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UNDERSTANDING THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT



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Teaching Document : The Gifts and Fruits of the Spirit

1. Executive Summary

This Teaching document synthesizes key themes and facts from the Bible on "The Gifts and Fruits of the Spirit" and "Unveiling Spiritual Gifts: Wisdom, Knowledge, and Discernment."

It outlines the nature, purpose, and function of spiritual gifts, emphasizing their divine origin and the importance of their proper application.

A central theme is the necessity of balancing spiritual gifts (symbolized by golden bells) with the fruit of the Spirit, particularly love (symbolized by pomegranates), for edification and spiritual maturity.

The document also provides detailed definitions and biblical examples of three specific "Revelation Gifts": the Word of Wisdom, the Word of Knowledge, and the Discerning of Spirits.

2. Understanding the Gifts of the Spirit

2.1 Divine Origin and Purpose: The advancement toward God is inherently "by the Spirit of God." The sources emphasize that spiritual gifts are not naturally acquired but divinely imparted. As stated in 1 Corinthians 12:3, "no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost," and 1 Corinthians 2:11 notes that "the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God." These gifts are diverse yet originate from "the same Spirit," "the same Lord," and "the same God" (1 Corinthians 12:4-6). Their primary objective is "given to every man to profit withal" (1 Corinthians 12:7), specifically for "edifying The Body" of Christ.

2.2 Classification of Gifts: The gifts of the Spirit are categorized into three main types, with nine specific manifestations:

- **Revelation Gifts:**
 - Word of Wisdom
 - Word of Knowledge
 - Discerning of Spirits

- **Vocal Gifts:**
 - Divers Kinds of Tongues
 - Interpretation of Tongues
 - Prophecy
- **Power Gifts:**
 - Faith
 - Healing
 - Miracles
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2.3 Nature of the Gifts:

- **Freely Given:** The gifts are a "freely given" inheritance to believers and should "Not [be] something that man charges for a price." This is supported by Matthew 10:8: "freely ye have received, freely give."
- **Spirit-Led Distribution:** The Holy Spirit, as the "Counselor and Guide," distributes these gifts "dividing to every man severally as he will" (1 Corinthians 12:11). Believers are encouraged to "desire spiritual gifts" and "covet earnestly the best gifts" (1 Corinthians 12:31, 14:1).
- **Sound-Related:** Many gifts, particularly the vocal and revelation gifts, are described as "sound related." The "golden bell" symbolism for gifts reinforces this, implying a "regulation of sound" for manifestation in the "mystery realm that transmitted God's sound."
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3. The Balance: Gifts and Fruits

3.1 The Priest's Robe Analogy: A crucial theme is the requirement to "balance out" the gifts and fruit of the Spirit, drawing an analogy from the Old Testament priests' robes.

- **Golden Bells (Gifts):** The "golden bell" symbolizes the gifts of the Spirit. Its "sound shall be heard when he goeth in unto the holy place before the LORD" (Exodus 28:35), signifying the outward manifestation and utility of the gifts.

- **Pomegranates (Fruit):** The "pomegranate" symbolizes the fruit of the Spirit, particularly love and a "renewed mind" that "goes in concert with the saving of the soul."

3.2 The Primacy of Love (Charity): While gifts are important, they are incomplete without love. The sources quote 1 Corinthians 13:1-2: "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. **(Or just a golden Bell without Pomegranate)**

And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing."

This highlights that gifts are **"in the part realm"** and will **"fail"** or **"cease"** (1 Corinthians 13:8-9), whereas "Charity never faileth." Gifts "Should Be Governed By Love" and a "cultivating the fruit of love that craves to be a help to people becomes the means by which a gift can start working and be governed by."

While gifts are an important part of the church to edify and build, They are short lived in light of the full plan of God. For the master plan of God is to bring His people into perfection.

1Co 13:9

For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

1Co 13:10

But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

Spiritual Growth and Maturity are to prevail in transitioning the church out of the part realm into the perfect realm of the Sons Of God.

4. Detailed Examination of Revelation Gifts

4.1 The Word of Wisdom:

- **Definition:** This gift is not gained through study or experience but is a supernatural impartation for the "application of knowledge" and "application of the Word of God in certain places in certain

circumstances of life." It is a "word," not "the word," signifying a specific, timely application.

- **Function:** It is "Needed For the operation of all the Other Gifts Of The Spirit" and "comes by Prayer" (James 1:5, Ephesians 1:17).
- **Biblical Example:** Jesus's perfect use of scripture to defeat the devil in temptation demonstrates this gift. Proverbs 25:11 describes it as "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver."
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4.2 The Word of Knowledge:

- **Definition:** This gift is "specific information given by the Holy Spirit concerning a specific need or problem." It is a "supernatural[] impart[ation of] comprehension of a current or past situation... that you would not otherwise know." This involves a "spirit knowing, a knowing in your spirit by the Spirit."
- **Biblical Examples: Peter's Word of Knowledge:** Peter supernaturally knew Ananias and Sapphira had lied about their offering (Acts 5:3-4), stating, "thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God."
- **Peter's Vision in Joppa:** Peter's vision of unclean animals and the subsequent instruction from the Spirit about three men seeking him (Acts 10:9-20) is an "impartation of knowledge" concerning a spiritual revelation.
- **Jesus and the Samaritan Woman:** Jesus revealed the Samaritan woman's past of having five husbands and her current partner not being her husband (John 4:16-19), leading her to perceive Him as a prophet.

4.3 The Discerning of Spirits:

- **Definition:** This gift "enables believers to distinguish between true and false spiritual influences." It allows individuals to "recognize whether a spirit or influence is from God, human nature, or demonic

forces." It is essential for "identifying false teachings and understanding the spiritual dynamics at play."

- **Importance: Spiritual Protection:** Helps believers "avoid deception" and "test the spirits" (1 John 4:1).
- **Moral Clarity:** Provides clarity in "moral decision-making," distinguishing "between good and evil."
- **Guidance in Ministry:** Vital for discerning the "authenticity of prophetic messages and the motivations behind actions and teachings."
- **How it Functions:** Individuals often have "a heightened sensitivity to the spiritual realm" and are encouraged to "actively test the spirits." This gift can be developed through "prayer, study of Scripture, and reliance on the Holy Spirit."
- **Biblical Examples: Peter Discerning Simon:** Peter perceived Simon's corrupt motive in attempting to purchase the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:18-21), stating, "thy heart is not right in the sight of God."
- **Paul's Discernment of a Demon Spirit:** Paul discerned and cast out a "spirit of divination" from a damsel who was proclaiming truth but under demonic influence (Acts 16:16-18).

EXTRA NOTE

5. Order vs, Hierarchy in the Church

the Bible clarifies "succession of Order" as it pertains to establishing the early church, not a hierarchal ranking mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:28 ("first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers..."). This is not an administrative hierarchy where the Apostle is "the top of the line minister," but rather a sequential order for "what's needed to start a new church."

- **Apostle:** The "first responder" or "sent one" who establishes the "foundational work of a new church."
- **Prophet:** Provides a "voice of guidance" and "divine direction" for the church's future intentions.

- **Teacher:** Builds on the foundation, ensuring the church "stay[s] on track by way of the pure word of God," serving as a means of "course correction by way of sound doctrine."

6. Conclusion

The spiritual gifts are divine empowerments distributed by the Holy Spirit for the edification of the church. However, their true effectiveness and spiritual integrity are only achieved when balanced with the "fruit of the Spirit," particularly love. The "Revelation Gifts" of wisdom, knowledge, and discernment provide supernatural insight crucial for navigating spiritual realities, making informed decisions, and protecting against deception. These gifts, along with all others, are freely given and should be earnestly desired and cultivated within a framework of love and selfless service.