

### I. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

- A. God gives us spiritual gifts so that we can be *enriched* with His grace to speak and minister God's truth to others. Utterance and knowledge, which are enriched by Jesus in 1 Cor. 1:5, 7 is a summary of the list of the different gifts of the Holy Spirit in 1 Cor. 12.

***1 Cor. 1:5, 7 that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge... <sup>7</sup> so that you come short in no gift (charisma), eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ (cf. 1 Cor. 13:8-12).***

- B. Spiritual gifts are in operation until the Second Coming of Jesus, when He is revealed, when we come face to face with Him (1 Cor. 1:7; 13:8-12).

Some people think that the gifts were only meant to be authentication of the Apostles until the New Testament was written or the church was established. We actually uphold spiritual gifts *because we value the Bible as our authority*. And the church still needs to be built up today (Acts 21:9; 17:11)

- C. The gifts are given to *all* believers who have received the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:7, 11; 14:26). The role of the pastor and other 5-fold ministries is to equip believers so that they can minister to one another (Eph. 4:11-16). Jesus desires that His body be built up.

***Eph. 4:11-16 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ...***

***<sup>15</sup> but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head -- Christ -- <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.***

***1 Cor. 12:25 that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another.***

- D. The New Testament Church was birthed with the gift of speaking in tongues (Acts 2:1-4). And they all spoke in tongues. The normal Biblical pattern is: repentance, faith, baptism in water, baptism in the Holy Spirit –usually evidenced by speaking in tongues or prophesying (Acts 2; Acts 10:44-48; Acts 19:1-7).

- E. Speaking in tongues is one of the signs that the Kingdom of God is expanding, and the Great Commission is being fulfilled (Matt 28).

***Mark 16:15-17 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. <sup>16</sup> He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. <sup>17</sup> And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues.***

## II. HOW DO WE SEEK AND RECEIVE THE GIFT OF SPIRITUAL LANGUAGE?

- A. Be open to the Lord. Come to Him on *His* terms. Different people receive in different ways.  
***1 Cor. 12:11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.***
- B. God sometimes gives a sovereign outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2). Suddenly.
- C. See it in the Bible, believe it, and just start doing it, with a childlike heart of faith.  
***Luke 11:13 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"***
- D. By impartation, through the anointing of the Holy Spirit and strong presence of God for breakthrough. Impartation from elders (Acts 19:6; Rom. 1:11; 1 Tim. 4:14)  
***Acts 19:6 And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.***  
***1 Tim. 4:14 Do not neglect the gift ("Charisma" – spiritual gift) that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.***
- E. Actively (not passively) pursuing the fullness of Christ. It can happen to people who don't want it, but those are exceptions. With eager expectation and desire. The believers waited expectantly on the Lord. (Acts 1:4, 14; 1 Cor. 12:31; 1 Cor. 14:1).  
***1 Cor. 14:1 Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.***  
  1. "Open but cautious" does not work. We are commanded to eagerly desire spiritual gifts.
  2. *You* have to act and speak. He gives you the utterance, but *you* need to speak it.  
***Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.***  
***1 Cor 14:15 ..I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.***
- F. Being convinced that God desires for you to be blessed. (1 Cor. 14:5, 18). Understanding God's heart for us to experience the fullness of Christ. Meditate on God's Word. Repent of unbelief.  
***I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied... (1 Cor. 14:5).***  
***Luke 11:13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!***
- G. Pursuing the fullness of Christ. Are you willing to be stretched? Are you willing to passionately pursue *God's measure* for your life?  
***Eph. 3:19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.***  
***Eph. 4:3 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.***