



# The Spirit and His Gifts

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# The Spirit's Gifts: Three Questions

- What are the gifts? Why are they given?
- What about the 'supernatural' gifts?
  - Pentecostal, Charismatic, Cessationist positions
- How do we grow in the gifts?

# The Spirit's Gifts: What and Why

- What: Special expressions of Jesus' ministry

# The Spirit's Gifts: What and Why

- Therefore it says, 'When He ascended on high, He led captive a host of captives,' and he **gave gifts to men**. (Ephesians 4:8 quoting Psalm 68:18 *sort of*)
- You have ascended on high, You have led captive Your captives; You have **received gifts among men** (Psalm 68:18)

# The Spirit's Gifts: What and Why

- Psalm 68: David brings the ark to Jerusalem; God enthroned as king of Israel, *receives gifts*



# The Spirit's Gifts: What and Why

- Jesus ascending into heaven; enthroned as king of the world, *gives gifts*



# The Spirit's Gifts: What and Why

- Therefore it says, 'When He ascended on high, He led captive a host of captives,' and he **gave gifts to men**. (Ephesians 4:8)
- You have ascended on high, You have led captive Your captives; You have **received gifts among men** (Psalm 68:18)
- Jesus gives gifts rather than receives gifts (or taxes!), unlike any other king, and even surpasses the enthronement of God in Jerusalem

# The Spirit's Gifts: What and Why

- Why:
  - To demonstrate Jesus' lordship
  - To link Jesus' individual body to his corporate body
  - To empower us in his mission
  - To reflect the diverse nature of God's goodness

“Life is not like a pool but like a tree. It does not move towards unity but away from it and the creatures grow further apart as they increase in perfection. Good, as it ripens, becomes continually more different not only from evil but from other good.”

-- C.S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce*, preface



# The Spirit's Gifts: What and Why

- Four passages in the New Testament
  - 1 Corinthians 12:1 – 14:40
  - Romans 12:3 – 8
  - Ephesians 4:7 – 13
  - 1 Peter 4:10 – 11

# The Spirit's Gifts: What and Why

- Placement suggests importance
  - Theology & mission (Rom.1:18 – 11:31; Eph.1:1 – 3:21)
  - Humility (Rom.12:1 – 3; Eph.4:1 – 6)
  - Spiritual gifts (Rom.12:4 – 8; Eph.4:7 – 13)

# The Spirit's Gifts: What and Why

## Romans 12:6 – 8

- Prophecy
- Serving
- Teaching
- Exhorting
- Giving
- Leading
- Mercy

## 1 Corinthians 12:8 – 10

- Word of wisdom
- Word of knowledge
- Faith
- Gifts of healings
- Miracles
- Prophecy
- Discernment
- Tongues
- Interpretation

## 1 Corinthians 12:28

- Apostle
- Prophet
- Teacher
- Miracles
- Gifts of healings
- Helps
- Administration
- Tongues

## Ephesians 4:11

- Apostle
- Prophet
- Evangelist
- Pastor-Teacher

## 1 Peter 4:11

- Whoever speaks
- Whoever renders service

# The Spirit's Gifts: What and Why

## Speaking Gifts:

- Apostle
- Prophecy
- Evangelism
- Pastoring-teaching
- Miracles (healing?)
- Exhorting/Encouraging
- Word of wisdom
- Word of knowledge
- Faith
- Discernment
- Leading
- Tongues
- Interpretation of Tongues

## Serving Gifts:

- Healing (miracles?)
- Helps
- Administration (leading?)
- Giving
- Mercy

# The Spirit's Gifts: Are All Still Given?

- Pentecostal
- Cessationist
- Charismatic

# The Spirit's Gifts: Are All Still Given?

Recall from *Holy Spirit: Introduction* that different emphases / theologies will tend towards different church cultures

*From what does Jesus save us? Can these emphases be integrated?*

- |                              |                        |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| • Wrath of God / Forgiveness | Protestant Ev          |
| • Devil / Deliverance        | Pentecostals           |
| • Corruption / Healing       | Orthodox &<br>Catholic |

# The Spirit's Gifts: Are All Still Given?

- Pentecostal
  - 'Jesus told his disciples to cast out demons, heal the sick, and preach the gospel': Matthew 11, Luke 9, 10
  - 'We pray for the Holy Spirit to move with signs and wonders': Acts 2:1 – 13, 10:46, 19:1 – 7
  - 'Speaking in tongues is the gateway to more of the Spirit, and is part of spiritual warfare, so every Christian ought to speak in tongues':
    - Tongues of men and of angels: 1 Corinthians 13:1
    - The Spirit's groaning: Romans 8:26 – 27
    - At conversion: Acts 2:1 – 13; 10:46; 19:1 – 7

# The Spirit's Gifts: Are All Still Given?

- Cessationist
  - 'God can still do the miracles without bestowing the gift, because there is too much irregularity to call it a gift'
  - 'Until the perfect comes' (1 Corinthians 13:8 – 10) refers to miraculous gifts [healing, prophecy, tongues] lasting until the New Testament was canonized
  - 'Miracles cluster around major prophets' like Moses, Elijah, Jesus
  - 'The foundation of the apostles and prophets' is unrepeated: Ephesians 2:19 – 22 and 4:7 – 16



# The Spirit's Gifts: Are All Still Given?

- Charismatic
  - No gift is given to every person (1 Cor.12:28 – 30)
    - Three examples in the Acts narrative of tongues (Acts 2:1 – 13, 10:46, 19:1 – 7) are not enough to make an absolute pattern
  - ‘Until the perfect comes’ refers to the resurrection, not the New Testament (1 Cor.13:1 – 13) so the Spirit is still active and giving gifts
  - ‘Apostles’ are unrepeated (1 Cor.15:1 – 11) but ‘prophets’ are found in Acts (e.g. Acts 21)
  - The Spirit’s gifts do not come with a guarantee of ‘success’ (e.g. evangelism, teaching) so healing could still be a gift

# The Spirit's Gifts: How Do We Grow?

- Desire them, pray for them
- Practice
- Receive feedback

# The Spirit's Gifts: How Do We Grow?

- Desire them, pray for them
  - <sup>14:1</sup> Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy
- Practice
  - <sup>29</sup> Let two or three prophets speak...
- Receive feedback
  - <sup>29</sup> and let the others pass judgment... <sup>31</sup> For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all may be exhorted... <sup>40</sup> But all things must be done properly and in an orderly manner.

# The Spirit's Gifts: How Do We Grow?

- Two examples
  - Giving (Romans 12:8)
  - Prophecy (Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 14; Ephesians 4:11)

# Developing the Gift of Giving

The image shows a YouTube video player interface. At the top left is the YouTube logo. The video content is a still image with a parchment-like background and the following text: "We're committing to giving at least \$41,000 as a group, possibly up to \$55,000, to sponsor a village and drill wells where water is scarce". Below the video is a progress bar showing 0:22 / 6:09. The video title is "Lazarus at the Gate Final.mov". The channel name is "amosamos" with 9 videos. There is a "Subscribe" button and a notification bell icon with the number "1". The view count is "195 views" and there are 1 like and 0 dislikes.

You Tube

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0:22 / 6:09

Lazarus at the Gate Final.mov

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1 0

# Developing the Gift of Prophecy

