. – Prior Preparation Prevents Poor Prophesying.
- Desire to prophesy. (1 Cor 12: 31, 1 Cor 14: 1-5)
- Commit yourself to prophesying. Note: Most people are wanting more definite promptings from God than His still small voice before they'll prophesy. Many feel like they're making it up unless there are strong emotions occurring at the time of prophecy. If someone were to hold a gun at somebody's head and say "prophecy or I'll shoot", the person would hastily prophesy even if they were making it up. i.e. place your-self in a position where you must do it.
- Most people who speak in tongues for the first time say the words "I just made it up". If you have prepared your heart i.e. praised, worshipped, confessed and repented of all known sin, and have come to God with clean hands and a pure heart (Psalm 24) with the express intention of releasing the creative rhema words of God from your heart through your mouth, then it is most likely that you will prophesy by the Spirit of God out of your redeemed spirit.
- Find your starting point. Look to God during the time you're waiting on Him in order to obtain the vision, picture, impression or concept so that you have the starting point for the prophecy.
- Choose the right time for the prophecy. Make sure it fits in with the flow of the meeting and that it's not cutting across the way the leader is leading the meeting.
- Always submit prophecies to the leader of the meeting. Once you've delivered it your responsibility is finished.
- If possible, don't stop at your first prophecy. Often times the first prophecy is the one that starts the prophetic gift flowing within you and may seem a little shallow or halting in its delivery. Look again to God for the next prophecy or the next revelation so that you can get into your momentum and so that God can have a free flowing channel to work through.

"PROPHECY IS CONDITIONAL"

Read Joshua 1: 1-9 Make a list of promises made by God to Joshua. Indicate which verse they are found in.

Make a list of conditions which God required of Joshua in order for the promises to be realised.

Read Deut 28: 1. Why do you think God sets conditions in order for prophecy to be fulfilled?

Which conditions that God set for Joshua do you think apply to you in order for prophecies about you to come to pass?

Notes adapted from MTI notes and <http://www.abu.nb.ca/courses/NTIntro/Spirit7.htm#S323>





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