

# 1 Corinthians When Faith & Life Collide

Study 16

The Gospel and Spiritual Gifts Part 2

1 Corinthians 12:1-26

## A. Spiritual Knowledge vs Spiritual Wisdom

### 1 Corinthians 12:7-8 (NIV)

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8 To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit,

1. a) **Discussion Question. God gives a variety of gifts for the common good of many. According to the video lecture, what is the difference between the gift of “knowledge” and the gift of “wisdom” in verse 8?**

The knowledge in this case refers to Spiritual utterance of some revelatory kind like in Acts 5:3 where Peter received special knowledge/revelation about Ananias' lies about the offering. Wisdom refers to a kind of wisdom influenced by the gospel. For example 1 Cor 8:4 is said with worldly wisdom, but a wisdom influenced by gospel/Spirit's wisdom would sound like 1 Corinthians 8:13, where you can eat freely unless it stumbles someone, then you abstain.

## B. Faith, Healing, Miracles, Distinguishing Spirits, Apostleship, Tongues

### 1 Corinthians 12:9-10 (NIV)

to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.

2. a) **Discussion Question. Doesn't every believer have the faith? What does the gift of “faith” in verse 9 refer to?**

The gift of faith in verse 9 refers to the supernatural conviction that God will reveal his power or mercy in a special way in a specific instance. Example: faith that moves mountains in 1 Corinthians 13:2.

**b) Objective Question. Choose the right answer. The gift of healing refers to:**

- A. An ability to keep healing people
- B. The one incident of healing is itself a gift, per treatment is one gift.

**c) Discussion Question. What was the use of miraculous power back then according to the video lecture?**

The miraculous powers had the role of authenticating apostles like in Acts 19:11-12 (ESV) *“And God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, 12 so that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were carried away to the sick, and their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them.”*

**d) Discussion Question. According to the video lecture, what is the ability to distinguish between spirits?**

Testing of spirits is an evaluation, an investigation, testing, a weighing of the prophetic utterance; discerning, differentiating, or properly judging prophecies.

**e) Fill in the blanks. According to the video lecture, fill in the type of apostles mentioned in the bible.**

Types of apostles	Scripture	Differentiation
The Big “A” Apostles The Twelve + Paul	Acts 1:21-22 (NIV) Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, 22 beginning from John’s baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.”  1 Corinthians 15:8-9 (ESV) Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an	Been with Jesus, Witnesses of the resurrected Jesus, can write Scripture.

	apostle, because I persecuted the church of God	
Gift of apostleship	Barnabas, James the Lord's brother, Apollos, Silvanus, Titus, Epaproditus, Andronicus, Junias	Sent ones by Christ to plant new churches in Different territories

**f) Objective Question. According to the video lecture, does Dr. Peter believe in apostles today with a high level of authority (perhaps even as much authority as the Big "A" Apostles?)**

A. Yes

**B. No**

### **C. Special Honour**

#### **1 Corinthians 12:22-24 (NIV)**

On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, 24 while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it,

**3. Discussion Question. What is a practical thing we can do to make sure all the parts and gifts, especially the plain ones, are honored?**

#### **Takeaway**

**Every single gift given to us by God is by his Sovereign design, you can earnestly desire these gifts but the motive is to glorify God and to serve each other for the common good.**

## Case Study

### Case 1 – Gifts of Healing and Miracles

The Real Jesus Church promises that Jesus can do anything and will provide miracles of gift and healing as seen in some New Testament passages.

**1. a) Discussion question. Which Bible passages would you point to indicate that healing doesn't happen all the time even in the bible?**

Paul was not healed in 2 Cor 12

Paul tells Timothy to use wine for a stomach ailment in 1 Tim 5:23

Paul left Trophimus sick in Miletus 2 Tim 4:20

Epaphroditus sick Phil 2:27

**b) Reflection question. Recall and share any healing testimonies from people who have shared them, was there one where Down Syndrome was completely reversed and even the face and behaviour of the patient became completely normal?**

**c) Discussion question. How should we think and pray about healing?**

**d) Discussion question. A person who used to attend Real Jesus Church starts attending your life group and promotes healing rallies organised by the previous church to your group members. What would you do?**

### Case 2 – Gifts of Speaking in Tongues

Charis May came from a Pentecostal Church that practises speaking in tongues and even has training sessions to train people how to speak in tongues. She then changed to First Baptist Church.

**2. a) Discussion question. What exactly is speaking in tongues? (Refer to the supplementary reading below)**

Seems to be a different earthly language.

### **Supplementary Reading**

- Early church fathers like Gregory of Nazianzus (c. 329–390), John Chrysostom (c. 344–407), Augustine, and notable Christians like John Calvin (1509-1564), Puritans such as Jonathan Edwards, Charles Spurgeon, and Charles Hodge believe the tongues refer to languages.

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

**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. There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning, 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.

### **Case 2.1 – Gifts of Speaking in Tongues**

Charis started to speak in tongues in the form of Glossolalia during a prayer meeting at First Baptist Church.

One of the leaders pulled her aside after the prayer ended and said we don’t practice public speaking in tongues and asked her to refrain from doing so next round. Charis felt embarrassed and confused because that was what she had learned in her previous church for decades. She then got upset at the person and then the church for not being spiritual enough, and that her church was more open to the Holy Spirit because everyone there had the gift of tongues.

**b) Discussion question. What are the facts against Charis' statement that presupposes all Christians should have the gift of tongues? (Glossolalia explain in supplementary reading below but anyone in your group from a Charismatic background can share their experience and explanation)**

Gift of Tongue is not normative in the New Testament because it doesn't appear in many other conversions such as Acts 2 (3000 converts), Acts 4 (5000 converts), the Ethiopian Eunuch in Acts 8:27-40, Acts 8:14-17 Samaritans received Spirit.

**Supplementary Reading**

“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)”*

TONGUES IN THE New Testament		
Acts 2	Acts 10	Acts 19
Languages recognized by unbelievers	No mention of foreign languages recognized by unbelievers	No mention of foreign languages recognized by unbelievers
Evangelistic sign Message greatness of God	Not Evangelistic sign	Not Evangelistic sign

**c) Reflection question. Look at the appearance of tongues in the New Testament and discuss, what are some takeaways or thoughts you have on the gift of tongues?**

**GENERAL COMMENTS by Dr Peter Ng**

- Tongues have “a personal value for the individual”
- Tongues can become divisive
- Exclusivity for the “in” group
- Linked to the polarization of leaders
- Linked to Social status significance