

I Corinthians 14: 1-12 Spiritual Gifts Abused 6/8/2025

READ TEXT: 1 Corinthians 14: 1-12

INTRO: So what is chapter 14 mainly about? One gift that can make you look super-spiritual-Tongues.

Why did Paul say what he did in 12: 27-30? Because pride and self-centeredness took over. He is expecting a “No” answer. It is really sad, because they so needed words understandable to edify the whole church. Even some who had a gift prophecy may not develop it because they are so lusting for a sign gift.

Remember this; the New Testament was not established yet, so all these “revelational” gifts were needed and all were corrected, or verified, if needed by the apostles. The Apostles are not here now so how are we to know the truth? The written New Testament; the gift of Apostleship still with us in written form. Today we accept no revelation unless it is in the New Testament! Most all churches agree with that. Receiving fresh revelation apart from the New Testament is how cults get started. I Cor. 4:6/ 11 John 1:8-11/ 111 John 9-10

Text: I Corinthians 14: 1-12

Will use the paper, “**Spiritual Gifts**” for today’s teaching.

Will look at APOSTLES, PROPHECY, PASTOR- TEACHERS, TEACHERS from your notes today.
Page 1 and then skip to page 3 then 4.

NOTES:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper appears to be a standard notebook page.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

I Cor. 12-14 Use and abuse of gifts.

Other text on gifts: I Peter 4:10 2 basic categories

Eph. 4:11-12 gifted men in leadership roles

Rom. 12:3-8 general (use) of gifts

The ministries of the Holy Spirit came to the entire church at the day of Pentecost (Acts 1-2). The Baptism of the Holy Spirit took place upon the believers gathered there, and gifts of service from the Holy Spirit became evident.

APOSTLESHIP:

This word has a general and limited meaning. It means one who is sent with a message; that's the general meaning. The limited use of the term refer only to the twelve disciples and perhaps Paul and Barnabus (Acts 14:14). They were the leaders who laid the foundation of the church and were accredited by special signs. (Eph. 2:20, Heb. 2:3-4).

PROPHECY:

This word also has a general and limited meaning. In a general sense it means to preach. To speak a message from God. But the gifts of prophecy includes receiving a message directly from God through special revelation, being guided in declaring it, and having it verified by God himself in some convincing way. The content may include telling future events, but also included revelation from God concerning the present. (Check Acts 11:27-28, 13:1, 21:9).

I Cor. 14)

MIRACLES: HEALING:

The ability to perform special signs. (Acts 19:11-12) Healing seems to be a specific category within the larger gift of miracles. Paul was not able to use the gift of healing in the case of Timothy and Epaphroditus (I Tim. 5:23, Phil 2:27) Remember all things are subject to God's will. Paul himself had enough faith to be healed, but it was clearly not God's will for him. (II Cor. 12:1-10)

An example of the gift of miracles which is not a case of physical healing was the blindness brought down on Elymas. (Acts 13:11)

Distinction should be made between miracles and healings and the gift of miracles and healings. The spiritual gift is the God-given ability to perform miracles and healings for the purpose of serving Him. Miracles and healings can take place apart from the exercise of the gift by one individual. (Acts 4:31, 9:40)

Consequently, then, it does not follow that if one considers the gifts of miracles and healings as temporary (used for verifying the oral word of God before the New Testament was completed) that he is also saying that God does not perform miracles and healings today. The miracle of living epistles is the proper accreditation of the message of the Gospel today. (Check B. B. Warfield, "Counterfeit Miracles")

MINISTERING:

Ministering means serving (helping). This is a basic gift that probably all have and can use for the Lord's glory.

TEACHING:

Teaching is the God given ability to explain the harmony and the detail of God's revelation. Sometimes given alone (Rom. 12:7). Sometimes coupled with the gift of pastoring (Eph. 4:11) It is more obvious in the case of the gift of teaching that this is a gift that can be developed and trained. If Peter had the gift it is clear that he had to study Paul's writings before he could explain them to others. (II Peter 3:16)

FAITH:

Faith is the God given ability to believe God's power to supply specific need. Every man has been given a measure of faith (Rom. 12:3), but not everyone has been given the gift of faith.

EXHORTATION:

This gift involves encouraging, comforting, and admonishing people. Note that this is distinct from the gift of teaching. Teaching may or may not involve exhortation, and exhortation may not involve teaching.

DISCERNING SPIRITS:

The ability to distinguish between true and false sources of supernatural revelation when it is being given in oral form. It was a very necessary gift before the Word was written, for there were those who claimed to bring revelation from God who were not true prophets.

SHOWING MERCY:

This is akin to the gift of ministering, for it involves comforting those who are sick and afflicted.

GIVING:

The gift of giving concerns distributing one's own money to others. It is to be done with simplicity, with no thought of return or reward for self in any way.

ADMINISTRATION:

This is the ability to rule in the church.

HOW DO I FIND MY GIFT???????????

1. Know what the gifts are. (Romans 12, I Cor. 12, Ephesians 4)
2. What do you think you do best?
3. What do others think you do best?
4. What do you like to do?
5. Be willing to try and see.
6. Develop and use your gifts for maximum benefit to the Body of Christ.

TONGUES:

Tongues are the God given ability to speak in another language you have not learned by men. In Acts 2 it is clearly foreign languages; people heard in their native tongues. Also as Peter talks to Cornelius he states that the same thing happens there as happened at Pentecost concerning tongues. All through Acts we see tongues as a foreign language only. (Acts 10: 46, 11:15)

When some read I Cor. 14:2 in the King James Version and sees "unknown", they assume that it means a different kind of gift of tongues from that in Acts. This word, "unknown" is not in the Greek. There is no reason that the meaning of the gift has changed. Consider the people at Pentecost now back in their own countries. Of course only God understands them as they use this gift, everyone is speaking one language in a particular church. The gift still has benefit in serving the church when the gift of interpretation is there also. In any case, the gift was being abused by the carnal Corinthians, and Paul was required to lay down restrictions.

It was to be used only for edifying, only by two or three in a single meeting and only if an interpreter was present, and never in preference to prophecy. The gift of tongues were given as a sign to unbelievers. (I Cor. 14:21-22)

If the need for the sign ceased, then of course the gift would no longer need to be given.

When you speak in tongues you do not understand the words that are coming out of your mouth. The Holy Spirit uses the mouth of the person to speak His words. It is not the man's own thoughts but the direct words of God. It is direct revelation from God on the same plain as the book of Romans or John. This would mean that the New Testament is not closed if this gift is for today.

It's primary use was a sign to unbelievers, it's secondary use was to edify the church through interpretation which since God is speaking directly through the person it serves revelation purposes similar to prophecy, and the third use is for private devotion (I Cor. 14:28), the person is stimulated even though they do not understand what they say. However this is a prostituting of the gift when it is not used for edification. (I Cor. 14)

Some groups connect the use of tongues with the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. I Cor. 12:13 makes this impossible. To be a believer at all you must be baptized with the Holy Spirit. If all will speak in tongues that have the Baptism of the Holy Spirit then I Cor. 12:28-30 is nonsense. Paul is expecting a negative answer to these questions.

TONGUES:

Discovering Your Spiritual Gift

THE CURRENT PHENOMENA:

Nature:

Not a genuine language/has been shown by linguistic experts to make no sense within itself. Many repeated phrases, yet the interpretations make no reference to the extreme repetitions.

Purpose:

A badge of spirituality.

Recipients:

Those who humble themselves, plead with God for it.

The truly spiritual.

The New Testament Phenomena:

Nature:

A real language. A gift of speaking. (Acts 2:8)

Purpose:

In order to startle the Jews to get their attention. A sign to unbelievers.

Recipients:

I Cor. 12:11,29 not everybody, and not by merit, but as God decides. They are "gifts" that are unearned and undeserved.

Great caution must be exercised if you feel that the gift is for today, because it is not only Christians who use static speech. Pagans of the past and present used tongues. Plato: Oracles of Delphi, Hinduism, Buddhism, Moslems, the old Greek mystery religions all use tongues to experience a form of religious ecstasy. In the first century the Apostles were there to verify the messages given in tongues. With the completion of the New Testament the need for the gift has ceased.

EVANGELISM:

This is a gift of proclaiming the Gospel in an understandable way to one's current generation. They train believers to do it and do it themselves. While we all bring people to the Lord (Matt. 28), these gifted people are especially used of God to do it.

PASTOR-TEACHER:

The word "pastor" means to shepherd; therefore, the gift involves leading, providing and caring for, and protecting the portion of the flock of God committed to one's care. In Eph. 4:11 teaching is linked with pastoring. One could have the gift of teaching without being a pastor but is impossible to be a pastor without the gift of teaching. It would be like protecting the sheep from an attack from a wolf while letting the sheep starve to death. Feeding the sheep is teaching the Word of God. In Acts 20:28 ruling the flock is added. The terms "elder", "bishop", and "pastor" are all used of the same leaders in the Ephesian church. (Acts 20:17,28) Evangelist, Pastors, both has prophecy in general sense. (Check pg. 1 "Prophecy")

PERMANENT GIFTS AND TEMPORARY GIFTS

Some believe all the gifts are for today and others do not.

There is no argument, from either camp, that around the end of the first century the sign gifts ceased.

With the completing of the New Testament the need for those gifts ceased. We still enjoy the gift of Apostleship and Prophecy every time we read the New Testament. No one today has the gift of Apostleship and even those who believe that all gifts are for today exclude this one. They do try to say that the gift of Prophecy is for today. If they mean in the general sense as mentioned above we agree, but if they mean that a person is getting fresh revelation from God in addition to the New Testament, then I say no.

Benny Hinn said that God revealed to him that women once gave birth out of their sides. He claims that this was direct revelation from God. You probably remember Oral Roberts and his 900-ft. tall vision of Christ, the threat that he would die if 8 million were not given that he would find a cure for cancer. These are just two emotionally powerful men who bring people away from serious study of the written Word, to following them; waiting for their next revelation from God. The history of these men and others has proven the revelations false and brought false doctrine to the church.

Some of my more cautious friends say that because the gift is abused does not mean it does not exist, in its full sense, and that they received no prophecy from God unless it can be seen in the Scriptures.

If that is true then where is the element of prophecy in its full sense? What revelation was given if it is already contained in the New Testament? The New Testament contains the complete revelation from God and nothing is to be added to it. (I Cor. 4:6, Jude 3, Rev. 22:18-19)

These sign gifts were withdrawn because they had served their purpose of verifying the work of God in establishing the New Covenant and its message through the Apostles. (II Cor. 12:12, Heb. 2:3-4, Eph. 2:20)

Be cautious of revelation that is not in the New Testament. (II Tim. 4:3, Col. 2:18)

My friends agree that the sign gifts ceased but that in these "end days" they are being restored to those serious believers who really believe in the power of God. This view does damage to the very nature of spiritual gifts. They are "gifts" (charisma), which means they are undeserved. Gifts are not the marks of the super spiritual. Gifts are given sovereignty as the Holy Spirit wills and not as we will it to be. (I Cor. 12:11) I Cor. 1:7 the Corinthians were immoral, divisive, prideful, and immature yet they had all the gifts! Paul could not compliment them on marks of maturity (growing in Faith, Hope, Love) as he did the Ephesians (Eph. 1:15,16,18) or the Colossians (Col. 1:3-6) or the people at Thessalonika (I Thess. 1:2-3, II Thess. 1:3-4) Also it is clear that the end days begin with Pentecost as Joel 2 makes fulfillment. (Acts 2)

God answers prayer and continues to heal and do miraculous things. To insist that He must do them at the same level for every generation is wrong. In the Scripture we see three clusters of miracles. When Moses led the children of Israel to the Promised Land a great many miracles occurred to verify an important event of showing Israel as the people of God. Secondly, when Israel had reached an all-time low by following false gods it was necessary to do many miracles through Elijah and Elisha. Thirdly, after 400 silent years of no signs or prophecy the days of Jesus and the Apostles were witnessed to

by many miracles. Heb. 2:3-4 makes it clear that the Apostles were able to do many miraculous things that those after them could not. Note the pronouns. **THEIR PLURAL**

The men that pastored the churches after the apostles died, and had known the apostles write of the unique ability of the Apostles in contradistinction to themselves or to others of the Apostolic period. It is a favorite pressure tactic of faith healers to say that if you believe in the supernatural power of God then you must believe in His power to heal in the case at hand. This is simply not true. God does not have to use His power to prove that He possesses it.

There is nothing in the list of temporary gifts that is needed today since we have the completed New Testament.

TEMPORARY GIFTS:

Apostleship

Prophecy (knowledge) (in the limited sense)

Discerning spirits

Tongues

Interpretation of tongues

Miracles (as a gift by one individual)

Healing (as a gift by one individual)

PERMANENT GIFTS:

(The record of church history is that these gifts have never ceased)

Teaching

Pastor-teacher

Ministering (helping, showing mercy)

Administration (ruling)

Evangelism

Exhortation

Giving

Faith