

Miraculous Spiritual Gifts

Importance of Spiritual Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:1

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

- Paul didn't want the Corinthians ignorant about spiritual gifts, and neither should we be.

1 Corinthians 12:31

But covet earnestly the best gifts:

- Paul told us to desire the best gifts

1 Corinthians 14:1

Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts,

- Spiritual gifts are to be desired.

Ephesians 4:8

Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

- Jesus Christ gave gifts to men after His triumphant resurrection.

Gifts of the Spirit

1. It must be realized that fruit and gifts are not the same.
2. The Spirit's fruit is a singular set of graces that identify obedient disciples (Galatians 5:22-23).
3. Fruit is dependent on walking in the Spirit.
4. Gifts are many with a varied distribution among men.
5. Gifts are dependent on the Spirit's will alone (1 Corinthians 12:11).
6. All saints should have the Spirit's fruit.
7. Only some saints receive only some gifts.
8. The division between miraculous gifts and ordinary gifts must be understood.
9. Miraculous gifts were special abilities to perform work above natural ability or laws.
10. Ordinary gifts use God-given natural ability to perform God's work.

<u>Miraculous Gifts</u>	<u>Ordinary Gifts</u>
Prophecy	Teaching
Miracles	Giving
Discerning of spirits	Helping
Healing	Ruling
Knowledge	Mercy
Tongues	Exhortation

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Miraculous Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:8-11

⁸ For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; ⁹ To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; ¹⁰ To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another *divers* kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: ¹¹ But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

Ordinary Gifts

Romans 12:6-8

⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, *let us prophesy* according to the proportion of faith; ⁷ Or ministry, *let us wait on our ministering*: or he that teacheth, on teaching; ⁸ Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, *let him do it with simplicity*; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

2. The miraculous gifts can be further subdivided into the revelatory gifts and the sign gifts.
3. Revelatory gifts provide Divine revelation prior to the completion on the Scriptures.
4. Sign gifts were given to confirm the apostles and their witness of Christ's resurrection.

<u>Revelatory Gifts</u>	<u>Sign Gifts</u>
Word of Wisdom	Cast out devils
Word of Knowledge	Speak in tongues
Prophecy	Take up serpents
Discerning of spirits	Drink deadly things
Apostleship	Heal the sick

5. The ordinary gifts may be either official gifts or unofficial gifts.
6. Official gifts are God-given natural abilities used in the official work of a God-ordained office.
7. Unofficial gifts are God-given natural abilities generally used informally among the saints.

<u>Official Gifts</u>	<u>Unofficial Gifts</u>
Teaching of a bishop	Exhortation
Ruling of a bishop	Giving
Ruling of a deacon	Mercy
Helping of a deacon	Helping

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Summary of the different gifts

1. Miraculous revelatory gifts: those supernatural abilities given by God to reveal His Mind before the completion of Scripture.
2. Miraculous sign gifts: those supernatural abilities given by God to perform wonders in order to confirm the validity of the apostles' message.
3. Ordinary official gifts: those natural abilities given by God to enable men to perform the work required in His appointed offices in the church.
4. Ordinary unofficial gifts: those natural abilities given by God to enable members of Christ's churches to serve one another in informal capacities.

	Supernatural Ability	Office Required	Apostolic Relationship	Needed After 70 AD
Miraculous Revelatory	YES	NO	YES	NO
Miraculous Sign	YES	NO	YES	NO
Ordinary Official	NO	YES	NO	YES
Ordinary Unofficial	NO	NO	NO	YES

Miraculous Revelatory Gifts

1. Moses was given what to say to Pharaoh (Exodus 4:10-12).
2. Solomon was given wisdom (1 Kings 4:29).
3. Jesus told His disciples not to prepare an answer when on trial, for they would be given one (Matthew 10:17-20; Luke 21:13-15).
4. Peter preached on Pentecost with wisdom and knowledge he lacked before (Acts 2:14-40).
5. Stephen testified with wisdom that could not be resisted (Acts 6:9-10).
6. James used wisdom to lead the Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15:13-21).
7. Paul had great knowledge of God's mystery in Christ for the Gentiles (Ephesians 3:1-12).
8. The Inspiration of Scripture occurred by a great revelatory gift (1 Peter 1:21).

Miraculous Sign Gifts

Mark 16:17-20

¹⁷ And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. ¹⁹ So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. ²⁰ And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

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Romans 15:18-19

¹⁸ For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed, ¹⁹ Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.

1 Corinthians 14:22

²² Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not

Examples of Miraculous Sign Gifts

1. Moses took up serpents and healed leprosy to confirm his message to Israel and Pharaoh (Exodus 4:1-9).
2. Elijah called fire down from heaven to confirm his message to Israel (1 Kings 18:36-39).
3. Jesus did many miracles and appealed to them as proof of His ministry (Matthew 11:4-5; John 14:31; Acts 2:22).
4. Many believed on Pentecost out of wonder at hearing the words of God in their languages from Galileans (Acts 2:6-12).
5. The Samaritans believed Philip when they saw the miracles which he did (Acts 8:5-8).
6. Peter's rising of Aeneas and Dorcas from the dead caused many to believe (Acts 9:32-34).
7. Paul's deliverance from a viper changed men's opinions concerning him (Acts 28:1-6).

Purpose of Miraculous Sign Gifts

1. They were needed to reveal God's will for the reformation from the Old Testament to the New Testament form of worship before the New Testament Scriptures were completed.
2. They were needed to confirm the radical message of Christ's resurrection and the new mode of worship that was preached by unlearned men with no reputation in foreign nations.
3. They were needed to authenticate the apostles as the true servants of God to stubborn, sign-seeking Jews (Exodus 4:1-9; 1 Corinthians 1:22).
4. They were performed only by apostles themselves or by those directly associated with their ministries.

Scriptures Regarding the Miraculous Sign Gifts Worked by the Apostles

1. Matthew 10:1 And when he had called unto *him* his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.
2. Matthew 28:16-20 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. ¹⁷ And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. ¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of

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the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

3. Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.
4. Acts 2:43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.
5. Acts 5:12 And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch.
6. 2 Corinthians 12:12 Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.
7. Hebrews 2:3-4 ³ How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; ⁴ God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

Did Miraculous Gifts Cease?

1. Remember to distinguish between miraculous gifts and ordinary gifts.
2. Ordinary gifts, both official and unofficial, are still in force and used today. But these are not the subject of this study.
3. Remember to distinguish between revelatory gifts and sign gifts. Though both are miraculous in nature, they have differing purposes.
4. Are miraculous gifts, either revelatory or sign, still needed according to their purposes?

The End of Sign Gifts

1. Confirmation of the apostles' message.
 - 1.1. Sign gifts were to confirm the apostles and their message of the risen Lord Jesus Christ.
 - 1.2. These gifts followed the apostles exactly as Jesus Christ had said they would (Mark 16:14-20; Acts 4:33; Romans 15:18-19).
 - 1.3. Only apostles and those under their ministries performed miracles (2 Corinthians 12:12; Hebrews 2:2-3).
 - 1.4. Once their word was finally recorded in Scripture, the need for confirming signs ended (2 Peter 1:19-21).
 - 1.5. Since sign gifts were primarily for the Jews (1 Corinthians 1:22), after 70 AD their primary purpose ended.
 - 1.6. After describing the apostles, the Scriptures are silent as to any promise, or instruction for miraculous gifts.
2. Cessation of these gifts foretold.
 - 2.1. Tongues, a sign gift, would end (1 Corinthians 13:8). "Whether there be tongues, they shall cease."
 - 2.2. Sign gifts were for a forty year period (Micah 7:15-16). "According to the days of thy coming out of the land of Egypt will I shew unto him marvelous things. The nations shall see and be confounded at all their might."

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- 2.3. The signs in Egypt were marvelous things (Psalm 78:11-12).
- 2.4. The signs in Egypt lasted forty years (Acts 7:36).
- 2.5. From Christ's first miracle (30 AD) to the end of Jerusalem (70 AD) was forty years.
3. Indications of the ending of these gifts.
 - 3.1. Paul described mighty signs and wonders in the past tense (Hebrews 2:2-3).
"Which at the first began to be spoken by the LORD, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will."
 - 3.2. Paul near his death (67 AD) could not heal Epaphroditus (Philippians 2:25-27) nor Trophimus (2 Timothy 4:20), and he recommended wine for Timothy's frequent infirmities (1 Timothy 5:23). Why didn't he mail him a handkerchief (Acts 19:11-12)?
 - 3.3. Second generation ministers were not instructed at all regarding sign gifts in the three pastoral epistles (1 Timothy 3:15; Titus 2:15).
 - 3.4. There is no historical evidence of sign gifts continuing beyond the apostolic period. The modern phenomenon is of very recent origin (1886). It has few if any legitimate signs and wonders.

The End of Revelatory Gifts

1. The purpose and nature of the revelatory gifts.
 - 1.1. Revelatory gifts were to provide Divine revelation of God's mind until the Scriptures were complete.
 - 1.2. The individual revelatory gifts were partial as in partial knowledge and partial prophecy (1 Corinthians 13:9).
 - 1.3. The finished Scriptures are more sure than any miraculous revelatory gift (2 Peter 1:16-21).
 - 1.4. The completed Scriptures are fully sufficient for ministerial perfection (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
 - 1.5. The completed Scriptures are called the perfect law of liberty (James 1:25).
2. The ending of the revelatory gifts foretold.
 - 2.1. Paul told us that they would end (1 Corinthians 13:8). "Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away."
 - 2.2. Prophecy in this context is the gift of prophecy just as knowledge is the gift of knowledge (1 Corinthians 13:1-3; 12:8-11). Paul is not saying that knowledge in general will vanish away.
 - 2.3. These gifts of prophecy, wisdom, and knowledge were incomplete, partial and imperfect (1 Corinthians 13:9). "For we know in part, and we prophesy in part."
 - 2.4. Consider the joint effort to teach (1 Corinthians 14:29-31). "Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge. If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace. For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted."

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- 2.5. These partial revelatory gifts would vanish away when perfect prophecy and knowledge would come (1 Corinthians 13:10). “But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.”
- 2.6. The perfect law of liberty inspired by God and more sure that His voice from heaven has already come (James 1:25; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:16-21). Therefore, the partial gifts have been taken away.
- 2.7. Ministers now study the written word in order to teach (1 Timothy 4:13; 2 Timothy 2:15; 4:2).

The Danger of Gifts

1. Dubious examples of gifts.
 - 1.1. Pharaoh’s magicians did miracles to resist Moses (Exodus 7:8-13).
 - 1.2. Many in hell will claim to have done miracles (Matthew 7:21-23).
 - 1.3. Judas performed many miracles (Matthew 10:1-5).
 - 1.4. The Corinthian church was the most charismatic and gifted church, but it was also arguably the weakest and most carnal of the churches (1 Corinthians 1:4-7).
 - 1.5. The Man of Sin works miracles and signs and wonders (2 Thessalonians 2:1-10).
 - 1.6. The Ephesians tried men who were false apostles (Revelation 2:2).
 - 1.7. The Beast will come working miracles (Revelation 13:11-14).
2. Warnings concerning gifts.
 - 2.1. Paul feared for the Corinthians (2 Corinthians 11:1-4).
 - 2.1.1. Satan’s subtlety put them at risk.
 - 2.1.2. Satan’s ministers preach another Jesus.
 - 2.1.3. Satan sends another spirit.
 - 2.1.4. Satan promotes another gospel.
 - 2.1.5. The Corinthians’ weakness made them very vulnerable.
 - 2.2. Paul knew Satan’s deceptive tactics (2 Corinthians 11:13-15).
 - 2.2.1. Satan’s ministers look like apostles.
 - 2.2.2. Satan’s ministers look like minister of righteousness.
 - 2.3. Paul prophesied of seducing spirits (1 Timothy 4:1).
 - 2.3.1. It was a warning for the latter times.
 - 2.3.2. Seducing spirits would bring doctrine of devils.
 - 2.4. John warned against false spirits (1 John 4:1).
 - 2.4.1. We cannot believe every spirit.
 - 2.4.2. Many false prophets are in the world.
 - 2.5. Charismatics, like the brethren at Corinth, can be rebellious and ignorant due to their experiences (1 Corinthians 14:36-38).
 - 2.5.1. They thought themselves special because of their gifts.
 - 2.5.2. Paul left the rebellious in ignorance.
3. The importance of God’s warning in Deuteronomy 13:1-5.
 - 3.1. ¹ If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, ² And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; ³ Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye

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love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. ⁴ Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him. ⁵ And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn *you* away from the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the LORD thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee.

- 3.2. The warning assumes false signs and wonders.
- 3.3. Yet the sign or wonder comes to pass.
- 3.4. God allowed the sign to prove His people.
- 3.5. Signs are to be measured by the doctrine that they testify to.
- 3.6. God and His commandments are to be followed.
- 3.7. The false minister was to be put to death.

God's Safety

1. Signs are proven by doctrine (Deuteronomy 13:1-5).
 - 1.1. False spirits bring false doctrine (1 Timothy 4:1).
 - 1.2. False spirits bring another gospel (2 Corinthians 11:4).
2. Spirits are to be tried (1 John 4:1-6).
 - 2.1. They must confess the true Jesus Christ.
 - 2.2. False spirits live and speak of the world.
 - 2.3. False spirits are received by the world.
 - 2.4. They must be apostolic in faith and practice.
3. Scripture is better than any gift (2 Peter 1:16-21).
 - 3.1. Peter describes his encounter with God's voice from heaven.
 - 3.2. Peter states that Scripture is more sure than his experience.
4. Scripture is the Judge.
 - 4.1. Any error and deviation from the truth should be hated (Psalm 119:128).
 - 4.2. Any contradiction of the truth shows darkness (Isaiah 8:20).
 - 4.3. Dreams are no substitute for the Word of God (Jeremiah 23:28-29).
 - 4.4. Honorable men search the Scriptures to prove things (Acts 17:11).
 - 4.5. All things should be proven (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

What are Tongues?

Tongues are always a definite language of mankind (Acts 2:4-11; 10:46; 11:15-17; 1 Corinthians 14:21).

1. **Tongue.** The speech or language of a people of race.
2. God confounded the languages or tongues of men at Babel (Genesis 10:5; 11:1-9).
3. Foreign tongues are not understood (Deuteronomy 28:49).
4. Example: a letter written in the Syrian tongue (Ezra 4:7).
5. Daniel was taught the Chaldean tongue (Daniel 1:4).
6. Paul once spoke in the Hebrew tongue (Acts 22:2).
7. Jesus spoke to Paul in the Hebrew tongue (Acts 26:14).
8. In heaven there are those of every tongue (Revelation 5:9).

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9. Names vary in different tongues (Revelation 9:11).
10. Jesus said His apostles would speak with “new” tongues (Mark 16:17).
11. Paul talks about “divers” tongues (1 Corinthians 12:10).
12. Paul also called them “diversities” of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:20).
13. “Unknown” tongues are foreign languages unknown to the hearers (1 Corinthians 14:6-13).
14. Tongues “of angels” is Paul’s illustrative hyperbole (1 Corinthians 13:1-3).
15. Tongues are a sign (Mark 16:17), but gibberish is proof of madness (1 Corinthians 14:23).
16. Tongues was the discretionary ability given by God to speak a foreign language.
17. Tongues are the least gift given to the church (1 Corinthians 12:28).
18. Tongues as gibberish are spoken by epileptics and those possessed by devils.
19. Tongues as languages are spoken by devil possessed pagans.
20. Tongues are the most popular gift of Charismatics because ...
 - 20.1. They can be easily faked by anyone at anytime.
 - 20.2. They do not have the risks associated with snakes and poison.
 - 20.3. Like Pharaoh’s magicians, real miracles are missing.
 - 20.4. They give a person a real “experience” in the physical realm.
21. Tongues as spoken today have been repeatedly shown in most cases to be gibberish by linguistic experts.

Apostolic Rules for Tongues

1. Since foreign languages not known by the hearers were not edifying, teaching was to be emphasized (1 Corinthians 14:1-26, 39).
2. Tongues were a sign to unbelievers rather than a thrill or comfort for believers (1 Corinthians 14:21-22).
3. Tongues were limited to three speakers at a service, and they could only speak one at a time (1 Corinthians 14:27).
4. There had to be an interpreter present for tongues to ever be used (1 Corinthians 14:28).
5. Only some were ever to speak in tongues (1 Corinthians 12:30).
6. The best gifts were to be coveted over tongues (1 Corinthians 12:28-31).
7. Women could never speak in the assembly (1 Corinthians 14:34-35).
8. These rules were for all churches (1 Corinthians 14:33).

What About Tongues?

- Even Biblical tongues were the least gift.
- Biblical tongues have ceased.
- Modern “tongues” are not Biblical tongues.
- Modern “tongues” cannot be of God.
- Modern “tongues” can be faked.
- Modern “tongues” can be the result of a temporary psychosis created by natural influences.
- Modern “tongues” can be the result of demonic activity to deceive.
- Modern “tongues” can be the judgment of God upon those seeking an experience contrary to Scripture.

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What About Mark 16:17?

¹⁷ And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

1. This promise was to the apostles (16:4).
2. The apostles fulfilled this promise (16:20).
3. Why do Charismatics avoid snakes (16:18)?
4. Why do Charismatics avoid poison (16:18)?
5. This promise was fulfilled 2000 years ago.
6. Using this promise for today is wrong.

What About Acts 2:17?

¹⁷ And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

1. This is a quote from Joel 2:28-32.
2. The future tense “shall” was future to the prophet Joel.
3. Peter said that Pentecost fulfilled the prophecy (2:16).
4. This prophecy was fulfilled 2000 years ago.
5. Using this passage for today is wrong.

What About James 5:14-15?

¹⁴ Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: ¹⁵ And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

1. This was written to sign-seeking Jews by an apostle before 70 AD (1:1).
2. Anointing with oil was a sign gift of the apostles (Mark 6:7-13).
3. Anointing with oil did not assist the cure but rather identified the miracle.
4. Paul did not recommend this to Timothy or other sick ministers (1 Timothy 5:23).
5. We may pray for the sick, even for supernatural healing, but we should not seek instantaneous healing in the way of a sign and wonder.
6. Such miraculous healing has not existed for 2000 years.

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What is the Greatest Gift?

1 Corinthians 12:28-31

²⁸ And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. ²⁹ *Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?* ³⁰ *Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?* ³¹ But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

1. Love is superior to any sign gift (13:1).
2. Love is superior to any revelatory gift (13:2).
3. Love is superior to any giving (13:3).
4. Love endures where all gifts fail (13:8).
5. Love is better than faith and hope (13:13).