

Spiritual Gifts, Part 3 – Miracles, Prophecy

Sermon File Type	Sermon
Passages	1 Corinthians 12:7–10
Topics	Spiritual Gifts, Faith, Healings
Tags	Miracles, Discerning of Spirits, Prophecy
Date	06/22/2014

NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH
Sermon: Spiritual Gifts, Part 3 – Miracles, Prophecy
Scripture Text: 1 Corinthians 12:7–10
06/22/2014

Quote: Stop focusing on how stressed you are and remember how blessed you are.

1 Corinthians 12:7–10 (NKJV) ⁷ But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of *all*: ⁸ for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, ¹⁰ 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.

We have covered briefly:

- 1. The Word of Wisdom**
- 2. The Word of Knowledge**
- 3. Faith**
- 4. Gifts of Healings**

Today we will look at three more Spiritual gifts mentioned in *1 Corinthians 12:10* gift of Miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits

Gift of MIRACLES

The term "Miracle" has become diluted over the years. I have seen it applied to the unexpected event, like passing a test or even achieving a difficult goal. In the 1980 winter Olympics at Lake Placid, New York, the unexpected victory of the U.S. hockey team won over the heavily favored Russians, this has been called down through the years "the Miracle on Ice."

These common applications of the term are not to be confused by Spiritual Miracles. To me a Spiritual Miracle is the working of a divine act that is contrary to nature, normal progression and involvement of activities or events. Be sure to know that God can use acts of nature that can be described as miracles. When acts of nature are performed on command by a messenger of God, that timing is contrary to nature and can qualify as a miracle.

Example: *James 5:17–18 (NKJV) ¹⁷ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. ¹⁸ And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.*

Every unexplained act we don't understand is not a Miracle.

Miracles is another "Sign Gift". I believe it is also a temporary gift used primarily in the first century of the church. This is not to say that God does not perform miracles today but it was reserved for His messengers to authenticate Christ, the message or other messenger such as the Apostles and Prophets.

Example: The first miracle performed by Jesus was turning water into wine. He did not do so to liven up the reception but to authenticate His glory.

John 2:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.

As with all the "signed Gifts", they were given to cause others to believe God, Christ, messengers, message. The OT was more about God, but the New Covenant was about Jesus Christ. The Gospel had to be authenticated and a sign gift was one of the ways to do so.

Teaching from authenticated messengers (Apostles, Prophets and Evangelist) was the initial method used. Later when the scriptures (the New Testament) became more and more available the need for signed gifts became less and less.

The Gospel was spread by word of mouth

Acts 2:22 (NKJV) ²² "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—

When the gospel was written not all of Jesus Miracles were in them, but enough for the reader to believe. This is where salvation becomes by faith to believe (*Ephesians 2:8*) not seeing to believe

2 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV) ⁷ For we walk by faith, not by sight.

Every miracle in our lives is a blessing but every blessing may not be a miracle.

Last thought, don't get caught up in looking for signs, miracles and wonders. They are not to replace faith. In fact, that will be a chief method the anti-Christ will use to deceive many.

Matthew 24:24 (NKJV) ²⁴ For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

Gift of PROPHECY - speaking forth or proclaiming publicly God's truth, revelation and message to others, mainly the church.

1 Samuel 19:20–21 (NKJV) ²⁰ Then Saul sent messengers to take David. And when they saw the group of prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as leader over them, the Spirit of God came upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied. ²¹ And when Saul was told, he sent other messengers, and they prophesied likewise. Then Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they prophesied also.

This Spiritual gift was more widely dispersed than many of the other gifts. It was found among the Apostles, Prophets, Evangelist, Kings (Saul, David in the Psalms) deacons and others. I have said that prophecy is a gift I have praying for. I want to hear from God the message He has for His children (you). I hear God in His written word and in my spirit. In the OT the message from

God was heard primarily through the prophets. First century Christians and NT believers heard through Apostles, Prophets, Evangelist and Pastor/teachers. Today it is heard primarily through Pastor/teachers and Evangelist but much is available to all believers through His word , the Bible.

1 Corinthians 14:3 (NKJV) ³ But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.

It is in God's word that we find these things. We study to better understand them. As a Pastor/teacher it is my job to edify, exhort and comfort with the word of and from God.

I want more and more of that gift and I seek to have it.

1 Corinthians 14:1 (NKJV) ¹ Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.

Gift of DISCERNING OF SPIRITS

The gift of discerning spirits is the ability to determine whether or not a message, person, or event is truly from God. -

Examples:

Acts 5:3 (NKJV) ³ But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?"

Slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination. (*Acts 16:16–18*)

1 John 4:1–3 (NKJV) ¹ 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. ² By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, ³ and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

Discern - to recognize or identify something or someone using a gift from the Holy Spirit that goes beyond the senses.

At some time, we all have experiences a knowing that was other than what was being presented. We said something like, " I know what they are trying to do". "they can't fool me; I see right thru them or their plans"

This applies to secular things but the Holy Spirit gives us a gift to discern spiritual things. This gift it is to discern spirits.

Early in our series on the Holy Spirit we discussed that there are other spirits around us. Too often we focus on the person that we think are doing us wrong, but it may very well be an evil spirit working within them. The devil wants us to focus on the person not his evil agent.

The church needs to be able to identify the spirits among them. Evil spirits do come into the church to disrupt and to destroy. The Holy Spirit gives to the church the gift of discerning spirit(s). (notice the "s").

We don't know much about all the different types of spirits. They are often well hidden. Some we come in contact with often are a lying spirit, an evil spirit, a deceiving spirit, a false spirit (false teachers), a greedy spirit and others.

Some believers are gifted to discern these spirits for the protection of the church. It is not a hunch or suspicion but a spiritual knowing.

I have come in contact with such spirits and If I don't know the person, I distance myself from them. If they are in the church, I try to stand firm and solid on the word of God showing them through scripture the truth. John's advise is for us to test the spirits.

1 John 4:1 (NLT)¹ Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world.

In closing as we continue through the Spiritual Gifts, I believe that each and every believer receives more than one Spiritual gift. All Spiritual Gifts are not at the same level but everyone we have can be grown if used.

If there is one you would like to have and don't feel you do, I believe you can ask for it. No matter how small you think your gift may be, use what you have. God will add to it.

END

The Discerning of Spirits (Excerpts from Bible Knowledge .com)

This next gift is one that is really needed in the dangerous and perilous times that we are now living in.

The first thing to notice about this gift is that the "s" in the word "spirits" is with a small "s." This means that it is not referring to the Holy Spirit. The only other spirits that are out there that this gift is referring to are the following three kinds of spirits:

1. **Demonic spirits**
2. **God's angels**
3. **Human spirits**

What happens in this gift is that the Holy Spirit will give you supernatural discernment, insight, and knowledge involving these three kinds of spirits. Many of the times, this gift will be used to fully expose what is really going on and operating behind the scenes with someone. Here is how this gift will come into play with each one of these kinds of spirits.

A) Demonic Spirits – with demonic spirits still being allowed to roam in the air and interact with us to some degree in this life, we really need this gift in full operation today just to handle this one type of bad evil spirit.

As you know, many times demons can literally enter into a person's body if they have the appropriate legal rights to be able to do so.

Acts 5:3 (NKJV) ³ But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?"

Luke 22:3 (NKJV) ³ Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve.

But once they are in someone's body, they will then try and hide and not show themselves.

They know if they get caught and exposed on the inside of that person's body, they risk that person either finding Jesus if they are not saved yet, or if it is a Christian, that this person will then seek out a deliverance from another believer.

Since some demons are very good at hiding on the inside of someone once they enter in, God needs to activate this gift through some of His own so they can detect when a demon is on the inside of someone and expose its presence.

<http://www.bible-knowledge.com/the-discerning-of-spirits/>