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We are going to look at spiritual gifts. We are going to look at the word that has been used in this passage. It is the Greek word 'Charisma'. To understand this, we need to look at how we formed this word and how do you relate to other words for the same meaning and also how does Paul use the word. Because we have to know how a person uses a particular word in order to understand it and also how it compares with other words. There is a lot of misunderstanding with this word. Some say, once you have got charisma you have got this gift it must be supernatural, it must be spectacular, it must be miraculous and so therefore if you don't have it then you are less than what God want you to have.

Assumptions:

One of the more famous theologians called Dunn actually promotes this that actually the word comes from 'Charis' which is basically grace. So grace is a noun. So *Charisma* is bits of grace. So therefore if that's the case then this *Charisma* would be an event of grace means so when God touches you with some grace this is an event. So therefore it is sporadic, it is not permanent, it comes on just like for example I think someone is going to get a pay rise tomorrow. So it comes as act of grace. It comes all of a sudden. So it is a short-term of spiritual activity. So this gives the idea that there is never persons' human abilities or talents at all.

Max Turner has written a very good book on Holy Spirit and he actually trace back the word and the word actually comes from *Charizomai* which actually is a verb. A verb meaning to give. So giving but giving generously, graciously, without anything in return. So if we take it from a verb that means the gift is actually the noun of this verb. Because it is just a gift which is given to you undeservedly so the result is a noun, it is a gift but it is no longer an event. That is very important. So therefore you can move away from this sudden sporadic burst of activity from the spirit.

Let's look at the relationship to other gifts. We look at the other words for gift in the New Testament. We have got *Charisma, Doma, Doron, Dorea*. *Charisma* is a word for gift with an emphasis on its underserved nature that somebody gives you graciously. So if you use *charisma*, it means someone is giving you something you really don't deserve at all. That's the emphasis there. Then you look at *charisma* does not just mean spiritual gifts.

Romans 5:15-16 (ESV) But the free gift (*charisma*) is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift (*Dcrea*) by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. 16 And the free gift (*Dorema*) is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift (*charisma*) following many trespasses brought justification.

So therefore here you see if you use charisma, charismatic gift, it is no different than any other gift. It is just like salvation. So let's look the Paul's usage

Romans 11:28-31 (ESV) As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. **29** For the **gifts (charisma)** and the calling of God are irrevocable. **30** For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, **31** so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy.

These gifts are to the Jews, which is basically the eternal life, all the blessings under the Old Covenant, all these things are revocable. It doesn't necessarily mean your spiritual gifts like tongues. The only time Paul uses spiritual gift (*pneumatikon*) is actually in Romans 1:12 and this we think is some sort of teaching.

1 Corinthians 7:7 (ESV) I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own **gift (charisma)** from God, one of one kind and one of another.

Here the gift (charisma) is celibacy. So it is not momentarily celebrating for 10 minutes and after that not celebrating any more, it is a lifetime of celibacy. It is not fun, it is not exciting, it is not supernatural, in fact it is very lonely but it is a gift and he uses that gift.

Now there are varieties of **gifts (Charisma)**, but the same Spirit;
5 and there are varieties of **service (Diakonia)**, but the same Lord;
6 and there are varieties of **activities (Energema)**, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.

So here we see repetition, same spirit, same Lord, same God. Gifts *Charisma*, service *Diakonia*, activities *Energema*. They all talk about the same gifts but they talk in three different kind of words. So there is a diversity of words being used but they are talking about the same thing, all the gifts in chapter 12.

So therefore Paul is using all the different kinds of words, it is important. The charismatics in Corinth have got this idea, if only I got the spiritual gifts in terms of really ecstatic I can over the knowledge and then I am spiritual. Paul is saying, it doesn't matter. It is all these are gifts, service, activities but they are of same spirit, same Lord, same God who empowers all. That is important. So if you have some natural ability and the other person has got spiritual gift. They both are the same. They are both from God. So it doesn't matter if God gave it to you when you were 1-year-old or you got it when you were 30 years old. It doesn't matter it all. If you are starting to ask this question, it means something is wrong with you. Paul is telling you whatever it is, as long as it is God who empowers in everyone that is his point. So charisma cannot just mean supernatural manifestations of the spirit.

It doesn't matter what gift you have; what matters is the person behind the gift, whether you use the gift to glorify our Lord Jesus Christ. So if you have a motor bike and you fetch someone to church, to me that is very good use of the gift that God has given you. It doesn't have to supernatural that's the issue.

So whether it is inherited, talented, developed, whether non-Christians have talent and you have talent, it doesn't really matter. As long as you are used, the natural talent and spiritual gifts are all basically they actually overlap. Paul had a gift of writing, theological training. What God did is that He gave it to him when he was young. Got him brought up as a Pharisee, studied under Gamaliel but when he became a Christian the Holy Spirit used that gift and accentuated it and used it for the right thing rather than the wrong thing.

Some of you may have a natural ability to teach and when you become a Christian God will use that natural ability, enhance it with the power of Holy Spirit and then you will be able to teach. Paul is telling us that God can use your abilities and talents that were given to you as a gift from Him.

Exodus 31:1-5 (ESV) he Lord said to Moses, **2** "See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, **3** and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship, **4** to devise artistic designs, to work in gold, silver, and bronze, **5** in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, to work in every craft.

Here we see carpenter-ship as a spiritual gift. Samson also have a spiritual gift of strength.

Judges 14:6 (ESV) Then the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon him, and although he had nothing in his hand, he tore the lion in pieces as one tears a young goat. But he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done.

Samson's had the spirit come on him and give him power at that particular time. Samson met Delilah.

Judges 16:19 (ESV) She made him sleep on her knees. And she called a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Then she began to torment him, and his strength left him.

Somehow the Holy Spirit must have withdrawn that particular gift and then later on

Judges 16:28 (ESV) Then Samson called to the Lord and said, "O Lord God, please remember me and please strengthen me only this once, O God, that I may be avenged on the Philistines for my two eyes."

He got his strength back, he pulled and everybody died. So here is the situation where God had given him the strength, the spiritual gift is a **strength**.

What I am trying to do to you now, is to tell you that you can't put God in a box and say "*this only legitimate gift and everything else is unimportant*". This is wrong.

SPECIFIC GIFTS:

Wisdom Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:8 (ESV) For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit,

So here he is talking about being able to say very clever things.

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

Peter knew that Ananias came and lie to him, so that’s an example of a possible utterance of wisdom, but if you look back into the book itself how does Paul view wisdom and knowledge.

1 Corinthians 1:17 (ESV) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

Paul doesn’t like the word wisdom.

1 Corinthians 2:1 (ESV) And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom.

As far as Paul is concerned human wisdom is horrible. This cleverness to know is something that he actually looks down on.

1 Corinthians 8:1-2 (ESV) Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us **possess knowledge.**” This “**knowledge**” **puffs up**, but love builds up. 2 If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know

So here you have knowledge. So these people have knowledge. They go to the temple they simply eat whatever food because idols are nothing. This knowledge Paul says puffs up. So Paul’s idea of knowledge and wisdom is quite pejorative. He doesn’t quite like it. So how can you now ask him to have a gift of knowledge and wisdom. What kind of knowledge and wisdom you are talking about?

What is knowledge and wisdom in Paul’s eye?

1 Corinthians 2:1-2 (ESV) And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. 2 For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

Christ is the wisdom of God. Christ is the knowledge of God. The whole book, the first four chapters are about Christ crucified. All the Corinthians were too very clever. They want to run the church that way, but Paul says I only want to know Christ crucified. So basically the utterance of wisdom and to another utterance of knowledge is evaluating the realities in the light of God’s grace and the cross of Christ. So God-centered gospel wisdom. It is the knowledge based on the gospel.

Is it reflective or must it be spontaneous?

Some people say because it is a special gift it must be spontaneous, suddenly you got a word from God. So it doesn’t necessarily have to be, you could have reflected over this truth for a long period of time. There is no evidence that is spontaneous. There is absolutely no evidence for us to actually find out what it says, but we only got a little bit of clue here and there from the way Paul describes wisdom and knowledge.

Knowledge-Applied Theology

Ephesians 1:17-20 (ESV) That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, **18** having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, **19** and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might **20** that he worked in Christ

Now Paul is saying that I hope that you open your eyes and give you spirit of wisdom and revelation. It means may be the utterances is able to say this is what God says in this particular situation that he is so powerful, he is so great, our inheritance is so wonderful that we don't have to worry in this particular situation. He is actually taking what Christ is and how great he is and applying it to a particular situation that is a possibility.

Regarding food offered to idols. Worldly wisdom says eats as you like. Gospel wisdom, yes eat as you like unless it stumbles anyone. That's an example of spiritual wisdom versus worldly wisdom. Any mature Christian in the church may be given this as long as the wisdom is Gospel-Christ centered.

Gift of Faith:

Saving faith which is actually a gift from God, but Paul doesn't mean this here. He means a special faith to up build the body.

1. Encouragement

Romans 1:11-12 For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—
12 that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.

This faith builds up the body.

2. Example

Hebrews 12:1-2 (ESV) Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin ...

So basically we are having this kind of faith and we serve as an example to people to follow.

3. Discern Gods work

Acts 11:23-24 (ESV) When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose, **24** for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.

So here we actually have someone who has the gift of faith and people see his example and are encouraged. So that is a possible basically application of the special faith to build up the body.

Gifts of Healings:

There is a double plural here. It is not gift of healing. If it is a double plural it means there are various kinds of healings, which means it can be sudden, gradual, physical, psychosomatic, medication wise, all various types, and not only that it may not necessarily be permanently and at will because the stereotypical idea is that one guy has the gift. He has the gift of healing and he can heal at will. The word gifts is basically plural, so there are of many kinds and not permanently, which means they comes at a particular period of time. It will just come now and it goes away, sometimes you can heal, sometimes you cannot heal.

So we have got this miracle problem with miracle services are that they assume you have the gift of healing. That means you and you alone can heal. It comes and you don't know when the healing comes, it is gifts of healing. So this idea of someone being able to do it all the time is a little bit difficult.

Pentecostal Position

1. On cross Jesus carried our sickness as well as our sin. They always use this verse

Isaiah 53:4 (ESV) Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

Matthew 8:17 (ESV) This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "He took our illnesses and bore our diseases."

So based on that there is healing in the atonement is a very famous phrase.

2. In second Adam we enter the reverse of the fall...sickness.... so the reverse is health.
3. Jesus and apostles did much healing and this is task of church ...John 14 :12

John 14:12 (ESV) Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.

4. People need to see evidence of healing to assist belief of gospel. Modus operandi of the gospel is healing.

Trevor Martin a Pentecostal writer writes, "*Healing is modus operandi of the Kingdom. Gods' ordained means of confirming his heralds message of the kingdom is healing. It is the only confirmation service known in the bible.*"

5. God's known will I for man's well-being healing.

John Wimber writes, "*Today we see hundreds of people healed every month in the Vineyard Christian Fellowship services. Many more are healed as we pray for them in hospitals, on the streets and in homes. The blind see; the lame walk; the deaf hear. Cancer is disappearing*"

Now if that is true that would be absolutely wonderful. The reality is Paul himself had a disease it was not healed. Asked God for healing three times didn't work. He tells Timothy to use wine for his stomach. He left Trophimus sick in Miletus and he went somewhere else. He left his friend sick, couldn't heal him. Epaphroditus was sick almost to the point of death.

Himself John Wimber admitted Down syndrome. In Down syndrome 1 out of 200 have slight improvement after prayer. 3-8% of blind people are healed in John Wimber's church. So they did a study in 1986 at Wimber's Harrogate conference. 867 people are prayed for.

- 42% no improvement at all.
- 26% fair improvement.
- 32% high measure of healing.

So the reality is whatever the atonement is even you are forgiven of your sins healing is not your automatic right, it cannot be your automatic right.

The atonement was for sin and that was it. We are guilty for sin not sickness hence the atonement was for sin

Isaiah 53:4-5 (ESV) Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. **5** But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

Christ pierced for our transgressions and our sin, not for actual healing of the physical illness. The world was perfect, Adam and Eve sinned and then the whole world went off and then when the sin is reversed slowly the world come back on, physical healing come back. We see bits of it now but the final day is something that will in the future. So that's how it works.

Romans 8:20-23 (ESV) For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope **21** that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. **22** For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. **23** And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

So Paul is telling us there is a period of time when we actually are saved and there is a period of time that will elapse until one day we are in full glory and when that time of full glory comes then the whole creation will be in full glory. Right now creation is groaning which means it is suffering, our bodies are groaning as well. So therefore you cannot have complete healing. So you got this tension of the kingdom of God that has been inaugurated and the kingdom of God which is consummated and you actually have the already and not yet. So you actually have bits of God's kingdom right now, you experience it. You actually experience eternal life right now, but the full measure of experience will be when he comes again. So therefore when anybody tells you there is no such thing as healing, on the other side they are blind. Because when the kingdom is inaugurated you are starting to see bits and bits of change and that change will be multiplied in the end but the bits that you see, the miracles that you see right now are foretaste of what is to come. So we are not to say there are no

miracles. We are not to say there is no healing. There is, but you cannot control it and the bits are only a foretaste of what is to come.

So the over-realized eschatology idea is that they are saying we are healed now, we are in heaven now and that is not right. So creation is still fallen. So God is sovereign, he heals as He wills. It glorifies God if we say it be your will, you don't force God to have continue series of miracles to prove that your church is spiritual.

The gifts that you have are a means to an end. The end is that the church is built up and that the gospel is preached. So if in the process of preaching the gospel and you happen to pray for someone you accept the Christ or does whatever and he gets healed that is okay but the gospel goes first.

Temptation showing of

- It is not for everyone
- Showing off
- Heal without means more better than with means
- Special property of oil or hands laying
- Danger of playing God assuring some will be healed when in fact they will die
- Danger of believing the suffering is not part of Gods working

In John chapter 15, Jesus is the true vine, God is the vine dresser. What happens if you are fruitful, God chops and prune. So the more fruitful you are the more He will come and prune. Pruning is suffering, so don't think that suffering doesn't play a part in Christian growth. Suffering plays an integral part of Christian growth. Because of our nature we cannot grow unless we suffer. So the danger believing in suffering is not part of God's working. So we ignore the blessing of suffering.

1 Corinthians 12:26 (ESV) If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

It is part of our corporate experience in a church. So we need to understand that we can call to endure suffering or to receive healing, either one is in God.

Miracles:

So it is workings of miracles both plural it means it is not on one person, he does all the miracles all the time, it comes when God wills it. There are different sets of miracles that happen at each time. Miracles happen in various times of history, often during times of great persecution. We will see God produce great miracles. There are some churches that had so many miracles in the past, but now they are no more miracles. It doesn't mean that God doesn't love you anymore. We cannot control miracles, only God can do that. You can pray to be faithful and pray that God will use you to spread the gospel.

APOSTLES:

There are two kinds of apostles, there is one which is the 12. The word apostolos is sent ones. They are the ones who are the 12 uniquely that who are witnesses to Christ death and resurrection. They laid foundation of the church 12 of them with Paul, Barnabas and James. There are no longer any of

these apostles anymore. The foundation is closed. What they talking about is church planters, sent to plant churches, will teach and preach, setting up churches. Epaphroditus is called an apostolos

2-Corinthians 8:23 As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker for your benefit. And as for our brothers, they are messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ.

Which means if you want to apply the word apostle, the most generous to tell is that they are messengers to plant churches if that gift is still with us, I am not sure.

There is a new movement called the International Coalition of Apostolic Leaders. They are trying to revive the apostles.

An apostle is defined by ICAL as a Christian leader gifted, taught, commissioned, and sent by God with the authority to establish the foundational government of a church or business within an assigned sphere by hearing what the Holy Spirit is saying and one who sets things in order accordingly for the growth and maturity of the group or complex of groups (churches or businesses).

HELPS

- Helping those in need
- Helpful deeds
- Administrative support.

Acts 6:6-7 (ESV) These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. 7 And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

This is also a spiritual gift. People look down on it.

Administration:

The word is actually for a pilot of a ship. So basically you are leader, you lead people. So you are pilot or leader or elder or boat member or any leader of any particular committee that is a spiritual gift. So all these are gifts. Some are flashy, some are ordinary, but Paul is saying services, gifts, workings same spirit. So therefore when you stand up there and you have the spiritual gift of helps or teaching or preaching, there is no difference.

1 Corinthians 12:22-24 (ESV) On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, 24 which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it,

So the people who actually administer, who lead and do all those of quiet non-fleshy things, they should be given greater honor. The ones all the flashy one less honor. That's why I don't believe you should have a big stadium full of people and one fellow heal everybody that is totally against what I believe in and Paul if he was alive today would not want to have that. That's exactly the situation he wants to avoid. Because we are all one in the body.

TONGUES:

So tongues if you notice are at the bottom. Paul purposely puts them at the bottom, because they were so obsessed with tongues, purposely he puts it at the bottom. Now the early church fathers like Gregory of Nazianzus (c. 329–390), John Chrysostom, Augustine of Hippo all of them believed that the gift of tongues is a gift of foreign languages. That is the first 300 years of Christianity. John Calvin reformer believed that the gift of tongues are foreign languages.

Puritans like Jonathan Edwards, Charles Spurgeon, Charles Hodge, all of them believe that the gift of tongues are foreign languages. Charles Parham founder of the Pentecostal movement wrote.

“The Lord will give us the power of speech to talk to the people of the various nations without having to study them in schools.” Topeka State Journal, January 7, 1901

“A part of our labor will be to teach the church the uselessness of spending years of time preparing missionaries for work in foreign lands when all they have to do is ask God for power.”
Hawaiian Gazette, May 31, 1901:

So what he actually did is that he actually sent a whole bunch of missionaries to Japan, India, all sorts of places but they never had language training. You know why, we have the gift of tongues. They failed because God didn't give them the language.

William Samarin, a professor of university of Toronto linguistic. He actually published a book called Tongues of Men and Angels and he looked at analysis of tongues. He says

Glossolalia consists of strings of meaningless syllables made up of sounds taken from those familiar to the speaker and put together more or less haphazardly. The speaker controls the rhythm, volume, speed and inflection of his speech so that the sounds emerge as pseudolanguage—in the form of words and sentences

Glossolalia is language-like because the speaker unconsciously wants it to be language-like. Yet in spite of superficial similarities, glossolalia fundamentally is not language. (cited from Joe Nickell, Looking for a Miracle, 108)

So you look at people who use speaking in tongues, he audioed them, he videoed them and he said these are basically phrases used haphazardly but they don't constitute any known language.

Evidence for Foreign Language

Acts 2:4 (ESV) And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:6-8 (ESV) 6 And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. 7 And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?

So it is very obvious in acts chapter 2 it is language.

Is it language or it is the sound?

1 Corinthians 14:9-11 (ESV) So with yourselves, if with your tongue you utter speech that is not intelligible, how will anyone know what is said? For you will be speaking into the air. **10** There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning, **11** but if I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me.

1 Corinthians 14:21-22 (ESV) In the Law it is written, “By people of strange tongues and by the lips of foreigners will I speak to this people, and even then they will not listen to me, says the Lord.” **22** Thus tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for believers.

He is quoting Isaiah. In Isaiah the Assyrians came and took over the Northern Kingdom and suddenly you woke up the next morning, everybody is speaking in a different language, a foreign language.

Isaiah 28:11-12 (ESV) For by people of strange lips and with a foreign tongue the Lord will speak to this people,¹² to whom he has said,

So if Paul is now referring to Isaiah strange tongues, that is actually languages. So both in Acts chapter 2 and Acts chapter 14 the gift of tongues is about languages, you cannot run.

Same Sign

Both signs for unbelievers. Other evidences the same link to prophecy is in Acts 2 and 14, they use the same words for language, same source, same recipient.

So when Charles Parham started the Pentecostal Movement he believed it is biblical, Acts 2, Corinthians 14 it is different, languages but when he found out that he couldn't speak the languages, he couldn't go to a foreign country and not learn the language, there is something else that is coming out from your mouth then he must alter Bible to fit your experience is. Your experience must follow Bible; you cannot have Bible hollow your experience so therefore he interprets different tongues as tongues of angels. So that is the controversy today.