

Keys to Understanding Spiritual Gifts

June 23, 2013

I. Five keywords in understanding gifts of the Spirit (1 Cor 12:1-7)

1 Now concerning spiritual **gifts**, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware. 2 You know that when you were pagans, you were led astray to the mute idols, however you were led. 3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed"; and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. 4 Now there are **varieties** of **gifts**, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are **varieties** of **ministries**, and the same Lord. 6 There are **varieties** of **effects**, but the same God who works all things in all persons. 7 But to each one is given the **manifestation** of the Spirit for the common good.

1. Varieties; Gk. = *diairesis*; (used three times in vs. 4-6) a distinction arising from a different distribution to different persons, (from Thayer's Greek Lexicon)
2. Gifts; Gk. = *charisma*; "a gift of grace, a gift involving grace" (charis) on the part of God as the donor, (from Vine's Expository Dictionary)
See also Rom 1:11; 12:6; 5:15-16; 6:23; 1 Tim 4:14; 2 Tim 1:6; 1 Pet 4:10.
3. Ministry; Gk. = *diakonia*; "the office and work of a diakonos" (deacon) (from Vine's Dictionary)
See also Acts 6:1, 4; 2 Cor 3:7-9; 5:18; 9:1; Eph 4:2.
4. Effects; Gk. = *energema*; a thing wrought; effect, operation: (from Thayer's Greek Lexicon)
We get our word energy from this word; it speaks of God's power and His workings.
5. Manifestation; Gk. = *phanerosis*; "a manifestation" an uncovering, laying bare, (from Vine's)

II. Summary of spiritual gifts:

We are to continuously be overflowing with the Spirit (Eph 5:18).

Eph 5:18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,

We all have gifts (1 Pet 4:10).

1 Peter 4:10 As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

We are to employ them (1 Pet 4:10).

We are to serve others with our gifts (1 Pet 4:10).

We are to desire to have them (1 Cor 12:31; 14:1).

1 Cor 12:31 But earnestly desire the greater gifts.

1 Cor 14:1 Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts,

We are to walk in love as we use them (1 Cor 12:31; 14:1).

Don't neglect them (1 Tim 4:14).

1 Tim 4:14 Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you,

We are to stir them up (2 Tim 1:6).

2 Tim 1:6 ...I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you...

On the day of judgment, we will give an account of how we used them.

Lk 19:11-27; parable of the minas.

Mat 25:14-30 parable of the talents

III. What Jesus said about His Spirit

The Spirit gives life (John 6:63).

John 6:63 "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing;

From the believer's innermost being living waters shall flow (John 7:38-39).

John 7:38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'"

The Spirit is the Helper; Comforter; abides with you (John 14:16-17).

John 14:16-17 I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

The Spirit will teach you; remind you what Jesus says (John 14:26).

John 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

He is the Spirit of truth; Helper; bears witness of Jesus (John 15:26).

John 15:26 "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me,

The Spirit is the Helper; convicts the world. It is to our advantage to have the Holy Spirit in our lives rather than the physical presence of Jesus (John 16:7-11).

John 16:7-11 But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. 8 "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; 11 and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

The Spirit guides us into the truth; will disclose to us what is to come (John 16:13-15).

John 16:13-15 But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.

Disclose = Gk. = *angello*; to announce; signifies to announce, report, bring back tidings.