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# **SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

**and**

***HOW TO RECEIVE THEM***

**For Teachers - Instructors**

**For Spirit-Filled Christians**

**W. V. GRANT**

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**TEXT BOOK ON SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

# SPIRITUAL GIFTS

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and

## HOW TO RECEIVE THEM

For Teachers - Instructors  
For Spirit-Filled Christians

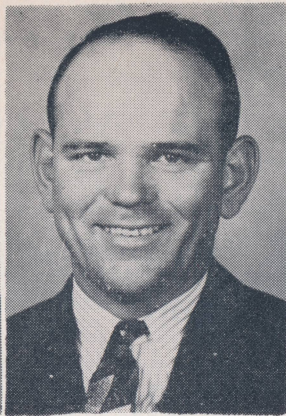
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By  
**W. V. GRANT**

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Hetta Case  
Russellville, Ark.  
*Stretcher case healed*

Harold Garrett  
Ft. Smith, Ark.  
*Healed of broken neck*

J. M. Roy  
Flushing, Mich.  
*Lung created*



Elsie Keas  
Hot Springs, Ark.  
*Two cancers disappear*

Duncan George  
Wheatley, Ont.  
*Discards brace*

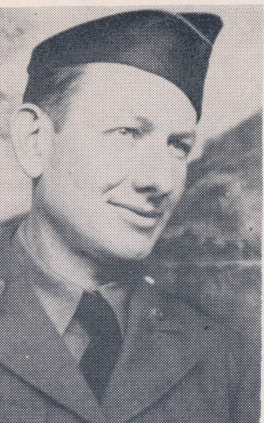
Mrs. Bonna Sybly  
Fresno, Calif.  
*Cancers drop off*



J. D. Weatherington  
Malvern, Ark.  
*Total blind eye, normal*

Ruthie Caludrovich  
Baton Rouge, La.  
*Cancers disappear*

Mickey Haley  
Joplin, Mo.  
*Blind eye healed*



Milton Sherrill  
Waldron, Ark.  
*Ear drum created*



Mrs. Lee  
Russellville, Ark.  
*Cancer leaves*



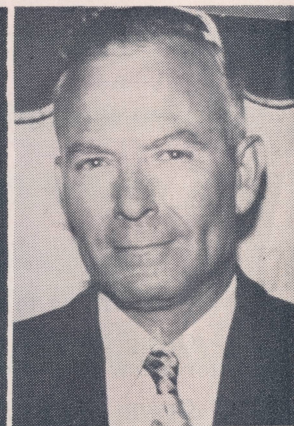
Mrs. Earl Massey  
Hot Springs, Ark.  
*Paralyzed eye, normal*



Larry Shurloff  
Seattle, Wash.  
*Discards brace*



Mrs. Jeffery  
Waldron, Ark.  
*Walks first time in 18 years Incurable, discards oxygen tent*



Jack Still  
Port Arthur, Texas



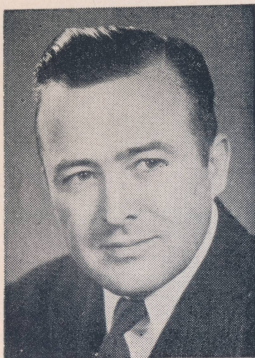
Mr. Carrier  
Oakland, Calif.  
*Discarded brace*



Mrs. Burnett  
Dover, Ark.  
*Total blind eye, normal*



Mrs. C. F. Timberlake  
Pittsburg, Kansas  
*Blind eye healed*



W. V. GRANT

## DEDICATION

To all Christians who long to do something for their Master; To all who think the gifts are only for a few; To those bound by traditional creed; To preachers, teachers, instructors; To whosoever is willing to consecrate himself to God.

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## FOREWORD

I am writing to two groups of people:

Group Number One believes that the Spiritual gifts are for a few privileged people with talents, education, position.

Group Number Two knows the gifts are for all Spirit-filled Christians; but they have a feeling the gifts are in a far-away distance space hard to reach. For you I am setting this book forth in simple everyday language as though I were in your living room talking with you.

There is a third group who says, in the face of all reason and Scripture, that these gifts passed away in some far-away, sad past. To this group I am not writing. We do not have to debate facts, or whether God told the truth.

I take it for granted the reader is honest enough to believe God's simple Word and apply himself as a channel for God's Spirit.

There are many born-again Christians of various denominations, whom I know and love, who at this time of World-wide revival are reaching out for more of God. God touch their hearts by this book!

## CHAPTER I

# THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

“For to one is GIVEN BY THE SPIRIT the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge BY THE SAME SPIRIT; to another faith BY THE SAME SPIRIT; to another gifts of healing BY THE SAME SPIRIT; to another working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kind of tongues. But all these worketh that one and THE SELF SAME SPIRIT . . . (1 Cor. 12:8-11).

Since the gifts are in the Church, and have never been taken out, (Psa. 100:5) the responsibility rests on us to be concerned about something that “turned the world upside down” and filled Jerusalem with the doctrine of the resurrection.

It is in this dispensation that the gifts are set in the Church—the body of Christ (I Cor. 12). Jesus has only one body. If He were to give part of His Church the supernatural and strip part of it of all the supernatural He would be guilty of having respect to persons (II Sam. 12:14). He has only one body and not two.

Notice the phrases in Corinthians twelve: “God hath set some in THE Church,” “is given to EVERY Man,” ALL in ALL,” “dividing to EVERY MAN,” “member necessary,” “as it hath pleased HIM.”

Jesus is sovereign. We are His members. He is among His candlesticks now.

He is not the God of the dead but the God of the living (Matt. 22:23). Peter, Paul, Elisha, and Philip are dead; but we are alive. God’s name is not “I used to be,” “I can,” “I am able,” or “I will be”; but His name has always been I AM. It always will be.

Jesus did all His works under the anointing of the same Holy Ghost that we have (Acts 10:38; John 16:7; 14:12). He said we could do the same works. The Apostles were powerless without the anointing.

Dead saints are not to be worshiped; they were only men anointed with the Holy Ghost (Acts. 1:8). This anointing sets the captive free (Luke 4:18), breaks the yoke and lifts the burden (Isa. 10:27), opens prison doors, gives sight to the blind, and sets at liberty those who are bruised.

Jesus is as powerful as He used to be (Heb. 13:8). He is as merciful, compassionate, and truthful. He is a PRESENT help in time of need.

Jesus COMMANDED His Apostles to receive the Holy Ghost (Acts 1:4) and told them to teach all people to the end of the age, and to observe all things He commanded them to do. (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-18). He says if we keep His commandments we will receive this power (John 14:15; Acts 2:38-39). God has given this power unto MEN (Matt. 9:8)—power over all the power of the Devil (Luke 10:19).

We can prove that the cross was only for the people of the early Church as well as we can prove the gifts were only for them. The gifts have been manifested in every century down to the present time. Look at Church History. The record stands.

Enemies of the cross and modernists teach that only the Apostles received gifts. Ananias, Philip, Stephen, and many others were only obscure men. The man who wrote James 5:14 was not one of the twelve.

Other men who fight God's power say gifts were only for spreading the gospel or convincing the heathen. But we have more heathen and non-Christians to-day than ever before. Therefore we need more gifts to-day.

Some, like a drowning man grabbing for a straw, teach that gifts were only to prove the resurrection. But when we see the schools turning out modernists and skeptics who deny the virgin birth and the resurrection we know we need miracles to prove the resurrection as they had in the early Church.

Some "very holy people" say we should have love instead of gifts. But any careful reader will see that I Corinthians thirteen is not a comparison of "love and gifts," but it is a comparison of "gifts with love" and "gifts without love." You will notice that this chapter does not say it is possible to have gifts without love; the meaning is, though it were possible.

Since love is a fruit, and never a gift, (Gal. 5) and grows by cultivation (merit), it looks more like spiritual pride to claim love than to claim gifts.

"Follow after love, and **DESIRE SPIRITUAL GIFTS**" (I Cor. 14:1). Some teach it like this: "Follow after love and fight spiritual gifts."

There are three gifts to a cluster. Gifts hang in clusters as fruit.

There are three gifts to know:

The Word of Knowledge.

The Word of Wisdom.

Discerning of Spirits.

Through these three gifts of revelation we may know anything that is in God's store house of knowledge that He chooses to reveal by His Spirit.

We take up these three gifts in chapter two, three, and four.

There are three gifts to speak:

Divers kind of tongues

Interpretation of tongues

Prophecy.

By the use of these three vocal gifts God can speak through any of us any of the information He has before Him at all times.



We take up these three gifts in chapters five, six, and seven.

There are three gifts to act:

Gifts of healing  
Working of Miracles  
Faith.

By the use of these three gifts of power God can do exploits through His people in these last days (Dan. 11:3) winning supernatural battles over Satan.

We notice that six of the nine Spiritual gifts work silently. Because the three vocal gifts can be heard some carnal folk think that they are the only gifts manifested in the church today.

Spiritual gifts are not only for superintendents, presbyters, bishops, deacons, elders, pastors, and teachers; but they are for **believers** (Mk. 16:15-18), whether they are fishermen, wash-women, ditch-diggers, carpenters, farmers, or merchants. They are for **WHOSOEVER WILL** present their bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable for God's service (Rom. 12:1-2).

We are discussing Spiritual gifts and not ministerial gifts (Eph. 4) Spiritual gifts should be present to confirm the Word preached by ministerial gifts. (Mk. 16:15-18).

Here is the key to this study: **SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE ALWAYS SUPERNATURAL AND MUST BE GIVEN DIRECT BY THE SUPERNATURAL MANIFESTATION OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD.**

I will use Old Testament examples in some places. In the Old Testament the Spirit moved **UPON** certain chosen vessels, on certain occasions, God used the best material He had. God moved **UPON** them from the outside. But in the New Testament the manifesta-

tions of the Spirit are given to EVERYONE, remaining in the Church for every occasion. Now the Holy Spirit DWELLS within us at all times (John 14:17). Since we are baptised with the Holy Spirit He moves WITHIN US (John 7:38-39) instead of moving upon us "at times." (Judges 13:25). In the Old Testament they **responded** to the Spirit, but we have **received** the Spirit. They were moved upon; we are SOAKED.

## CHAPTER II

# THE WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

The Spiritual gift of the word of knowledge is a supernatural manifestation of the Spirit of God that reveals one part of God's knowledge.

### What It Is Not

It is not education, which is mere natural knowledge. Education can be acquired by a man who has never had the Spirit. This gift has no mixture with the natural.

This gift is not teaching, which is a ministerial gift, and requires study (II Tim. 2:15). A man can be anointed to teach what he has already acquired by mental ability.

It is not psychology, which is a science of the mind. Natural sinners can teach psychology.

It cannot be fortune-telling. God's Word condemns fortune-telling, which is of the devil. The devil counterfeits God's gift. If a fortune-teller knows anything supernaturally about a man you can be sure it is not the supernatural Spirit of God that gives him the knowledge.

But I would not serve a God who is not as powerful as the devil. The devil is not more powerful than God. The devil, through fortune-tellers, is seeking to tell you something that will worry you to death and break up your home, heart, purse, and future but God, by the word of knowledge, is trying to build all these things for you.

It is not very often an audible voice, but it was such when God spoke to Samuel (I Sam. 3:4). It is God who speaks to man and not man to man. God speaks

to us by the Spirit very often in a still, small voice (I Kings 19:12). It is no more a spoken word than discerning of spirits is a spoken word. The difference is, one deals with spirits and the other does not.

If man speaks the word of knowledge after the Spirit gives it to him, that part would come under the ministerial gift of teaching, exhortation, or such like (Eph. 4).

This gift is not the gift of knowledge, but the gift of the word of knowledge given by the Spirit. God does not give us all His knowledge, but just a word (part) occasionally; although, the part will be changed into the whole during the perfect age (I Cor. 13:9-10) when we will know as we are now known.

This gift is not guessing, imagination, or the working of the mind. It does not work through your mind any more than does speaking with tongues. God speaks to your spirit without the help of your natural mind or ears. You simply know it, that's all.

It is not a knowledge of God, or of God's Word, that comes by learning, by study, or long experience. For instance, Eli, the priest, had long knowledge of God and His Word through experience; but the child Samuel, who had neither, was given a Word direct by the Spirit. Eli had gotten to the place where he had no open vision (I Sam. 3:7, 11-14).

### **What It Is**

The Spiritual gift of the word of knowledge is certain facts in the mind of God which He sees fit to reveal to a servant supernaturally by His Spirit. It is only a Word, or a portion, of God's great storehouse of knowledge.

God speaks in divers manners, such as dreams, visions, revelation, or in audible voice. It is always conveyed supernaturally as any other gift.

This gift can tell the whereabouts, conditions, nature, or thoughts of a person, animal, place, or thing even when it is impossible to learn it in the natural.

It is different from the Spiritual gift of faith in that it lets you know things even when you did not pray for them. The Spiritual gift of faith deals with things "not yet come to pass," else it would not be faith.

It is not a vocal gift, as it makes you to know and not to speak. It is not discerning of spirits, as it has nothing to do with a supernatural spirit.

It helps one to look into the heart, mind, or nature of a man and to know his secrets and intentions.

It has helped people find lost articles, but its main purpose is to find lost souls.

### **Bible Examples**

While Peter was lying flat on his back on the house top the Spirit of God told him three men were seeking him (Acts 10:19). Had Peter gone to school one hundred years he could not have gained such knowledge. The all-knowing God gave part of His knowledge to Peter by the Spirit.

The Spirit of God told Samuel that Saul's asses had already been found, and let him know all that was in Saul's heart (I Sam. 9:19-20).

A voice from God told Elijah that God had 7000 who had not bowed their knees to Baal (I King 19:18). A spiritual revelation!

The Lord told Samuel that Saul had hid himself behind the stuff (I Sam. 10:22). This was after all natural knowledge failed.

The Spirit made John to know the condition of the churches. (Revelation, chapters one, two, and three.)

The Spirit told Elisha the location of the Syrian Camp (II Kings 6:9), something the intelligence division of the army did not know.

By a Word of knowledge God told Ananias that Saul was at a certain place praying (Acts 9:11).

God made Paul to know, even when the captain did not know, that the voyage was very dangerous and would be of much hurt and damage (Acts 27:10).

The Spirit made Paul to know that he must go to Rome (Acts 23:11). He needed another gift to let him know when and how he must go. We will study that gift in the next chapter.

Jesus knew that a certain woman was then living with a man without being married to him, and had had five husbands before she "took up" with him (John 4:18). He also knew the condition of Nathanael's heart and life, and what he had been doing (John 1:47-48).

In a night vision the Spirit gave unto Daniel what the king had dreamed (Dan. 2:19); but he yet needed the manifestation of another gift to know the meaning of the dream and what the king should do, and how he should do it.

Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him. BUT GOD HATH REVEALED THEM TO US BY HIS SPIRIT (I Cor. 2:8-10). Marvelous revelation gifts!

### **Experiences**

Several times in the last nineteen years God has showed me where lost articles were in answer to prayer.

I used to own a used car lot with a general store. Many times when buying or selling a car God would make me to know the worth of a car. I was made to know just what my customer was willing to pay in the difference between cars.

Hundreds of times God would show me the exact character of a customer as he entered the door to my store.

God is concerned about every detail of our lives; even the hairs of our heads are numbered. If we cannot be in connection with the Spirit in the little things we cannot be in connection in the larger things (Luke 16:10-11).

God showed me in a dream that three preachers in another state were in danger. I wrote all three of them. Two of them told me in letters of appreciation that the warning was just in time to keep them from serious trouble. The third preacher was soon taken to a nervous hospital in a straight jacket. When he was released he apologized to me for ignoring my letter of warning.

One night the Lord showed me that a preacher in another state was in trouble with his church. I wrote and told him. He wrote back saying that everything was going fine and his church was all right. A few weeks later I noticed in the paper that he suddenly resigned and moved to a church in another state. When I saw him he confessed that the church split. If he had listened and believed he could have been saved the embarrassment.

Many times while pastoring churches the Spirit would make me to know in dreams, visions, or otherwise, that certain members were in trouble or going through severe trials. I would get to them just in time to help them. An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure. A stitch in time saves nine. I would root out the weeds in time to save the crop.

In Goldonna, Louisiana, while in the parsonage, the Spirit made me to know that Brother and Sister B. were in trouble. Running to my room, falling across the bed, I prayed through until I touched God. Then

I got into my car and drove to their place. The same time God had warned me to pray their house was on fire, Brother B. being gone. (They already had one burn-out before then loosing all they had). Sister B. had stopped the fire just in time.

That was a word of knowledge before I ever went to my bed to pray about it.

In a vision one night the Spirit of God showed me a man who had been delivered from cigarettes and had later gone back to smoking. The next night I started a revival in Nashville, Arkansas. During the services I arose and said, "There is a man here who was prayed for and delivered from a habit. He has gone back to using it: the craving has returned. He is bound again. If he will come forward God will deliver him again." He immediately arose and came to the front telling how he had gone to a revival many miles away, was delivered and, after several months, tried a cigarette to see how it would taste. He had been bound since. That night he was delivered again, filled with the Holy Ghost, and is still going on with God, working in the church.

Of course, that was a word of knowledge given to me before I went to Nashville. Being delivered was another gift in manifestation which we will study later.

In a dream one night I saw a woman, who had been afflicted for many years crying for help. I started the next night in a revival several miles away. There I met this same woman. It was a word of knowledge, given by the Spirit. Her deliverance is another story.

In a vision the other night the Lord showed me a certain preacher lady who was worried almost to death over some trouble. I phoned the pastor there in that town telling him I would come there for a meeting, as I already had an invitation. One night that same preacher lady walked in and was delivered. That was



a word of knowledge given before I went to the town.

Many times after a revival has gone on for five or six weeks the Spirit has spoken to my spirit, "The revival is over." Other people could not understand why I was closing the meeting, as scores were being filled with the Holy Ghost in a single day. I still needed another gift manifested to show me how to close and deal gracefully, leaving a good taste. We will study it in the next chapter.

While I was in Goldonna, Louisiana, the Spirit made me to know that my wife, who was then in Orange, Texas, visiting her dying sister, was nearing a nervous breakdown. That was a word of knowledge given by the Spirit before I prayed through for her and warned her by a long distance telephone call.

While I was in Tyler, Texas, the Spirit made me to know that my son, who was with his mother in Ardmore, Oklahoma, was in danger. I wrote my wife giving her advice what to do before I received the long distance call telling me the news.

I walked back into the audience, as I was giving an invitation for people to come to the altar, looked a lady in the eyes, and said, "You used to have the Holy Ghost; come sit on the front seat and you will have it again in five minutes." It happened as I said. She made a good worker.

I found out later that she was a singer in a night club, in a backslidden state, at that time. God only showed me she used to have the Holy Ghost and she had faith to be delivered in five minutes. He did not show me where she worked. He gave me, by His Spirit, a word of His all knowledge.

One night God woke me and made me to know my brother was in trouble 6000 miles away. When I prayed through and got the assurance that he was spared that was faith which comes under chapter ten of this book.

Another night God spoke to my spirit in a still voice and made me to know that a man was on a high cliff ready to fall, to be forever lost. I sent him word. He was saved, filled with the Holy Ghost, and is now a deacon and superintendent.

NOTE:—(Please notice that I lay no claim to these gifts above any other member of Christ's body; but I relate just a few of my experiences, when God saw fit to manifest the gifts, which He has given to the Church (I Cor. 12:28), through one of his least of all servants. I do it as an illustration showing you the working of each gift, and not of myself.)

Oh, that every pastor, evangelist, teacher, mother, dad, and every Christian would realize the need of such a gift being manifested through their lives.

## CHAPTER III

# THE WORD OF WISDOM

The Spiritual gift of the word of wisdom is a supernatural manifestation of God's Spirit which gives one a portion of God's wisdom at the time it is needed.

### What It Is Not.

It is not something learned by the natural mind. It cannot be education, training, methods, or natural wisdom in any sense. A man without the Spirit may use methods which prove, many times, both helpful and harmful. What works beautifully in one church may not "go over" in another. Many pastors and workers meet their specific problems when no one but God knows the solution. Then why not go straight to God? Conferences have their place. I am only saying, since they are given by men, they cannot be called the spiritual gift of the word of wisdom.

This gift is not the ability to have a spiritual insight, One may be old in the Lord, having known Him for many years, and yet not have this gift. There is a vast difference in fruit, though mellow it may be, and Spiritual gifts. One with not much Spiritual judgment at other times may have this gift manifested through him at times.

The word of wisdom "given by the Spirit" is never psychology, which is science of the natural mind. If psychology intrudes into the supernatural it is not the supernatural Spirit of God; (James 3:15) but "is earthly, sensual, devilish."

The gift of the word of wisdom is not divine wisdom, which every Christian has more or less. Solomon

had divine wisdom; but only once or twice did he receive a special revelation for a special problem. A young convert may have the revelation of the word of wisdom.

It cannot be just a high degree of the intellect, such as many of our doctors, statesmen and educators have. Many of them who have never received the Spirit may be wiser in the natural than the children of God (Luke 16:8).

This gift is not all of God's wisdom. He speaks a word to us giving to us part of His inexhaustible wisdom which is ever before Him.

It is not just for church officials or special workers; but it is for ALL who may be faced with a problem beyond their understanding.

It is not just a "new idea" which accidentally comes into a person's mind, which may be experienced by a sinner.

It is different from a ministerial gift, which is also set in the church (Eph. 4) and may be developed by study (II Tim. 2:15). But the word of wisdom is given by the Spirit, as He wills. Spiritual gifts should be manifested to confirm the ministerial gifts.

This gift is not a product of the natural mind. It works through the spirit of man instead of through the mind.

Just as all Christians have divine faith and only some have the gift of faith, so all Christians have divine wisdom, but all do not have the gift of the word of wisdom.

### WHAT IT IS

Just as wisdom is knowledge rightly applied, so the Spiritual gift of the word of wisdom is the supernatural ability to apply knowledge already possessed, regardless of how one obtains that knowledge. It is knowledge rightly applied by the Spirit.

It is God showing the HOW, WHY, WHEN, WHERE, and WHAT of a matter. It is the supernatural solution of a problem.

It is something every mother needs in her home, as she cannot handle every child alike. It is something every pastor, teacher, and church leader needs at times, since they cannot handle every member alike. It is something every merchant should have at times, as all customers will not respond to the same kind of treatment. You see how every lawyer, policeman, sheriff, governor, and army officer could be benefited by a supernatural solution to their problems. What a wonderful gift for a pastor who cannot keep a church six months! It beats calling officials in for a church trial and causing a split in the church!

It builds a church and brings revivals.

It may come by visions, dreams, revelations, a still small voice, or an audible voice. God speaks in many ways (Heb. 1:1). There are diversities of operation (I Cor. 12:6).

### **Bible Examples**

Solomon was faced with a problem. Two women claimed the live baby after one had been smothered to death during the night. It seems that, like a flash, the Spirit showed Solomon to call for a sword. He started to divide the live baby between the two women. The woman who cried for the baby's life was the mother.

If this was wisdom which Solomon already possessed, then he would not have asked for a word of wisdom. But if it were given by the Spirit for that need it was a Spiritual gift. I believe it was a direct revelation, as it worked in that case. The same thing might not have worked in a similar case.

Tradition tells us that Solomon was called in to see if he could tell the difference in some real fruit and

artificial fruit. Like a flash he got a revelation. He simply walked to a window, let some bees into a room, and told which was the real fruit.

Paul was faced with death by a mob. In the natural there was no way out. Then the solution came. He made a speech about the resurrection. The Pharisees believed in the resurrection, but the Sadducees did not. The mob was divided; Paul escaped! (Acts 23:7).

God was the only one who knew this would work. If Paul had tried to use this method in another place he might have been killed.

Many churches vote in seven "deacons" just because the early church chose seven men in a certain problem (Acts 6). That was a word of wisdom then; but it may be a method in the next church. That church was so large it had 19 full time men. Notice it had a storehouse and qualified men.

This gift came in very profitably in the conference at Jerusalem (Acts 15). If James had not received the solution to this problem directly by the Spirit, Peter probably would have been "cast out of the church" for "heresy," as he had preached to people who did not belong to their "chosen few."

Three kings told Elisha that the Moabites had come to capture them. (Had the Spirit given him this knowledge it would have been the Spiritual gift of the word of knowledge in manifestation.) But Elisha still did not know what to do. Then by the Word of wisdom the Spirit told Elisha to "make the valley full of ditches" (II Kings 3:16). The Moabites were defeated and three kingdoms saved. Oh, if our generals had this gift in manifestation!

Paul's life was in danger because forty Jews had bound themselves under an oath not to eat or sleep until they had killed him. Paul said, "Bring this young

man to the chief captain for he has a certain thing to tell him" (Acts 23:17).

Two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen, and two hundred spearmen with beasts were given for Paul's protection. He was sent safely to Governor Felix at Caesarea. Four hundred and seventy men and beasts were provided to protect Paul. How precious is a word of wisdom!

His nephew gave him the knowledge, but the Spirit gave him a word of wisdom.

"And when they bring you into the synagogues, and unto magistrates, and powers, take ye no thought HOW or WHAT things ye shall say; For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say" (Luke 12:11-12).

By a word of knowledge the Spirit made Paul know he would go to Rome (Acts 19:21). But he yet did not know the HOW, WHEN, WHY, and WHICH of the matter. The Spirit gave him a word of wisdom one night and told him WHY he was to go (Acts 23:11). In a court room the Spirit gave another word of wisdom and showed him HOW and WHEN. He said, "Appeal unto Caesar" (Acts 26:31). Natural wisdom said he did the wrong thing (V.32).

Paul could not have learned this at school in a life time. Yet the Spirit gave it in a second of time.

"O the depth of the riches, both of the WISDOM and KNOWLEDGE of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and His ways past finding out" (Rom. 10:33).

## EXPERIENCES

In my early ministry things went fine after I had built a new rural church. Then the rough boys disturbed until it was difficult for us to have service. The best evangelist I could secure was a failure because he could not have order. I did everything I

knew to do to keep order. Many members were opposed to going to court because they had relatives or children in the "gang." I told the boys night after night I was going to have order or know the reason why; but I did not have order or know "the reason why."

A neighbouring pastor, who had been pastoring for many years longer than I had, resigned because he became angry enough to throw a car crank through a boy's head. Many of the boys had run old experienced teachers away from school. What could I do?

One night during the service, after my patience was worn almost thread-bare, I left the pulpit, took hold of the altar, determined I would stay there until God showed me what to do, even if we had no more service. In a moment of time the Spirit gave me a solution to the whole problem. I arose and went on with the service.

That was the end of the church disturbance. The church and Sunday School grew and a revival came, resulting with many boys being saved and becoming church workers.

That same plan may not work in your church.

If we could always work with God, then He would work with us!

During the depression, when eight million people were unemployed, I failed to get a job. I only had \$15.00 for which I had picked peanuts, making about 70 cents per day. I had a chance of renting a service station for \$3.00 per month or buying it for \$4.00 per month. I owed \$14.00 for board, and had no down payment. Men with natural wisdom said I was crazy to take it at all, as it needed thousands of dollars worth of labor and material and was in no condition to be operated successfully.



I went far into the woods and lay on my face until God showed me what to do. He told me to buy it.

After I went into business God would very often give me a word of wisdom in my dealings. I soon owned a 4-pump service station, grocery store, meat-market, cafe, barber-shop, garage, pawn-shop, used car-lot, and many other things, all paid for.

How much better was that than working for a few cents per day or being unemployed. Every businessman and every bread-winner needs a word of wisdom nearly every day!

After being in business awhile God, by a word of knowledge, showed me I should marry. I picked out a certain girl. My uncle and several others, by natural wisdom, advised me to marry her. After keeping me awake all night the Spirit, by a word of wisdom, showed me the WHO, WHEN, WHY, WHERE, AND HOW. He showed a sickly looking orphan girl. I had not known her name but two weeks. In two weeks we were married. Men, by natural wisdom told me I would always be out doctor bills on her because of T.B. and cancer. But for about 15 years I have paid out nothing for medicine on her or any of our family. She has gained about forty pounds and is not sickly at all. The other girl died shortly after we were married.

One day while in the store stacking flour I heard one of my best customers calling me from the outside. By the time I reached the outside of the store I found he was so angry he was trembling.

"I came down to get you," he growled.

It looked as if I did not have a chance, with a mad man there, about twice my size and with his hands in his pockets.

"What is the matter?" I inquired.

"Why have you been trying to carry my wife to the river?" he snapped.

I did not have many seconds to inquire or wait, or it would all have been over; probably there would have been head lines in the paper with his side of the story.

Natural wisdom told me to go into the store where I had all the advantages. But the Spirit, by a word of wisdom, gave me these words: "Do you see that car?" Before he had time to say anything I said, "Get in, we will go see your wife." We wasted no time getting to his house. We drove into his yard as his wife came out smiling.

"I told you I was just joking and teasing you" she laughed, "and you got mad."

Soon everything seemed to be all right.

That was the only way out for me, and the reason why I am here writing this book now.

How many innocent men's lives have been saved by a word of wisdom spoken to them by the Spirit!

Just after I became a preacher and built my first church a main charter member asked to withdraw her name because of a little misunderstanding. I knew that would not do because she had so many friends and relatives who would go out with her and go to a close-by church. I also knew a church trial and a split would not do at that time. Suddenly, like a flash, the Spirit flashed me the solution.

"Wait thirty days," I answered; "then if you have not changed your mind we will take your name off."

Within three days she was shouting the victory and the church grew and multiplied. God's word of wisdom will work!

I found that one of my deacons who ran a store was using tobacco. He had about as much influence over the people as I did at that time. I knew a church trial

would not do. After seeking God many days I went to his store. I did not feel free to mention it to him until after I had stayed with him about half a day talking about his business, looking at his hogs, and talking about how wonderful our church and Sunday School was.

Then God gave me the grace and the words. He could not quit tobacco as long as he sold it.

"I have talked to your wife," I began, "and she says she cannot quit it as long as you use it. That influences your boy to use it. Your granddaughter, who is a young convert, who is killing her nursing baby because she smokes, does not quit smoking because she thinks her dad, grandfather and grandmother are wonderful."

I was unloading his shelves while I was talking. I put Bibles in the place of the tobacco. He quit selling that which was causing all the trouble.

"But if any man lack wisdom, let him ask of God that GIVETH to ALL men . . . and it shall be given him" (James 1:5).

## CHAPTER IV

# DISCERNING OF SPIRITS

The Spiritual gift of discerning of spirits is the supernatural manifestation of the Spirit of God revealing to one what spirit is in operation.

### What It Is Not

Discerning of spirits is not suspicion, as many seem to practice. A person who has never had the Spirit can have the gift of suspicion.

This gift is not Christian Science, for they deny the existence of a devil or spirits.

Many people have a keen sense of imagination; but it is after they lose the Spirit of God (Rom. 1:21). God hates the gifts of imagination (Prov. 6:16-18). This is why God destroyed people in the flood (Gen. 6:5). We can have victory over it (II Cor. 10:5).

It is not reading someone's mind or thoughts. If God should see fit to reveal to you someone's mind or thoughts that would be a word of knowledge (I Sam. 9:19) and would have nothing to do with spirits if no spirit is involved.

One does not need a supernatural gift to know about the human spirit, which can be studied by people who are sinners (I Cor. 2:11).

This gift cannot be fortune-telling. This gift can show fortune-telling is of the devil (Acts 16). The devil copied fortune-telling from God's word of knowledge.

This gift is not discerning of faults, but of spirits. It is the spirit of the devil that makes a person a fault-finder.

It is not the gift of discernment, but discerning of spirits. Most anyone can discern people but it takes a supernatural insight to discern spirits.

This gift is not to be confused with spiritism, which is condemned by the Bible. The spirits of our dead relatives are not floating around in the air, but they are with Jesus (Eccl. 12:7). As spiritism and demon-possessed people increase in number we need discerning of spirits so much the more.

### **What It Is**

Discerning of spirits is God's Spirit making one to know what spirit is being manifested. It is a supernatural look into the world of spirits.

It is the one thing that keeps the Church safe.

This gift can show the kind of spirits in people today, such as spirits of disobedience, pride, contention, self-pity, lust, nagging, murmuring, stubbornness, uncleanliness, back-biting, complaining, filthiness, deafness, blindness, dumbness, infirmity, lying, stealing, hatred, joking, talkativeness, laziness, tormenting, and thousands of others spoken of in the Bible.

In these last days as the devil is sending a revival of demon forces God is using Spiritual gifts.

The discerning of spirits shows what gift is in manifestation in a service and how God is working. Many people make the mistake of following their programs and running the service right against the leading of God's Spirit because they do not discern what gift is in manifestation. If we work with the Spirit, and the Spirit works with us, the psychologists and the psychiatrists will be confused and confounded, as they were at Pentecost.

### **Bible Examples**

A certain damsel, possessed with a spirit of divination, followed Paul and Silas saying that they were

servants of the most high God. Instead of making her one of the charter members of the church Paul cast the devil out of her. Before he cast the devil out he first discerned the devil was there.

Bar-jesus sought to turn away Sergius Paulus from the faith (Acts 13:6-10). "Then Paul, FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST, set his eyes on him and said, O full of all subtility and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?" But Paul first discerned that spirit was there.

And just before the gift of healing was manifested through Paul he first discerned the good spirit in a man. "Steadfastly beholding him, and perceiving he had faith to be healed" (Acts 14:9).

Philip let one man be baptized without discerning the evil spirit which was still in him. But when Peter started to pray for him he discerned it and said, "For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness and the bond of iniquity" (Acts 8:23). Simon had believed with his mind, was baptized, became Philip's convert, but his heart was not right with God.

If more of us had discerning of spirits manifested in our churches to-day the churches would not be filled with people with perverse spirits and hearts full of sin. They would have a change of heart as well as a change of mind.

By this gift Jesus discerned over 2,000 spirits in one man (Mark 5). He discerned seven spirits in Mary, the spirit of prejudice in James and John, the spirit of covetousness in Judas, and the spirit of pride in Peter. He said we could do the same thing (John 14:12).

With this gift the prophets can judge the gifts of tongues, interpretation, and prophecy (I Cor. 14:29) to see if the gifts are genuine. This particular job cer-

tainly should not be left to an unbeliever who fights God's power and gifts (I Cor. 2:15). "But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man."

### Experiences

In a Dallas revival while I was giving the altar invitation one night, I told the people if anyone left the house right then the spirit of bondage was waiting for him at the door. A lady deliberately walked out. The next day she came back for prayer, saying a hand grabbed her as she walked out the door. After praying for some time in vain she left to never return.

Last week in Seattle, I discerned some spirits in a lady and was casting them out. I had warned the people to keep their eyes closed and heads bowed. As soon as the lady was delivered another lady ran to the front saying they hit her. That was a warning to the whole audience.

In one revival I told the people the demons of death were waiting at the door for someone who rejected God. A girl rejected the Spirit and walked out to never return. She was in her grave within about two days.

In a Breckenridge, Texas, auditorium I told the people a lady was in the audience with a suicide spirit. Failing to come for deliverance she left the auditorium and blew her brains out with a shot gun.

In the same revival one night I told the people the demons of death were near. A lady rejected God and walked out. The next night during the service her husband blew her brains out with a shot gun.

In the same revival one night I said, "There is a person close to me with a critical spirit who is opposed to this meeting. You will cause souls to be lost. Stop it or I will turn you over to Satan for the destruction

of the flesh. He came forward, confessed, and was restored and filled with the Holy Ghost. The discerning of spirits was in operation even before I mentioned it to him.

In the same revival, just as a man totally blind in one eye from birth was restored to normal I felt the spirit of opposition until I could go no further. I stopped and pointed to a man, ordered him out of the auditorium, and went on praying with more results.

One night I had a man nearly through to the Holy Ghost when I felt a perverse spirit near, which was hindering me. I looked up and saw a man close by looking at me. I went over and prayed for him. After he left the house the boy received the Holy Ghost. That was discerning the spirit before I prayed for the man.

I walked into the hospital in Hot Springs, Arkansas, to pray for a lady who was dying with a cancer. I cried out, "You demons of death, come out." She arose and walked. She was discharged and sent home. I would not have known to cast out such a spirit if I had not first discerned the spirit.

I could not have learned it any other way except by the Spirit of God. Since the Spirit gave it to me it was a Spiritual gift in operation.

I told a man in Malvern, Arkansas, who was seeking for the Holy Ghost, that he would never be filled until he confessed he was a dirty, low down, sinner on his road to hell, and get saved first. He became very angry and wanted to fight. I held him down until he confessed and was delivered.

In the altar service near Malvern, Arkansas, a lady arose and began to do a waltz or dance. God showed me it was a false spirit. After I dealt with her she confessed she was a sinner. She was saved, filled, and delivered.



The other night I told a lady in a service in Seattle that she was giving up hope and was planning on committing suicide. She came forward, and was delivered, and filled with the Spirit.

I took a little church to pastor which a lady had stopped pastoring because she thought the deacon was possessed with a devil. He did act very peculiar when he skipped around the altar. I found that the people were all full of critical spirits which threw a coldness over the service. I told them all to shut their eyes and begin to pray the next time he did that. The next time he started to skip around the altar I shut my eyes and prayed also. I found myself following him doing like he was doing. I looked around and the whole church was following me. Twenty-eight were saved and thirteen received the Holy Ghost.

I started to preach the other night and discerned that the anointing to preach was not there. I stopped preaching, stood silent, and waited on God for awhile. It looked like the service was a failure. Then I discerned the Spirit was anointing to heal. Many were healed, saved, and filled with the Spirit. That was one of our best services.

I have gone many times like that for a whole week without getting to preach. Had I tried to preach, the services would have been killed. God knows how to lead for people's deliverance.

Hundreds of times God has shown me a spirit of blindness, deafness, arthritis, cancer, or some other disease. I would tell the people and they would come forward and receive deliverance.

How many people have missed deliverance because people did not discern the spirit which was hindering or the Spirit which was helping!

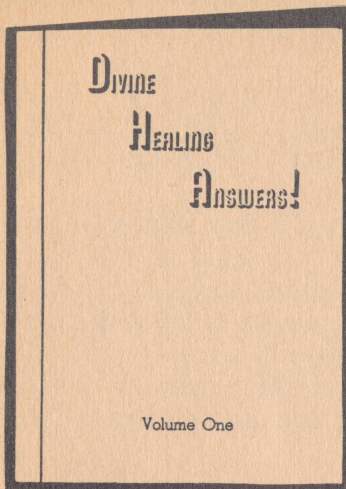
I have been on the road continually for years going

from one church to another. As every evangelist knows, there is a different anointing in each church. By the grace of God I have fitted into the services instead of trying to pull them my way.

One exception to the above statement was in the first revival I ever held. I tried to make all the people do like we had been doing where I had pastored. It was so hard pulling against the Spirit.

I killed many services when I first started to pastor because I did not know the mind of the Spirit. We would march instead of praying, speak with tongues and shout instead of getting people saved and healed, run for water when people were in a trance, yell when people were seeing a vision, or argue over coffee when souls were going to hell. God help us to discern the way God's Spirit is working.

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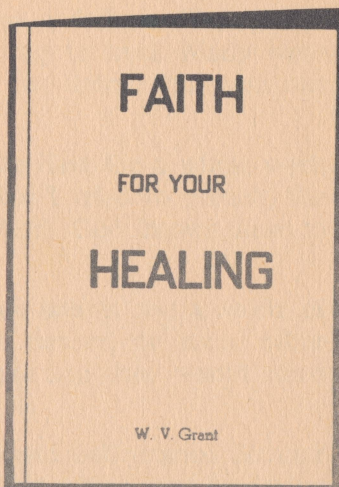
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## **Pastor Reports 650 Receive Holy Ghost Baptism in One Meeting**

**H. C. Noah, Pastor, Oak Cliff Assembly of God, Dallas, Texas**

We recently closed one of the greatest Holy Ghost meetings in the history of Oak Cliff Assembly, with Evangelist W. V. Grant. For months the people met each morning at 10 o'clock for prayer. The revival began in April and continued on for 7½ weeks, day and night, a number praying through to a definite experience each service.

People came hundreds of miles from a number of distant towns and were saved and filled with the Spirit in the old time way. Most of this number were grown men and women, some of them from 70 to 90 years old who had never been saved before.

Souls were filled with the Holy Ghost at home, sitting in the services, in the balcony, in the prayer rooms, at the altar, and standing up in the church. Some who had been seeking the baptism for years received in five minutes. Many denominations were represented among those filled, such as a Baptist minister, a Methodist minister's wife (with a Ph. D.). Some were from the Bible College, Nazarene, Catholics, Church of Christ, and many other laymen and teachers from various denominations.

There were around 650 filled with the Spirit, and a great number refilled. Never before in the history of the church did that many people receive the Baptism in the same number of weeks. It is impossible to know the exact number saved or healed. Several completely blind and partially blind persons were healed, some of them so perfectly that they could read fine print. Scum which had covered the eye-ball in one case, disappeared instantly. People discarded walking canes, glasses, braces, etc. A little boy who had never walked in his life is still walking perfectly. Many stiff joints are now working smoothly and without pain. Ears, without ear-

drums for many years, are hearing, and stone deaf ears can hear a whisper. The deaf mute was healed, the sense of smell restored, goiters left instantly, cancers left and many other growths disappeared. Arthritis, heart trouble, and twisted backs were also healed by the Hand of the Lord. Many were healed in the audience, others at home, over the telephone or the radio. We can hardly think of any disease or affliction that was not healed. God has been so good to us and the power of God continued to fall after the meeting had closed.

### **“CHURCH MEMBERSHIP INCREASED FIFTY PER CENT” — Says Pastor**

**By Rev. James V. Courtney, Pastor, Central Assembly of  
God Church, Baton Rouge, La.**

For four weeks God poured out His Spirit in the Grant revival, in Baton Rouge. Each night seekers went forward, as the altar call was given, as many as 125 in one night. It is impossible to know the exact number of those who were saved and filled with the Holy Spirit.

Night after night, we saw the blind, mute, deaf, lame and afflicted healed by God's power. Those who had been in total silence since birth were enabled to hear.

One lady returned and testified that after prayer, 12 cancers had left her face and that a large growth disappeared.

A lady with one leg shorter than the other testified that God had made her leg normal, after the Evangelist prayed.

A little boy, afflicted with polio, was healed and enabled to run when his braces were removed!

My church membership has increased 50 per cent and we have had the greatest crowds in the history of our church! All the cooperating churches have reported that their memberships have increased likewise.

## CHAPTER V

# DIVERS KINDS OF TONGUES

The Spiritual gift of divers kinds of tongues is a supernatural manifestation of the Spirit of God using man's vocal organs to speak in different kinds of languages, whether earthly or heavenly.

### What It Is Not

It is not a predisposition of the mind, as some say when they try to explain this wonderful gift away. If it is something one has heard in the past which is yet with the subconscious mind what about the ALL at Pentecost (Acts 2), who spoke in many languages? That was where tongues were given. All spoke at once. What about the Gentiles who ALL spoke in tongues for their first time (Acts 10:46). It seems strange that they had ALL the same "predisposition" at once about the same thing—the wonderful works of God. God called it divers kinds of tongues; the Spirit of God gave the utterance; it was set in the Church. Then what about the heavenly language (I Cor. 14:2)? Had all the Corinthians been caught up into heaven? This gift works through the spirit, and not the mind of man (I Cor. 14:14).

This gift is not just a "sanctified tongue of a believer." All we have to do to see what Mark 16:15-18 meant is to look into the Book of Acts, I Corinthians, chapters 12, 13, and 14, and other places, and see the signs that followed. Tongues came AFTER conversion (Eph. 1:13). The other four signs spoken of in Mark 16 do not come at conversion. Then why put tongues there?

Tongues are not a sign of weakness. The Apostles were stronger after Pentecost than ever before.

Tongues were **not** a miracle of hearing; for God said the Spirit gave the **UTTERANCE**. The miracle was worked in the believer instead of the unbeliever (Mk. 16; Acts 2:4, 10:46, 19:1-6; I Cor. 14).

It is not the utterance of spiritual emotion; if so what is the gift of interpretation but interpretation of emotion? There were many temperaments at Pentecost, but **ALL** spoke with tongues, including "reserved" Thomas and Andrew.

It is not psychology. If so let the psychologist produce a Pentecost that will turn the world up-side down, win thousands of souls, and heal the multitudes.

It is not given for preaching to foreigners; for Peter at Pentecost preached to the multitude in the universal language after the multitude arrived. They were praising God **ALL AT ONCE BEFORE** the multitude arrived (Acts 2).

It is not the sign of nervousness or a "run-down-condition," for God said tongues would build one up (I Cor. 1:4, Jude 20). If it is nervousness what is the gift of interpretation?

It has not passed away; for God said prophecy and the other gifts would pass at the same time (I Cor. 13:8). We yet have faith, which is one of the gifts. Prophecy will not pass away before the great tribulation days after the rapture (Rev. 11:3). (See my book "How to Receive The Holy Ghost").

### **What It Is**

This gift is a supernatural utterance in different languages, a vocal miracle, a miracle of speech.

It gives rest to the weary and calmness to the nervous. It will prevent a nervous break-down.

The language, which is sometimes heavenly, is unknown to the speaker. One may sing, pray, or praise in tongues without an interpreter because he is not addressing people.

Tongues with interpretation is equal to prophecy (I Cor. 14:5). The Spirit may pray through a person, making intercession according to God's will, making everything work together for good (Rom. 8:26-28), building up his faith (Jude 20), and edifying him (I Cor. 14:4) even when his understanding is unfruitful (v. 14). One must edify himself before he gets to church (v. 18, 19) in order to edify the church when he gets there.

This gift is a sign to the unbeliever (v. 22). To speak with tongues is to magnify God (Acts 10:46).

This gift and interpretation are the only gifts not manifested in the Old Testament. They are what the seers saw, wondered about, and desired to have (I Peter 1:10-12).

### **Bible Examples**

Paul set us an example that every Christian should follow. Before he went to church he spoke with tongues. He spoke with tongues more than all the Corinthian church people (I Cor. 14:18-19). While he was at home or out working making tents, he built up his faith praying, singing, or praising God with tongues (v. 14-16). The reason he could build up the church was that he first got edified at home and had the faith to cast out devils and heal the sick when he got there (I Cor. 14:4, Jude 20); he taught his members to do the same way—to have it **WHEN THEY GOT THERE** (v. 26). No wonder the secrets of sinners' hearts were made manifest and they were brought to conviction. If all the members would do that way to-day it would keep the preachers from taking a nervous break-down trying to pull all the load before he gets the members revived. It would save members backsliding sitting on their seats being entertained by a formal program, or a preacher's "book report."



Paul said when our understanding is unfruitful, even when we do not know what to pray for, when we cannot utter it with our own language, the Holy Ghost can pray through us making intercession according to God's will, and in a way that we will know everything is working together for God (Rom. 8:26-28).

Jude practiced the same thing that Paul did. He said for us to build up our most holy faith praying in the Holy Ghost (Jude 20).

No doubt that was what Peter was doing when he was lying flat on his back on top of the house looking up into heaven (Acts 10).

I believe that is what John was doing when he was "in the Spirit on the Lord's day" (Rev. 1:10).

When the men of the early Church did not know how to solve a problem, they fasted and prayed until God spoke to them (Acts 13:2). The Holy Ghost spoke to them at the gathering in Jerusalem (15:28).

This is not to be thought strange, for Jesus had told them the Holy Ghost would speak (John 16:13) and testify (John 15:26, Mark 16:17). God said He would speak through His people (Isa. 28:11). We find where it came to pass in Acts 8, 10, 19; I Corinthians 14, and other places. We find in many other places where the records state "the Holy Ghost said." Undeniable proof indeed!

### Experiences

The next day after I received the Holy Ghost I went far into the woods and lay flat on my face in the leaves and pine straw. I was determined to stay there until I received a refilling and spoke with tongues. It seemed like a long time, but really it was not but about thirty minutes. The next day I did the same thing, it took me about fifteen minutes. The third day it was only five minutes. From that day until this, about nineteen years, I do not know of a day that I did

not speak with tongues, my language changing month after month and year after year. I pray, sing, praise, and bless God with tongues for many hours at a time. I had rather speak with tongues for three minutes than to receive a million dollars.

Several of us woke up one night with a burden. I was praying with tongues but my understanding was unfruitful. If my understanding had been fruitful I would have known that I was praying about a big gang fight in front of the house, and fear might have driven faith out. We prayed until the answer came and went to sleep with the assurance. At least one man was dead in the road the next day. Who knows how many were kept from death, how long that man lived, and how much he prayed before he died or what God did for him!

The Holy Ghost woke me up one night and prayed through me for thirteen hours before the answer came. That day an income tax man came to check on my records. I had been out of business so long the records were partly destroyed. He told me he could charge me \$5000.00, and collect for it, even if he had to sell my car and home. He had just charged another man hundreds of dollars, but let me go! The prayer also resulted in a whole family being saved that day.

My wife and I awoke one night about the same time praying in another language. After praying two hours the assurance of the answer was given us. Then I fell into a peaceful semi-sleep to see a vision of my brother. His clothes were soaked with perspiration and a smile of triumph was on his face. I already knew he was in the U. S. Marines, but did not know where he was located. The telephone rang! I received a cablegram from my brother in Midway Island saying he was okay. That was the turning point in World War II after we had lost nearly every battle up to that point.

My brother said that nine-tenths of his "buddies were killed" and he did not get a scratch. He got ready to die for the first time in his life.

When I first began going to services I would pray with tongues and praise God with tongues so loud and so long that I would disturb the services. Although I learned later to do that before I went to church, and speak with tongues to myself and to God (undertone) when I was in services (I Cor. 14:28).

When I was first saved and filled with the Holy Ghost I would want to get up and put tongues on display and preach to people or teach people with tongues. But I soon learned that was worthless without an interpreter (I Cor. 14:19), but equal to prophecy with one (v. 5). The first time someone interpreted my message I was so glad I could hardly hold myself.

I used to go into the woods and pray about five or six hours before services. That night in services I would see a "cloud-burst" of God's Spirit. Many would be saved and filled with the Spirit. I would be "walking in the air" all the week. I would pray, sing, and praise God with tongues for hours while I was plowing, driving a car, or walking to and from church.

In hundreds of services, after I began to preach, I would see people saved, reclaimed, delivered from evil spirit, filled with the Spirit, or healed—all because I edified myself and built up my faith praying in the Holy Ghost BEFORE I went to church.

In hundreds of services, after I became an evangelist, when it looked like the services were dying in the middle of a sermon, the Holy Ghost would burst forth in a heavenly language through my vocal organs, resulting in scores of seekers filling the prayer rooms and altars and dozens being saved and filled with the Holy Ghost. Many nights without any preaching God has melted congregations that way, revealing the secrets of mens' hearts (I Cor. 14:25, 5).

Once in South Central Bible Institute near Hot Springs several ministers were slain under God's power. I gave out a message and Sister Barns interpreted it. One of the teachers had studied the language I spoke. He knew what I was saying. He said it was a perfect interpretation. In another service one night a man was in the congregation who spoke another language. We had quite a stir when we got the report that he knew what someone was speaking with tongues.

Even in revival services to-day when I go into a service without first praying for hours in the Holy Ghost I do not expect much, and cannot edify anyone.

In most every case where I relate incidents in the rest of this book where there were manifested any of the other gifts through me, it was preceded with hours of Holy Ghost praying.

Why is this gift one of the greatest of gifts? Because we must first be edified before we edify the church; and praying with tongues edifies us (I Cor. 14:4).

I would that ye all speak with tongues.

## CHAPTER VI

# INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

The Spiritual gift of the interpretation of tongues is the supernatural manifestation of the Spirit of God using one's vocal organs, giving utterance in one's own language, telling the meaning of the words which have been spoken with tongues.

### What It Is Not

It cannot be the imagination of the mind, as some teach, because it works through the spirit of man, and not his mind. Mental ability is no more employed in interpretation of tongues than medical science was used when Paul said, "stand up right on your feet," and the man leaped and walked.

Interpretation of tongues cannot be a translation of languages. One without the Spirit of God can have the natural talent of translating languages.

It is not always in the first person, but can be in the second or third person. For instance, one person may bring the interpretation like this: "Behold, I am coming soon; be ye ready." The next one may say, "The Lord says He is coming soon and He says for you to be ready." Still another may bring the same message in other words, as "The Lord is coming very soon; be ye ready."

This gift does not always quote the exact words as translators; for interpretation is not translation. It tells the meaning of a message as one may tell the meaning of a dream, a symbol, parable, sign, or an action. For instance, when I was in business the price of gasoline went up one-half cent. I instructed my em-

ployees to explain the raise to the customers. One of them may have said, "I am sorry, sir, but because of a slight increase in taxes we are forced to increase the price of gasoline one-half cent per gallon." The next boy may have said, "Mr. Grant says gasoline prices must rise one-half cent because of an extra tax. The same message, but different personalities and vocabularies.

Two preachers bringing the same message from God do not use the same words. I may understand one better because he is from the same part of the country as I am. One interpreter may speak such large words that it would have to be interpreted to someone in the audience who did not have a large vocabulary.

Daniel's interpretation of the heavenly language written on the wall (Dan. 5) consisted of many times the number of words on the wall. One interpretation may consist of just one-half as many words as another because one congregation may be better educated and understand better words.

This gift is not repetition of scripture, but can be sometimes.

This gift is not the gift of interpretation, but interpretation of tongues. It is not and cannot be used if there has been no supernatural tongues spoken.

It is not interpretation of people, thoughts, hard sayings, actions, riddles, dreams, or anything in the natural; but it is interpretation of supernatural tongues. It cannot be learned at school in a million years, but can be given by the Spirit in a moment of time to any Spirit-filled person.

### **What It Is**

This Spiritual gift is telling the meaning of what is spoken in a supernatural language.

It is a vocal miracle.

The meaning may be told in divers manners (I Cor. 12:6, 14:6).

Tongues and interpretation of tongues are only in the grace dispensation or church period. The interpretation recorded in the fifth chapter of Daniel was an interpretation of a supernatural language, but not of tongues.

It is possible sometimes to get the interpretation of prayers, psalms, praise, and songs, as well as a message to people.

Although God may manifest this gift through any of His children, as He wills, we should prefer one who is more experienced to use this gift if he is present.

The leader of an assembly is not required to wait until the "official interpreter" (if there be such a thing) is there for a message in tongues to be given and interpreted; for God will give the interpretation to the leader (I Cor. 14:5, 13).

### **Bible Example**

There are many places in the Bible where it is recorded that the "Holy Ghost said" or "Hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." It is not known in every case whether it was interpretation or prophecy. But some things we do know are that the gift of interpretation was set in the Church (I Cor. 12), it is NECESSARY (v. 22), it was never taken out of the Church, it was used all down through Church history, and Paul taught his members to use it in his church (I Cor. 14). Paul says that interpretation of tongues is equal to prophecy (I Cor. 14:15). He says this gift helps us to profit (v. 16). God says for us to pray for this gift (v. 5), if we speak with tongues, and for us all to speak with tongues (v. 5, 13). Paul said LET someone interpret (v. 27).

The Holy Ghost spoke to the early Church and gave them instructions (Acts 13:2). Many to-day will not acknowledge that they need such instructions.

It is possible that Agabus spoke with tongues and interpreted when he "signified by the Spirit" (Acts 11:28). He made a sign by the Spirit. Tongues are for a sign (I Cor. 14:22), and all who speak should interpret (v. 13). This man held the office of a prophet, but did not have the Spiritual gift of prophecy as we know of. (That is explained in the next chapter.)

The Holy Ghost forbade Paul and Timothy to preach the Word in Asia, and told them not to go to Bithynia (Acts 16:6-7). It would be wonderful if all of God's ministers would "hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

There should be SOMEONE to interpret each message. There does not need to be a CERTAIN one; neither should there be competition (I Cor. 14:27).

The Holy Ghost spoke to the early Church in Jerusalem and told the ministers not to lay too heavy a burden on the people (Acts 15:28). Oh, if ministers would wait on God to speak to them today, instead of putting "heavy burdens and grievous to be borne" on men's shoulders as they pass by-laws and regulations, not offering a finger to move the burdens already on the people (Matt. 23:4).

Some go to extremes trying to seek personal guidance with this gift. The Holy Ghost will guide and teach us and lead us in personal affairs (John 16).

The Holy Ghost is not dumb; He still **speaks** to His people just as Jesus said He would (John 16:13).

### **Experience**

Interpretation is given to the Church and should be used in the churches instead of being used as private guidance. The Holy Spirit will lead and guide us without interpretation. Although God is still sovereign



He can speak through an individual in private if He wants to. He can do what He chooses with His own. We cannot put Him in a steel jacket and make Him work a certain way. The other gifts are given to the Church, but they can be used anywhere God chooses. Prophecy has been used out of the church house (Luke 1). We need the Word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, and discerning of spirits every day in the week. Certainly healing can be administered in the home. Miracles and faith may be manifested any day in the week.

Not long after I was saved and filled with the Spirit I did the most of my praying over in the woods, lying in the pine straw by myself. We had no church near to go to. My Mother was the only one in our home just then who was saved, and she was very busy working in the house.

I thought since Paul did most of his praying with tongues out of the church (I Cor. 14:18-19) it was all right for me to edify myself in the same way (v. 4). I was bothered over verse 13 where God commanded that I pray that I interpret. I did not know that it was speaking of the church gathering. As I prayed with tongues several hours I said, "Lord I did not do that by myself; if you choose to give me the meaning you may do so." God spoke a few words in my language.

Later on (in a church of two members), I was praying in the woods with another boy. God chose to give me the meaning of some tongues which were spoken. He spoke to us about a revival and winning souls.

Sometime later while praying with about six people God gave me the meaning of some tongues which proved very helpful. Prophecy serves for exhortation, and tongues with interpretation is equal to the same (I Cor. 14:5).

Later on (as we had started a church house by this time) we were in prayer with about two dozen people.

We had prayer every night for four years, even when we had no services; we met and just prayed. In this group we were much comforted and benefited by the interpretation of tongues.

One Sunday afternoon at a gathering, my faith reached up and accepted the meaning of tongues. By the grace of God I started to speak and God anointed me to speak the words, adding more words just as I spoke. It was that day just as if I would start to preach. I knew the message I was to deliver, but I did not know just the words I would speak. The Holy Spirit helped me choose the words just as I spoke.

Then as my faith grew (it takes faith to operate any of the gifts) the Lord gave me courage to interpret in Sunday School, regular Church service, and later on in a small revival.

One night through interpretation God described the condition of a man so perfectly that the secrets of his heart were made manifest and he came forward, fell on his knees, and repented. He was a preacher with things covered up in his life. Since that time he has been on fire for God. We did not know who the Holy Spirit was talking to, but that man did. That man was a believer, but had failed the Lord and become bound.

One night after the Holy Ghost had spoken, a lady came out of the audience and asked me if I knew what she had done. I did not know what she had done; I did not know the message was to her. To my surprise she confessed to my wife and me that she had dated another man, being untrue to her husband. As she confessed and repented she was forgiven, restored, and refilled with the Spirit. After several years she is still going on with God. Another time the Holy Ghost exhorted a believer who had been trapped by Satan!

One night God spoke, saying He was going to do a new thing. As I was wondering what it was going to

be a wave of God's power came through the audience. About thirty people fell to the floor under the power. People saw visions of heaven, hell, the rapture, and other things. Sinners came to God!

I remember so well one night how God described a lady's condition who had been on fire for God and had been bound by the things of the world. She came forward bitterly repenting and was restored.

After years of continual services, and many of them where interpretations were given, my faith reached up to interpret messages at conventions and larger revivals.

Since I have been an evangelist in hundreds of revival services God has chosen to give tongues and interpretation through me. People would run to confess their sins and be filled or refilled with the Holy Spirit; and other thousands have been delivered from habits and healed of most all kinds of afflictions because they were exhorted by the Spirit of God. Many times when it looked like the service was lost, God's Spirit would come upon the audience, speak to them, and melt the whole congregation into tears.

When I go to a gathering where there are thousands of saints gathered together, I feel like preferring someone who is more matured in the Lord than I am. Some people have more faith than I do; therefore they are more fitted to interpret in a large audience. Each of us has a measure of faith (Rom. 12:3), but our faith can grow (II Thes. 1:3). If we will be faithful in the little things first we will be faithful in more.

It takes more faith to operate the gift of interpretation, where you can understand the words, than it takes to operate the gift of tongues.

This gift should not be left to one who has no prayer life, but to one who spends hours each day in quiet-

ness and in God's presence. In this way God may speak to him even before he leaves home to go to church, giving him the mind of the Spirit. (I Cor. 14:26)

In a church where I had pastored for five years I started to dismiss a service. I told the church I felt I was leaving, but I did not know which night would be my last. I told them I would let the Lord lead. Immediately God dismissed in another language. The interpretation that followed made me and others to know that was the last night I would be with them. He instructed them concerning the future.

God has occasionally chosen to give a special message in a Sunday School class, in a testimony service, in praying for the sick, and at other times, which gave more results than weeks of toil and work.

I do not think it is God's usual way to give a message with interpretation at a funeral service or over a radio broadcast, but I have seen it happen only one time in each case with results. God is sovereign.

## CHAPTER VII

# PROPHECY

The Spiritual gift of prophecy is a supernatural manifestation of the Spirit of God giving supernatural utterance, like tongues, but in the speaker's own language; like interpretation, but no tongues have been spoken.

### What It Is Not

It is not necessarily fore-telling. There is a difference in a seer and a man with the Spiritual gift of prophecy.

Samuel, the seer, told Saul where his asses were and saw Saul prophesying before it came to pass (I Sam. 10). Saul prophesied, but he did not foretell the future.

For instance, prophecy is equal to tongues and interpretation (I Cor. 14:5), but no one requires a man with tongues and interpretation to foretell the future. We are not led to believe that the twelve who spoke with tongues and prophesied at Ephesus when they received the Holy Ghost fore-told the future.

The gift is not the office of a prophet, which is a ministerial gift (I Cor. 12:28, 14, 29; Eph. 3:5, 4:11). Only two or three prophets may speak in one meeting, but all may exercise the gift of prophecy, one at a time (I Cor. 14:29, 31). The man with the office of a prophet may judge the utterances of the man with the Spiritual gift of prophecy to determine if it is genuine (I Cor. 14:29).

The gift of prophecy is not oratorical ability possessed by politicians, leaders, lawyers, and other natural men who have never had God's Spirit.

It is not education, talents, or training.

It is not preaching, which is a ministerial gift. The Holy Ghost can bring things to our remembrance, but the gift of prophecy does not work through the human mind. It works through the Spirit and vocal organs.

This gift is not guessing, imagination, nor mere quoting of scriptures. (The devil can quote scriptures.) It is not just opening your mouth and speaking whatever comes into your mind, as some are instructed to do.

It is not to be despised (I Thes. 5:20).

### What It Is \*

This Spiritual gift is forth-telling.

It is a vocal miracle—a miracle of speech in one's own language.

It is speaking with the understanding. It edifies the Church (I Cor. 14:4).

It is the Spirit of God speaking to exhortation and to comfort (v. 3). It gives praise and gratitude to God (Luke 1, Judges 5).

In this gift, as in interpretation of tongues, God uses one's temperament and vocabulary.

It is convincing and convicting. It reveals the secrets of a sinner, bringing him to repentance (I Cor. 14:25).

It does not come with training and schooling. It is used according to the proportion of our faith (Rom. 12:6).

It always exalts Jesus as the only Saviour of men (Rev. 19:10).

It instructs the Church as to the mind of the Spirit.

It is to "speak for God," to "be God's spokesman," "to flow forth as a fountain," "to spring forth," or "to over flow."

It is for women as well as men, for all spirit-filled people (I Cor. 11, Acts 2:15-16, Joel 2, Luke 1, I Cor. 14:1, 24, 31).

It is to be desired and coveted (I Cor. 14:1, 39). It is speaking about the Lord. It always agrees with God's Word.

It is probably better to speak in the second or third person, as it can be judged (I Cor. 14:29), and to reverence God by standing when speaking.

It has not passed away (Rev. 11:3).

### **Bible Examples**

The Spirit of God came upon Eldad and Medad. They prophesied and did not cease. Moses said he wished that ALL of God's people would prophesy (Num. 26).

The big, rough country plow-boy, Saul, who probably had never gone to Bible School in his life, surprised the people by prophesying when the Spirit of God came upon him. They thought it strange that a plow-boy could prophesy. Even the messengers who were sent to take David began to prophesy as God put his Spirit upon them (I Sam. 10 and 19).

Haggai and Zechariah encouraged the Israelites as they rebuilt the walls (Ezra. 5:1). We are also comforted by this gift as we rebuild the spiritual walls the modern Tobiah's have destroyed (I Cor. 14:3).

Hannah's prophetic prayer, which contained praise, songs, and exhortation, is very interesting: "There is none holy as the Lord; for there is none besides thee; neither is there any rock like our God" (I Sam. 2:1). She addressed God with one breath and the people with the next. We receive a message as she is speaking to God.

The key verse to Luke, chapter one is "my soul doth magnify the Lord" (v. 46). The testimony of Jesus

is the Spirit of prophecy. Most of the Old Testament utterances were by people who were looking forward to the coming of Jesus, while New Testament utterances magnified His work on the cross. Peter preached unto them Jesus. He knew they received the Holy Ghost as he did for they heard them speak with tongues and MAGNIFY God." (Acts. 10:46). After Paul preached unto them Jesus he laid hands on them and "they spake with tongues and PROPHESED" (Acts 19:4-6). It was after Paul accepted Jesus as the Christ that he received the Holy Ghost (Acts 9). Philip went down to Samaria and preached CHRIST unto them (Acts 8). They received the Holy Ghost. Philip had four daughters that prophesied (Acts 21:19).

None of the above prophecies fore-tell the future, but they MAGNIFY the Lord; they also comfort and exhort the people.

We can say with Moses after being delivered from Pharaoh, "The Lord is my strength and song and He has been my salvation; He is my God, and I will prepare Him an HABITATION; my father's God, and I will exhalt Him" (Ex. 15:2).

### Experience

The year 1933 stands out above all others in my life, for that is the year I was saved and filled with the Holy Ghost. Immediately after being filled with the Holy Ghost I would be lost in the Spirit while I was praying in the woods. In my own language I would speak forth praises unto God, as I would speak in an audible voice. It reminds me very much of the words Mary and Hannah spoke as they magnified God (Luke 1, I Sam. 1).

Later we began cottage prayer-meetings. While I was testifying the Spirit would come upon me causing inspired words to flow out of my mouth. At that time I did not know it was prophecy, but I knew the



Spirit of God was speaking to my spirit and I spoke for God as the Spirit gave the utterance. I remember after prayer-meeting one night my Mother asked me where I learned all the scriptures I quoted. I did not remember where I learned them, but I knew God gave them to me and I spoke as the Spirit gave the utterance. Many old rough drunkards would fall down and get saved.

One night after I had been preaching for twenty-five minutes, with no results, God placed a special anointing upon me. I cried, "Your city is in danger." Dozens were arrested by the Spirit and ran to the altar. Many were delivered.

Many years before I began preaching I would help other people in services and revivals. I would pray for hours for the service before I would go to church. I was too timid and backward to make a talk to an audience, but when the Spirit of God would come upon me I would rise to testify. The words would seem to roll out of my mouth, and bring a message to the lost in a few words. The service would end with a wonderful altar service with many saved and filled with the Spirit. The preacher would not get to preach. Oh, if every member would be ready for God to use him that way it would not be so hard on the preacher! Things would work like clock work.

The Spirit exhorts the saints to obey God. When they do the result is deliverance to those in bondage.

Not long after I was saved I went about twenty miles down in the country to a prayer meeting. I started to testify and the Spirit of prophecy came upon me causing me to speak about twenty minutes. It brought about as much results as many churches have in whole revivals. It seemed that all the people came and fell on their knees. The power fell for hours. The pastor wanted me to hold a revival; thinking I was a

preacher, he asked me to preach the next service. He soon found that I was no preacher.

After I began preaching, many of my sermons would seem like a long drawn-out affair until suddenly the Holy Spirit took possession my my spirit and vocal organs, doing more in a dozen words than I could with hundreds of words. Hundreds of times sinners would run to the altar or prayer rooms because God would send a message which went as a dagger into their hearts. Many times while preaching the last few years the Spirit of God would take my vocal organs about the middle, or at the end of the sermon, sending a message direct from God, causing dozens to be saved and filled with the Spirit.

Many times as I taught a Sunday School class or brought a Bible lesson, the Spirit of prophecy would come on me lifting all of us into the Spirit, causing us to be edified.

One night the Spirit took my vocal organs and I said, "Demons of death are near." I exhorted the people not to reject God. A girl walked out of the house and was dead in a few hours. (That was discerning of Spirits before God spoke through me. I could have told the people in my own way. But when it was a local miracle in my own language it was prophecy.)

In one revival after I had already discerned the spirits of suicide I spoke in prophecy. "Demons of suicide are near." About 125 came seeking God; but one lady rebelled against God, left the meeting, and blew her brains out with a shot-gun within 24 hours.

In the same revival I spoke, "The demons of death are at the door." Scores of people were delivered. But one lady left. Her husband blew her brains out with a shot-gun within 24 hours, making head-lines in the paper.

I have related how I spoke to exhortation, exhorting people in the face of danger to seek God for protection; but in other cases I have spoken to comfort—to comfort some broken heart, or bruised spirit (I Cor. 14:3, Luke 4:18).

Hundreds of times in our revival folk have been saved and filled with the Spirit when word would go forth in prophecy something like this: "God is preparing His people. The time is short; look up and rejoice; the bride of Christ must be ready."

Other times words of comfort would be like this: "The Lord thy God is in the midst of thee, to comfort, to uphold, walk by thy side, lead thee by the hand, to make the dark places light, the low places high, the high places low, the rough places smooth and the crooked places straight. Be not afraid; only believe He is watching over thee. Your deliverance is near! Your safety is certain!" At the same second God would put the witness in the soul it was meant for.

Prophecy is principally to the Church. Although individuals can be spoken to at times (I Tim. 1:18, Ezek. 29:2).

It would take volumes to relate how people from all denominations have been filled with the Spirit in our meetings, spoken with tongues and prophesied (Acts 19:6). Oh, if all churches were a mouth-piece for God!

## CHAPTER VIII

# GIFTS OF HEALING

The Spiritual gift<sup>2</sup> of healing is the supernatural manifestation of the Spirit of God that heals the human body without the natural means.

### What It Is Not

This gift cannot be medical science which can be learned by sinners who have never had the Spirit of God. There is a supernatural element at the root of many diseases which cannot be dealt with on the natural level.

It is not Christian Science which deals from a natural level. Natural men have learned that worry, fear, discouragement, dread, hurry, resentment, hate, murmurings, etc. will prevent nature from healing a person. Many times to remove these things will produce a natural healing, but not SPIRITUAL HEALING. Even your doctor knows that nature will heal one if the cause is removed. But sometimes the cause is spirits and will have to be dealt with supernaturally. This, doctors, practitioners, or any natural man, cannot do without God's Spirit.

This gift is not spiritism which seemingly cures the sick. The trouble only moves around over the body, leaving the patient possessed with many more troubles than at the beginning, and bringing him to an early death. The devil comes only to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10).

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2. Although this is a plural gift we will speak of it as being in the singular for convenience.

Neither Christian Science nor spiritism will ever open the eyes of the blind, unstop deaf ears, nor cast out the devils which cause disease and sickness. Satan does not cast out Satan (Matt. 12:26) or open blind eyes (John 10:27).

This gift is not remedies or drugs which can be used by sinners, boot-leggers, and natural men who have never felt God's Spirit.

It is not extreme unction which is given just before one dies, but never heals.

It is not superstition, mental suggestion, psychology, witchcraft, or anything except the Spirit of God.

### **What It Is**

It is a supernatural healing of disease and infirmities without natural means of any sort—for the deliverance of any kind of human ills, whether functional, organic, or nervous.

It is the power of God that destroys the work of the devil in the human body (Acts 10:38).

The Lord used and is using gifts of healing to prove the resurrection power (Acts 3:15-16, Heb. 13:8), to prove His power to forgive sins (Mark 2:10), to build faith and save souls (John 6:2), to confirm His Word (Mark 16:16-18), to bring glory to His name and bless His people (Mk. 2:12, Luke 8:17), to prove his love, compassion, mercy, truthfulness, and honesty.

One supernatural miracle of healing, now as in Bible days, will stir up more devils and save more souls than a dozen sermons without miracles.

### **Bible Examples**

On the island of Melita Paul laid his hands on Publius who was very sick with a fever and a bloody flux, and he was healed. This caused the people to

bring many others for healing (Acts 28:1-7). It was a spiritual gift, and not Luke's medicine kit, that healed the people there.

It was Peter who took the lame man by the hand, leading him to be healed in the name of the Lord. It was Luke the Physician who wrote the doctor's statement as to the man's condition before and after the healing, giving all the praise to God (Acts 3:1-10).

It was Luke the Physician who wrote the statement that sick people who filled the street left their beds and couches completely well. They were healed by getting in Peter's shadow! Only Spiritual healing can produce such a testimony!

It was Peter with a Spiritual gift, and not Luke with a natural talent, who said to a man who had been bedfast for eight years, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: Arise and take thy bed." This caused the people of two cities to turn to the Lord (Acts 9:32-35).

Paul, seeing that a hopeless, life-time cripple had faith to be healed said, "Stand upright on your feet." HE LEAPED AND WALKED! It was again Luke the physician who wrote the statement of his condition before and after the healing, proving it was Spiritual healing and not natural healing.

These healings were not confined to the Apostles. Even the servants in the Church had healing following them (Acts 6:8, 9:17). Jesus said these signs would follow ALL believers EVERYWHERE (Mk. 16:16-18). The lame and those with palsy were healed under Philip's ministry. The signs also followed Stephen (Acts 6:8).

Faith grew so high that from Paul's body were brought handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them (Acts 19:12). Luke took none of the credit.

If we want to know how it should be done today, look how it was done under the ministry of Elijah, Moses, Elisha, Isaiah, Jesus, and all the people of the early church. Jesus is the same today (Heb. 13:8). He is our example (I Peter 2:24). He said if He went away and sent the Holy Ghost we could do as He did (John 14:12, Acts 1:8, Luke 4:18, Acts 10:38). In every case where He sent people to preach He told them to heal the sick with His name and power. The command He gave to the twelve (Luke 9) and the seventy (Luke 19), He gives us (Matt. 28:19-20).

### Experiences

Mrs. Fannie Wooten, a blind lady with scums over her eyes, on a full time blind pension, was led into our revival in Fort Worth. According to the Physician the blood vessels behind her eyes were completely closed, leaving her totally blind. After prayer she could see light.

The next day when the welfare lady came by to see her on some business Mrs. Wooten shouted, "I am healed and do not need the check now." When she came back to church I examined her to see that the scums had disappeared from her eyes. She left a signed affidavit that she could read fine foot-notes without glasses.

Just last night a blind man was brought into our services here in Seattle. He had reservations to go to the hospital the following Monday for a \$500.00 operation. He was the first one in line. As soon as I touched him he began to shout, "I can see." In a few minutes he could see fingers. Then he could see large print. When he finished rejoicing he could see fine foot-notes at the bottom of the Bible. A newspaper reporter wrote the account. The rest received healing without prayer!

One or more totally blind eyes have been healed nearly every night in this meeting. Fourteen deaf ears were healed one night in the audience and seventy-four stood testifying that they were healed one night before we started the healing line.

An 88-year-old blind lady was led into our Bearden revival. The muscles in her eyes were completely worn out according to her physician. About ten minutes after prayer she shouted from the audience, "I can see that preacher." The next day the pastor and I visited her to find that she could read the Bible and could see people passing in the road.

We prayed for a Mrs. Crawford who had been bed-fast five years with arthritis. About 200 people, looking for a miracle, saw her carried out in a chair just like she was brought in. In a few days she began to walk. She carried a five gallon pail of water, did her house work, and visited her kinfolks in different parts of the United States telling the wonderful news.

Mrs. Stafford of Ringland, Oklahoma, had had a scum over her eye 42 years, making it totally blind. She was healed in our Ardmore meeting of blindness and arthritis, and had the sense of smell restored that she had lost five years before.

Jimmie Ukle, a 31-year-old man, totally blind in one eye from birth, was made completely normal by prayer in our Breckenridge meeting.

A nine-year-old boy, totally blind in one eye from birth, was made normal in our Camden revival.

Thirteen-year-old Paul Askins, totally blind in one eye for years, was restored to normal instantly in our Ft. Worth meeting. In the same meeting Mrs. Butler from Irving, Texas, was healed of a totally blind eye. In the same place Mrs. Houston, totally blind in one eye for 14 years, was restored to normal instantly. The scum which completely covered her eye left suddenly.



Mrs. Burns of Ft. Worth had two tumors over her eyes, three vertebra loose in her back, and a goiter. All three afflictions disappeared.

A cancer disappeared from a lady's face in Goldanna after prayer.

Mrs. Baird of Curtis Junction had a cancer on her face and one in her stomach. Both disappeared after prayer.

A lady from Paul's Valley, Oklahoma, who had a cancer on her breast, which had already eaten into her lung, was completely healed in our Ardmore meeting. Her doctor pronounced her well.

Tommie Manuel's boy, totally blind in one eye for years, was restored to normal instantly in our Blytheville meeting.

Mr. Frickie, of Waco, who stuck a stick in his eye 63 years ago, leaving it completely blind, was restored to normal. The scum that covered it disappeared.

A little boy in Dallas, who had never walked, walked perfectly, instantly. The neighbors were surprised the next day.

A lady who had not walked in 20 years jumped off the stretcher one night in our Breckenridge meeting completely whole.

In North Little Rock, a lady came from Mt. View, dying with cancer of the stomach. She was healed so suddenly her relatives, husband, and especially her physician were amazed. I received much mail from that town.

Florene Crowder, who walked on the side of her foot, brought her old shoe back and showed the Breckenridge auditorium full of people how her foot was made perfect after prayer.

Ted Hollenger, a building contractor, who was crushed under a falling house, wore a brace for months because of a broken back and ribs. As soon as I prayed

for him he threw his hands into the air saying, "I am just as well as I ever was." The next morning he brought me the grace to be added to the many I have stored away.

A Denton railroad man, crippled with torn ligaments in his arm, was healed instantly as we laid hands on him. He returned to work.

Ninety-year-old John Lane, who had never been saved, paralyzed on his whole left side, his sight and hearing completely gone on that side, a white scum completely covering the eye, was made normal instantly, saved and filled with the Holy Ghost in our Waco meeting.

As I prayed for a lady in Dallas, crippled with arthritis, I said, "Lord take 50 ponnds of flesh off this lady." She threw away her crutch completely healed. I received a letter since, that she lost exactly 50 pounds.

A lady in Flint, Michigan, with many joints out of place in her neck and back, brought her neck brace to me. She was completely well after prayer.

Mr. Kuntz of San Antonio, who was totally blind in eye for 15 years, sent me his picture and affidavits saying that after prayer he was completely healed.

A crippled lady in Dallas sent me a letter that after prayer she discarded her rolling chair and was completely well.

Mr. Bone of Bold Knob, a business man who sold out his business because of an incurable heart condition, brought me a doctor's statement that he was completely well after he was prayed for in our North Little Rock revival. He is now praying for the sick.

Jess Williams, from my home town, had been on a diet of strained soup and milk for one year because of ulcers in stomach. After prayer he went home and ate anything he wanted. After several years he is still well, praying for the sick

Mr. Thomas of my home town was discharged from the Boonesville T.B. Hospital 14 days after prayer with a doctor's statement that there was no trace of the old trouble.

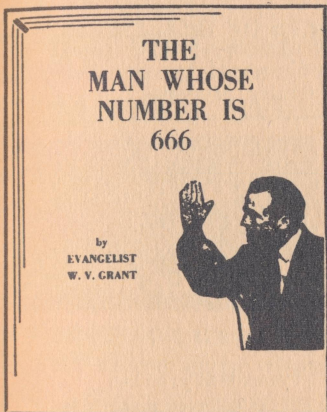
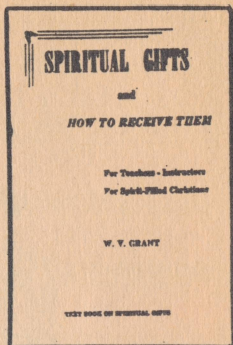
In this revival a lady was healed in the audience of a big tumor. She was supposed to have been operated on, but the doctor said the tumor was gone. Several tumors have disappeared instantly in this revival, many on the outside!

Two ladies, each totally blind in one eye, came for prayer in our revival in Detroit. One was cross-eyed. Both were made whole instantly.

Mr. Maywall, a business man from my home town, was paid \$10,000.00 insurance because he was as good as dead with heart disease. He was saved and healed as we prayed. After several years he is yet normal.

A girl in our North Little Rock meeting with a blind eye was made normal. I still have her written testimony. In fact I have a signed statement and witness to each of the accounts; also many affidavits, doctor's statements, and pastor's signatures. Thousands of testimonies I don't have time and space to mention.

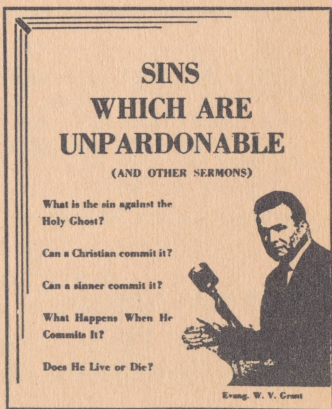
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W. V. Grant

## CHAPTER IX

# WORKING OF MIRACLES

The Spiritual gift of working of miracles is a supernatural manifestation of the Spirit of God doing a supernatural act that none of the other eight spiritual gifts do.

### What It Is Not

It is not what some call "miracle of science." Science is not a miracle. It is a natural man dealing in natural laws. Natural wisdom is foolishness when compared to God's wisdom. Modern ministers, bringing "such wonderful book reports" tell about the "marvelous miracle age" in which we are now living. But the modern medical science and machine age are something produced mostly by natural brains that have never had the supernatural.

This gift must not be reduced to a surprise or wonder. Many people traveling through the mountains, deserts, and rivers claim they worship God by admiring nature instead of being in church worshipping God in SPIRIT and in truth (John 4:23). They look at nature and say, "Oh, that is a miracle." They are only reducing the word "miracle" to the natural.

The modern church buildings, colleges, hospitals, schools, seminaries, and other means of education, are not miracles. These can be produced by natural sinners who fight God's miracle working power.

This gift cannot be our modern surgical skill, though valuable it may be. Our modern surgeons can take man to pieces but they cannot put him together again. They tape him together and wait for nature to heal. But this is not the supernatural.

This gift is not spiritism, which is forbidden by the

Word of God. The only miracle the devil works is to destroy men's lives (John 10:10). It is not Christian Science. We explained that in the last chapter. It is not psychology or anything which can be produced by man in the natural.

### **What It Is**

The working of miracles is signs and wonders (Mk. 1:16-18).

Is it to meet the challenge of spiritism?

It is always supernatural and contrary to nature.

It is used to confirm the Word of God preached by God's servants. God works miracles to build faith in His Word (John 5:36; 10:25). The absence of miracles will cause people to doubt God's Word.

No wonder Gideon asked, when God called him, "If I am a mighty man of valor where are all the miracles?" No wonder Moses required God to go with him and work miracles. No wonder Elisha, feeling the responsibility of his ministry on him, asked, "Where is the Lord God of Elijah?" No wonder God told Joshua, "As I was with Moses so I will be with thee." No wonder, when we are required to do the same things Jesus did and take up the work He left off (John 14:12). We must remind Jesus of His promise, "These signs shall follow them that believe" (Mk. 16:16-18).

Miracles give power over creation, death, demons, and nature. Miracles are performed to deliver people in danger, to perform judgments, to calm storms, to cast out devils, to bind up broken hearts, deliver the captives, and to deliver people from natural stubbornness and rebellion so they may receive the Holy Ghost.

Miracles cause people to be saved. Denying miracles does not!

### **Bible Examples**

When Peter went into a room and found the people weeping over a corpse he first knelt and prayed

through; then he arose and commanded the woman to arise. She was restored to life. This miracle resulted in many turning to God (Acts 39:43).

Through this gift Paul raised a man to life after the man fell out of the window and was killed (Acts 20:6-12).

Through this gift Jesus commanded Lazarus to come forth from the dead after he was mortified (John 11). God raised the dead for Elijah and Elisha (I Kings 17:21).

Nine lepers were healed; but one of them was made whole as he worshipped Jesus (Luke 17). The nine that were healed did not have their missing organs restored. The man who returned found that he had a whole nose, whole ear, whole hand, etc.—a miracle of creation!

Through a miracle of creation Jesus turned the water into wine (John 2) and fed 5000 families on five loaves and two fishes. This gift in operation multiplied meal for one widow and oil for another.

Through this gift Paul cast the devil out of the fortune-teller, broke down the jail (Acts 16) and wrought special miracles through aprons and handkerchiefs (Acts 19:1-6).

Philip and Stephen, two church servants, cast out devils, causing signs and wonders to follow their ministry (Acts 6-8). Ananias, an obscure saint, laid hands on Paul when Paul received the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost came upon the Samaritians and the Ephesians when hands were laid on them (Acts 8, 19).

Jesus stilled the storm and calmed the waves. Moses had power over rain, hail, and fogs. Elijah had power over rain.

The bears ate the children who mocked Elisha. The men who came to arrest Elijah were struck dead. Naaman's leprosy possessed Gehazi. Paul struck a



man blind (Acts 13:11). The Syrians were struck blind. Such are the miracles of judgment!

God used this gift to protect His people. He rolled the waters back, made the sun stand still, caused the axe to swim, put money in the fish's mouth, took the burn out of the fire, let Peter walk on the water, won the battle for Gideon, protected the children of Israel from disease, protected their clothes 40 years, and fixed Moses where his eyes (also teeth and hair) did not change.

Most of these are instances where God trusted men with miracles. The Bible is a Bible of miracles. God is a God of miracles. Without miracles we would have no Bible or God.

### Experiences

One of the Sisters at church one Sunday began to suffer with her heart. After close examination it was found that there was no sign of life. Her folks were making arrangements to send for her people. We kept the church praying for about six hours without ceasing. Someone got the victory and began to rejoice and sing, "When the saints go marching in." The whole church arose and marched over the church house. The sister we were praying for opened her eyes and said, "I am too far gone; don't call me back now." She arose and helped the others march. She is still living!

In our Ardmore meeting a man fell to the ground, apparently dead. Other men brought him and laid him on the platform. After prayer he was perfectly whole. If he was raised from the dead that was the gift of miracles in operation.

A Methodist superintendent's wife was brought from another state to seek for the Holy Ghost. She fell out, apparently dead, while I was praying for another lady. She was black and blue all over for a long period of time. After prayer she raised up saying that she did not know anything, and that she had never

been subject to spells. If she was really dead that was the gift of miracles in operation.

A man on a stretcher in our revival became unconscious. His wife and the ambulance driver thought he was dead. After prayer he opened his eyes and smiled.

One of the members of the church I pastored refused to obey God and hindered others from doing so. I spoke a word and she was struck dumb. For a period of time she corresponded with a pencil and tablet. Then one night she saw a vision of heaven and hell. After she repented God restored her speech. Being struck dumb is a miracle of judgment.

The preachers were alarmed one night in a storm for fear the tent would be blown away. We prayed. The storm ceased suddenly! The tent was saved!

At an out-door baptising I asked God to stop the rain. In about one minute the sun was shining; a pleasant surprise to the congregation.

We prayed for rain in a drought and God gave us rain! I told one of my customers about it. He said we could have hung up a snake and it would have worked just as well. He stopped trading with me.

A devil-possessed man attacked me in a service in North Malvern. He seemed as strong as ten natural men. But when God anointed me my arms seemed as strong as Sampson. I threw him down and held him until the devils came out.

In Goldonna, a dangerous drunk man came into the service. He had stuck a beer bottle into one man's heart which killed him. He came to service that night, people thought according to his threats, to kill a preacher. He was sobered and delivered instantly. He was saved and filled with the Holy Ghost on the spot, and I heard that he made a worker for God.

A man who had been bound by dope about 14 years, by the name of Troy Blevins, came to our Breck-

enridge meeting and was prayed for. I received a letter from his Mother later that he was delivered instantly.

In Blytheville, Arkansas, Mr. Reggen, who had been bound by cigarettes for over 60 years, made the remark that he would give any man a check for \$1,000 if he could tell him how to get rid of cigarettes, as he was dying with heart trouble. By the gift of miracles he was delivered, free of charge, and filled with the Holy Ghost; by the gifts of healing he was made well.

The above three incidents are typical of thousands who have been delivered from drink, dope, and cigarettes in our revivals.

A teacher in a U. S. Government school was brought into our church in the Senath revival. So many demon spirits were in him he could not walk, talk, or raise his hands. Before he became serious he would get into the bed with his baby sister and run up the street naked. After we prayed he was normal in every way, saved, and filled with the Holy Ghost. He walked to the piano and sang and played, "Amazing Grace." I received a letter since that he was still well. He became a church worker. This is typical of thousands who have been delivered from spirits in our meetings.

We have seen thousands filled with the Holy Ghost as we laid hands on them. Hundreds of them had been seeking for years. I touched a lady's forehead. In one minute she was a sinner and in a few seconds she was saved and filled. Hundreds of people who could not get saved, after trying for years, because they were bound by spirits, were delivered, saved and filled with the spirit almost instantly.

Hundreds of times we have seen saints who were bound by spirits of pride, disobedience, worry, fear

and other things delivered instantly and became workers for God.

In Waco a 253-pound policeman who had never been saved, came into the prayer room. A strange power on him made him as strong as a dozen men, causing him to try to run away. When God's power came upon me we went to the floor and wrestled until he was saved, filled with the Holy Ghost and delivered. He is now going to Bible school and preaching.

A back-slidden woman fell to the earth in our prayer tent in the Ardmore meeting. She began to crawl like a snake, pull her hair, and look like the devil. After a battle she was delivered.

The devil came upon a seeker in Gifford, causing her to use foul language and try to pull women's clothes off. After we cast out the evil spirits this girl was saved and filled with the Spirit.

Last week a lady with seven evil spirits came forward to seek God. She was delivered from spirits and filled with the Holy Ghost.

Last night a lady came forward and was delivered from a lying spirit.

The other night I prayed for a lady and God instantly filled her teeth. A lady with her tooth broken off was prayed for. Before she left, the tooth fell out. A four and one-half year old boy was prayed for who had never had any upper front teeth. He was starving to death. In four days he came back with his parents and a doctor's statement, with perfect white enamel teeth. The whole congregation saw it. The doctor was so amazed that he brought me a notary public statement and came and was filled with the Holy Ghost. The above account is a miracle of creation!

There is no age called the age of miracles. God has always worked miracles. He always will as long as He is God!

## CHAPTER X

# FAITH

The Spiritual gift of faith is the supernatural manifestation of the Spirit of God that miraculously drops the assurance of the answer to one's prayers into his heart, even BEFORE he sees it come to pass with his natural eyes.

### What It Is Not

It is not natural faith which any natural person may possess. Natural faith may be called courage, without which this world would not keep going. Natural faith may be called confidence, without which no group of people may progress.

The gift of faith is not dead faith, which any may have (Rom. 12:3 and James 2:26); but if they would work for God their faith would come alive and grow (II Thess. 1:3).

It is not saving faith, which every Christian has.

It is not faith, the fruit, which is possessed by every Christian (Gal. 5:22).

It is not general faith. It takes general faith to get answers to prayers, or to operate any one of the Spiritual gifts.

It is not common faith which we all may have (Titus 1:4).

It is not just TRYING to have faith, such as supposing, imagination, gesturing, screaming, yelling, jumping, or make believe.

It is not ambition, natural business, or ability.

It is not guess-work, predicting, recklessness, or believing without positive evidence.

It certainly is not a rule of ethics, doctrine, theory, dogma, principle, discipline, conviction, by-laws, creed, organization, standard or any man-made policy. It is not doctrinal faith for students or for a "privileged few."

IT CAN'T BE someone up before an audience at church, speaking over the radio, or putting out literature, begging for money, saying they have a "faith-work." It can't be someone who goes to "build faith" in a "campaign" and demand a certain amount of money before he goes. It is not someone who says, "I have all the faith in the world; pray for me; I just can't get it."

The Spiritual gift of faith is the Faith of God imparted (Mark 11).

It is founded on the best evidence that can be had—the Word of God quickened to one's Spirit—what God said. It is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen (Heb. 11:1). A good colored brother explained it like this: "If you come in and see that I have eaten all the fried chicken, leaving the bones and some of the gravy, you would know there had been some chicken there for the gravy is the substance of things you are hoping for, and the bones are the evidence of the things you don't see."

While we are yet speaking God hears us and while we are yet praying He answers. It is believing you have it WHEN you pray (Mark 11:24). It is knowing the roots are cursed before you see the tree die.

It ceases to be faith the minute you see it come to pass.

A woman "prayed through" and felt the assurance that her boys would be saved. They were saved after she died.

A lady prays for her husband to be saved until she feels the assurance and shouts the victory, praising God for the answer. Ten months later he comes home saved, rejoicing, telling her the glad news. She says, as she gets up to open the door, and before he says a word, 'Come on in; I knew it ten months ago!'

The gift of faith trusts for miracles while the gift of miracles works miracles.

It is for all, whether educated or uneducated, young convert, or matured saint—all Spirit-filled Christians.

### **Bible Examples**

"Thou shalt decree a thing and it shall be established unto thee (Job 23:28). You may have whatsoever you say (Mark 11:23).

The **Spirit** gave Elipah the evidence and assurance that there would be no rain for three and one-half years. He had the assurance that it would rain before he saw it rain. He had the assurance that the meal barrel and the cruse would never run dry (I Kings 17:14; 18:14). We are men of like passions as Elijah (James 5:17).

When Abraham said that God had given him a son, even before he saw the son, he was only speaking what God said. He counted those things that are not as though they were.

The children of Israel could march around the city saying, "God has given us the city" (past tense), and shout BEFORE the walls fell. They did not wait until the walls fell to shout; they shouted them down. They were only saying what God said.

Paul could say, "God has given me all that sail with me," even before the storm ceased or the boat landed because God said it (Acts 27:24).

The gift of faith could cause Peter to sleep in jail just a few hours before he was to be killed. He had

the assurance (Acts 12). No doubt the gift of faith caused Rhoda to stop praying, go to the door, and look for Peter.

By the gift of faith Jesus rested his head on the pillow DURING the storm. He already had the assurance they were going over to the other side (Mk. 4:35).

Elisha had the assurance, given by the Spirit, that the victory would be won in the camp the day before the natural eyes saw it come to pass. No wonder he could tell the man so (II Kings 7:1). He had already won the victory for them! He had it in his soul!

Ananias had the assurance, even before he went to see Paul, that Paul would receive the Holy Ghost (Acts 9).

Paul knew by a divine revelation that no man would lay hands on him to do him harm. He acted accordingly. (Faith is an act, faith without works is dead). Real faith is trust. You will walk out on it. Since that was an answer to prayer it must have been faith before he saw it.

It is best not to tell your assurance before you see the answer and can prove all things, there are not too many recorded examples in the Bible.

### **Experiences**

My legs had pus in the bones until I was about 26 years of age. My friends who used nearly every known remedy, from scraping the bones to amputating the legs, are now in their graves. Many people told me I would lose both legs.

As I was reading how Jesus put a curse on the roots of the fig tree God showed me that He had put a curse on the roots of my affliction. But they, like the fig tree after Jesus spoke, looked just as they did. The Spirit of God spoke the 24th verse to my spirit: "Therefore I say unto you what things so ever ye desire



WHEN ye pray, believe that ye receive them (then) and ye shall have them."

I accepted the answer WHEN I prayed. I was the only one who knew I had the answer except God. I ceased trying, entered into rest, and shouted the victory. People marveled at my calmness! In about six months my legs were healed. In a few weeks new flesh had grown in the holes which were formerly counted incurable. That was the gift of faith when I felt the assurance, even before I received healing.

Just after I was converted and filled with the Spirit I went from my home in Arkansas to South Texas. I used to go about one and a half miles to find a quiet place in the pasture to pray. Sometimes I would get on top of the court house to pray. I would stay before the Lord two or three hours or get the answer.

Once while I was praying God showed me by the word of knowledge that a certain preacher and his wife, who were so busy working they did not have time to pray and seek God for His will, should move to Arkansas. Without speaking to them about the matter I prayed until I felt the assurance that they would move. Before long they received an invitation to pastor a nice church in Arkansas. They moved and remained in that state pastoring and building churches for years.

There were many other prayers I prayed while I was in South Texas. When I would receive the assurance that I had the answer I would write the prayer, with the date, in a book. I would sign my name, and the promise in the Bible I was standing on, at the bottom of the page. Several years later as I would see these prayers come to pass I would write the answer down. I yet have the book, as a prized possession. Many of them concerned the salvation of my loved ones.

While I was pastoring a church some of my members would take a wild notion to move to another state. I would immediately go to prayer and pray until I felt the answer. When I prayed through I quit praying. There is no use to pray for something after you have the answer. Something would happen that my members would not go off and leave the church.

One time a couple moved 2000 miles away after I felt the assurance. I said, "That can't be." In about two weeks they had learned their lesson and returned. They made better members than ever.

I prayed for two trouble-making families to move. Had I turned them out of the church their friends and relatives would have gone out with them. A "church trial" would have left a stink. I just went to the Lord and prayed that they would move out of the country. I felt the assurance that they would move even before they knew they were going to do so.

One lady who was a trouble maker had so many kinfolks in the local church and town I knew it would not do to bring her to trial. I turned her over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh. She suddenly died. But I believe her spirit was saved. I did not do it; God did it through me. Our Sunday School doubled and we had a revival. I felt the assurance when I prayed, that I had the answer.

To someone who thinks that is no way to do I only say that Paul, through the Spirit, turned people over to Satan (I Tim. 1:20) and COMMANDED that we do the same thing (I Cor. 5).

Hundreds of times the last few years I have gone to prayer. I would lay under the power of God for hours, until I felt the assurance that a certain number of people would be filled with the Spirit. I would make my petition and then wait upon the Lord until I had the answer in my soul. While I was yet speaking

God heard me, and while I was yet praying He answered me. I carried the answer to my revival services with me and saw the things come to pass I prayed for.

Because of this we cannot recall one night, for several years, that people have not been filled with the Spirit, up to fifty in one day! And we have been in revivals continually. We have seen many hundreds healed and saved because God dropped the assurance in my soul before I went to service.

God's eyes were ever searching for hearts in condition to receive something from Him (I Chr. 16:9). When He found them He would send them, even from far distant towns, churches, states, and nations.

It was nothing I did. It was the grace of God that the Spirit dropped the answer into my heart, as I waited on God, even as Peter did on the house top (Acts 10).

Oh, if people would spend time waiting in the presence of God, they would turn the world upside down for God and bring in a world-wide revival. And I believe God has some who are doing that very thing!

## CHAPTER XI

# COOPERATION OF GIFTS

The saints with gifts, like the members of the human body, work in unity one with another (I Cor. 12). Just as your hand works in co-operation with your foot, eye, nose, or ear when it becomes necessary, one gift works in co-operation with another to accomplish things for God. All are necessary. Just as two parts of the body are used at the same time in most any job that is undertaken, and both are operated by the direction of one brain, so two or more gifts may work at the same time under the direction of the same Spirit.

In former chapters we have separated these gifts and told you what they are and what they are not; but, like the colors in the rainbow, they all belong together. We will now proceed to discuss a few.

### **Bible Examples**

God gave Noah a word of knowledge when He told him that the end of all flesh was at hand: but Noah still did not know what to do about it until God gave him a word of wisdom and told him what to do, when to do it, how to do it, and why it should be done (Gen. 6:13-14).

By a word of knowledge God told Lot the city should be destroyed; by a word of wisdom He told him what to do, when to do it, and how to do it. Even after one receives the word of knowledge many times he decides on the wrong action without the word of wisdom.

By a word of knowledge God told Joseph that King Herod would seek to kill the child; by a word of wisdom God told him to flee into Egypt (Matt. 2:13). By

a word of knowledge He showed Joseph that King Herod was dead; but he yet did not know what to do until God told him by a word of wisdom, to carry the mother and the child into Israel (Matt. 2:20).

By the word of knowledge Jesus told Saul, "I am Jesus whom thou persecutest"; by a word of wisdom Paul was told what to do, when and how to do it (Acts 26:15-16).

By a word of knowledge Joseph knew what Pharoah had dreamed; by a word of wisdom he knew to store the corn, and how to distribute it to the living and to preserve the nation (Gen. 41:28-44).

The gift of working miracles followed Philip's ministry when unclean spirits came out of the people; and the gifts of healing were manifested when many were healed. Had the people not first been delivered from spirits they probably would not have been healed (Acts 8:7).

By the gift of miracles the Samaritans received the Holy Ghost when Peter laid his hands on them; by discerning of spirits Peter knew why Simeon did not receive the Holy Ghost (Acts 8).

By a word of knowledge God told Paul, "I have much people in this place; by a word of wisdom Paul was shown what to do (Acts 18:9-10).

Paul first discerned the Spirit of faith in the man of Lystra before he said, "Stand up right on your feet" (Acts 14:8-10). By the gift of healing the man was healed.

How could Paul have known to cast the devil out of the girl at Philippi had he not first discerned that the spirit was in her? (Acts 16:16-18).

By a word of knowledge Ananias knew Paul was in a certain house praying; by a word of wisdom he was told what to do about it; by the gift of miracles he imparted to him the Holy Ghost; by the gift of healing he healed his blind eyes; by the gift of faith he had the

assurance, before he made the trip, that Paul was harmless and would be delivered (Acts 9:10-19).

Both healing and miracles were manifested through Peter when the lame man was raised up at the Beautiful Gate (Acts 4:16, 22). Evidently God both healed him and created a part to go in his ankles which was absent at birth.

By the gift of discerning of spirits Peter knew that there was a lying spirit in Ananias and Sapphira; by the gift of miracles they were struck dead (Acts 5).

It would not help to have only tongues or interpretation of tongues alone when it comes to public worship (I Cor. 14:28).

By the gift of prophecy we may exhort people, telling them they need to get deliverance, or comfort them with the promise of deliverance (I Cor. 14:3); but we should have the gift of healing or the gift of miracles for their deliverance.

By the word of knowledge and discerning of spirits we may know what is wrong with people; by the power gifts we can deliver them.

By the three gifts to know and three gifts to speak we know what is wrong with the Assembly and can tell the people what should be done; but we are badly in need of the three gifts of power to get those things done.

Both the gifts of miracles and the gift of healing were manifested when the handkerchiefs were sent from Paul's body, casting out the devils and healing the people (Acts 19:11-12).

### **Experiences**

By a word of knowledge God made me to know a pastor eighty miles away was in trouble with his church. He was getting ready to turn out all the people who were bound by habits. By a word of wisdom God showed me how to go there and explain to him not

to turn them out, and why he should not do so. By the gift of faith God gave me the assurance of a revival at that place. By the gift of prophecy He promised it. By the gift of miracles those people were delivered from habits and filled with the Holy Ghost. This saved a church trial and a big "church split."

In our present meeting we prayed for a lady who had been totally deaf for life, 48 years. The doctor said she had no ear drum. But since she has been prayed for the doctor examined her and said she had an ear drum. A miracle of creation was working along with the gifts of healing.

A lady who broke her ankle because she was too stubborn to preach was also too stubborn to go to the doctor, or to ask God to heal it. Nature healed it after she carried it in a flour-sack for weeks. But it healed with the joint out of place.

As we prayed for her she became willing to obey God. As the power hit her she jumped into the air. As she was in the air the gift of miracles broke the foot again; as she hit the floor, with the foot in place, the gifts of healing made it sound and well.

By the gift of tongues the Holy Ghost prayed through me for someone; by the gift of faith I received the assurance in my heart that I had the answer; by the word of knowledge I was made to know who I had prayed for. Blessed co-operation of the gifts!

One night in a revival service, while I gave out tongues, interpretation, and prophecy, I wondered what to do about a well-meaning lady who wanted to help but was disturbing. By the word of wisdom I got the service in order. When things came to order God began to manifest the gifts of healing. Just then a young man disturbed the service as he fell in the floor with a fit. By discerning of spirits I knew it was Satan in the boy; by the gift of miracles I cast Satan out. Before

I had left home I had prayed until I felt the assurance that a certain number of people would be saved and filled with the Holy Ghost. Just before service God showed me by the word of knowledge that there would be no preaching. All nine gifts in co-operation!

A man in our revival in Michigan, blind in both eyes for years, had one eyeball burned out in the U. S. Army. By the gift of miracles God put the eyeball there instantly; by the gifts of healing he could read without glasses. Many times God has to create something before he can heal.

A cancer had eaten out part of a lady's organs. God, by the gift of miracles, created some organs and then healed the cancer.

A minister in Chattanooga, who got his eyeball burned in the U. S. Marines, and had been on a U. S. pension for years, came to our revival. By the gift of miracles the eyeball was made whole; by the gift of healing he was made to read fine print.

Mr. Smith of Ardmore, Okla., had had a ruptured eyeball for 31 years, which was all his life. By the gift of miracle God put the fluid in it, making it the same size as the other one; by the gifts of healing the sight was restored. It is now normal.

We prayed for a eighty-nine-year-old lady in our Bearden revival. The muscles of her eyes were completely worn out, according to her physician. By the gift of miracles God created more muscles instantly; by the gift of healing she could see to read the Bible.

We prayed for a lady of Braid, Texas who had stuck a thorn in her eye. It was totally blind, perished away with the fluid gone, according to the doctor. By the gift of miracles God created more fluid and made the eye the size of the other one; by the gift of healing she read fine print instantly.



Jake N's case went something like this: His dad came by my place saying he would never see his son again because his son was dying. The doctors said it was a tumor in his brain, which could eat through the last tissue any minute. It took five men to hold him on the bed as he had 26 epileptic fits in one night. He had been to several hospitals, including the hospital for nerves. In the night at home he would arise to take a shotgun to blow his brains out.

After his dad went hopelessly down the street crying, I went to Jake's house and found him unconscious. By the gift of faith I prayed until I felt the assurance that he would be raised up.

The next night Jake was able to go with me to service. During the service the secret of his heart was made manifest through prophecy. Through tongues and interpretation he was called into obedience, as he was a backslider. By discerning of spirits I knew he was possessed with many spirits. By the word of wisdom God helped me to get the congregation in order, which had scattered for fear when the devils manifested themselves. By the working of the miracles the devils departed. By the gift of healing the tumor disappeared. Then God showed me a word of knowledge that Jake's wife at home needed deliverance from a certain habit.

In our revival in Oakland, California, Andrew M., who had an injured spine and a short leg for many years, came to be prayed for. By the gift of miracles of creation God lengthened the leg one and one-half inches to normal; by the gift of healing his spine was made well.

A certain man praying for the sick discerned that a certain lady had been untrue to her husband; he used his own wisdom to straighten it out and got the

family into serious trouble. Another evangelist discerned spirits in a man in the audience. Instead of waiting on the Lord for a word of wisdom to know HOW to deal with him he pointed him out and exposed him publicly, which was very embarrassing. By a word of knowledge a certain man was made to know that his wife was too familiar with another man; had he not waited upon the Lord for a word of wisdom serious trouble could have resulted.

I have seen the time, even after I discerned the spirits in a person, it would have been very easy to try to cast out the man instead of the spirit, had I not waited upon God for the gift of miracles to be manifested.

The story goes that two men wanted to go to the next town. They could not go because one had no legs and the other was blind. Finally the blind man got the man without legs on his shoulders, furnishing the legs while the other man furnished the eyes. They went to town.

If the foot shall say, 'Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body;' is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, 'Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body!' is it therefore not of the body? Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, ARE NECESSARY . . . And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondly prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healing, helps, governments, diversities of tongues" (I Cor. 12:12-28). Gifts co-operate to accomplish things for God!

## CHAPTER XII

# HOW TO RECEIVE THEM

We have seen what the gifts are, and we have watched them in action in Scriptures and actual experience. Before we get to the main part of our message let us consider a few.

### Mistaken Ideas

#### SOME WANT SPIRITUAL GIFTS WITHOUT THE SPIRIT.

How can one have the gifts manifested through him in this Holy Ghost Church Period if he does not obey God? God declares plainly that the Holy Ghost is given to them that obey Him. (Acts 5:32, John 14:15, Acts 1:4, Matt. 28:11-20, Mk. 16:16-18). Since God is still sovereign He can manifest His power through an earnest seeker for the Holy Ghost; but it does not stand to reason that He will use a stubborn, rebellious person who is guilty of witchcraft and idolatry (I Sam. 15:23).

In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit moved **upon** special chosen individuals for a special occasion, and that from an outside source. In this age He dwells **within** us and may be manifested through **all** Holy Ghost saints (John 14:17, I Cor. 12).

I have seen people who want the gifts of healing and the gift of miracles, but they say, "Away with the gift of tongues and interpretation; they are not necessary; there is no good in them." (See my Book "How to Receive the Holy Ghost.")

#### SOME THINK GIFTS ARE FOR ONE TO USE WHEN HE PLEASES.

A wind-mill only works as the wind blows, and that turned in the right direction. Just as a sail ship

moves when the wind blows, and the sail must be turned accordingly, so each member must remember that he must work with the anointing of the Spirit. Just as a pipe organ is no good without the wind, and the electric organ makes no music without electricity, so we cannot use gifts without the anointing of the Spirit, and as He wills.

If Peter and John, who had ministered around Jerusalem for years, could have used the gifts at will they would have healed the lame man long before they did (Acts 3:1-6).

Elisha could not bring healing to Naaman until Naaman got his heart right (II Kings 5). Naaman, like many today, thought surely Elisha could just lay hands on him and heal him.

Peter could have laid hands on Simeon all day and he would not have received the Holy Ghost; because God anointed Peter with discerning of spirits instead of miracles (Acts 8:21).

Elijah called fire down from heaven, overcame the King and killed hundreds of false prophets as the Spirit anointed him to do so; but he ran from Jezebel and prayed to die without the anointing (I Kings 18-19).

Samson did not slay the lion, pull up the gate, kill the Philistines, or break the cord until the times the Spirit of the Lord moved upon him (Judges 13:25, 14:6, 15:14). Without the anointing he **shook himself** but nothing happened.

Moses put out his rod when God told him to do so. Joshua commanded the people to march across Jordan just at the time God planned. Imagine him commanding the sun to stand still a few days before the battle!

Jesus said it was not He who did the work, but the Father which was in Him (John 14:10). He did all the miracles after He was baptized in the Holy Ghost, under the anointing of the same Holy Ghost we have.

(Acts 10:38, Luke 4:18). He taught the Word until the power of God was present to heal before he healed anyone (Luke 5:17). He knew what gift was in manifestation. He left a city full of people without healing them (Matt. 13:58). He left a multitude of people without healing them, because they had their eyes on the pool (John 5:1-10).

Suppose Ananias had laid hands on Paul a few days before he did. He would not have received the Holy Ghost or healing (Acts 9). If he could have operated the gifts at will he would have been greater than God; for God cannot fill with the Holy Ghost, or heal until one gets his heart in condition to receive things.

He that hath anointed us is God (II Cor. 1:21). We do not anoint ourselves. Lay hands suddenly on no man (I Tim. 5:22). We must wait on our ministry (Rom. 12:7).

God divides the operation of the gifts as He wills (I Cor. 12:11), not as we will. If we could use them as we will we would empty out all the hospitals and cast the whiskey devils, lust devils, etc., out of everyone we meet on the street. Paul did not heal Trophimus or cast the devil out of Elymas, because they were not willing to be obedient (II Tim. 4:11-16, Acts 13:11). Peter could not have cast the devil out of Ananias and Sapphira regardless of how badly he wanted to do so (Acts 5).

One cannot have the word of knowledge or the word of wisdom at his own will any more than he can have a dream or a vision anytime he wants to. One cannot heal, work miracles, or operate the gift of faith at his own will any more than he can dance in the Spirit when the Church is burdened. One cannot discern spirits at his own will any more than he can call himself to preach.

Some say, "Oh the spirit of the prophets are subject to the prophets." But nowhere did God say the

Spirit of God is subject to the prophet. The prophets must be subject to the Spirit if we are to have results. When one uses the gifts of utterance without the anointing he is doing so with his own spirit. To speak with tongues with one's own spirit is as futile as trying to preach or dance with his own spirit.

We are open channels for God to speak through. He that is of God must speak the words of God (John 3:34). It was God's words spoken through his servants that worked miracles and healed. The Words of God are as powerful as they ever were. The Word of God created man and will resurrect men (St. John 5:25). We should speak only as the oracles of God (I Peter 4:11).

**SOME CLAIM GIFTS AS THEIR OWN, OR PERSONAL POSSESSIONS.**

Gifts are the same as grace (Rom. 12:6). The two words come from the same root word. Jesus is also a gift (Rom. 6:23). But he must use us instead of us using Himself to us because we first give ourselves to Him (Rom. 12:1). We are not our own; but we are the temples of the Holy Ghost (I Cor. 6:19).

We do not find where any of the Apostles claimed any of the nine Spiritual gifts. They did not go around telling people they had a certain number of gifts but did not know how to make them work. Instead of Peter trying to figure out what he had, he said, "Such as I have give it to thee." It worked!

God gives gifts, but not as individual property. God uses a certain type of people for certain gifts, but He has a right to change vessels **as He pleases**. He can manifest any one of the gifts through any one of His yielded saints at any time, as it pleases Him (I Cor. 12:28). God sets gifts in the CHURCH.

"The ultimate thought is that Spiritual gifts are in the Church rather than in the individual." (See Page 74 "Concerning Spiritual Gifts" by Donald Gee).

Peter said that gifts are not a personal possession (Acts 3:12).

#### SOME ONLY WANT CERTAIN GIFTS.

As long as you are not willing to consecrate your life to God, for Him to operate just any of the gifts through you at any time, in any way He chooses, you will not receive anything. Some want faith while they criticize healing. Some want healing without discerning of spirits or the word of knowledge. Some want the word of knowledge without the word of wisdom. Some want the word of wisdom and the word of knowledge but they despise prophesying (I Thess. 5:20).

The Bible says for us to covet earnestly the best gifts; but who is to say which gifts are the best? The best gift is the one God chooses to manifest at a certain point in the service. A better translation is, "yet I shew you the way in the highest form." It is not gifts to be desired to the exclusion of the other gifts, but how to let gifts use you. Seek the gift to be manifested through you that God can get glory out of using. "A more excellent way" is to surrender your "program" to God for Him to use the gift He thinks best at a certain time in the service. Work with the anointing. No one is anointed with a certain gift twenty-four hours in a day.

#### SOME SAY PEOPLE WHO RECEIVE GIFTS KEEP THEM FOREVER.

Prejudice has led some to say one can backslide and use God's gifts for the devil. This is close to blasphemy (Matt. 12:22-31). If God's kingdom be divided how can it stand? (v. 25). Can a devil open blind eyes? (John 10:21). Satan does not cast out Satan (Luke 11:18). No man can do these things lest God be with him (John 3:2). These miracles proves one is from God (John 10:25) and confirms His Word (Mk. 16:16-18).

Saul did not prophesy after God departed from him (I Sam. 28:6). Judas no longer healed the sick or

cast out devils after the devil entered into him. He no longer "obtained part in this ministry" after he "by transgression fell" (Acts 1:17, 25).

The gifts and calling of God are without repentance. God had not changed His mind after Jonah and Peter returned to Him. The work God first told them to do was waiting for them when they returned to God.

One can, as Solomon did, use **acquired** knowledge or wisdom while he is in a backslidden state; but one cannot use Spiritual gifts without the Spirit. We see in the lives of Saul and Samson that God does not withdraw His Spirit everytime someone stumbles. But after the Spirit has **departed**, and one is in a backslidden state, he is like a windmill without wind.

**SOME SAY THAT EACH PERSON MAY HAVE ONLY ONE GIFT.**

Which one did Paul or Peter have? Or any other person? God said **ALL** should speak with tongues (I Cor. 14:5). And anyone who speaks with tongues may interpret (v. 13). **ALL** may pray for the sick (James 5:16). **ALL** may have faith (Rom. 12:3). **ALL** may have the word of knowledge (I Cor. 14:26). Certainly we all need discerning of spirits in these dangerous times. How can we **ALL** cast out devils without discerning they are there? (Mark 16:16-17). **ALL** are promised miracles (Mk. 16). We **ALL** need a word of wisdom at times. God has promised it (James 1:5, John 15:7). We should come behind in no gift. God said, "desire spiritual gifts" Note plural (I Cor. 14:1, 12, 31).

All the gifts were manifested through Peter, Paul, and others. God wants to divide them to different ones in a service (I Cor. 12:28-30), but if others do not yield remember that the gifts are in the Church (I Cor. 12:28). God can do as he pleases with His own (Matt. 20:15). Just because a certain person stays at home does not mean that healing, interpretation, or any other



gifts stayed at home and can't be used in the Church. Gifts are in no water tight compartment.

**SOME TEACH THAT THE SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY IS ONLY FOR FAVORED ONES.**

God says gifts are for everyone of you (I Cor. 14:26). A pastor is not required to wait for an "official interpreter" to be at church for a message in tongues to be given. God says let "someone" interpret. (See page 167 of "Spiritual Gifts" by Harold Horton).

**SOME THINK GIFTS MUST OPERATE CERTAIN WAYS.**

They think, if people do not act like they do the gift is not real. But there are diversities of operations (I Cor. 12:6). God heals in many different ways. All do not have the same manifestation (v. 7). Tongues, interpretation, or prophecy may be in first, second, or third persons. The word of knowledge or the word of wisdom may be in dreams, visions, or revelation.

Some miss salvation because they are looking for it like someone else received it. God KNOWS HOW to give good gifts and the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him (Luke 11). Some folk "forbid" a man if he does not follow their methods or their "group." They don't know what spirit they are of (Mark 9:30).

**SOME ARE LOOKING FOR THE EASY WAY OUT.**

They are looking for a modern, "push-button" experience, "three for a quarter." Many who claim to have gotten gifts so easily are now disappointed. Naaman made a sad mistake before he humbled himself. Simon found that the gift of the Holy Ghost did not come by hands only. We must prepare our life and our heart.

### **Remember These Things**

**JESUS SAID THESE SIGNS WILL FOLLOW THEM THAT BELIEVE.**

You may not see all the signs in the beginning of your experience; but if you will follow Jesus as Elisha followed Elijah the same works you may do in His name (John 14:12). You may have your nature killed and have the Christ nature in you (Rom. 6:6, II Peter 1:4). You must present your body as a living sacrifice, remember that you are not your own, and be led by the Spirit instead of the flesh (Rom. 12:1, I Cor. 6:10, Rom. 8:4). You are not of the world; you are to hate self and kin-folks, and be a new creature (I John 2:25, Luke 14:26, I Cor. 5:17).

### SEEK THE GIVER INSTEAD OF THE GIFTS.

Just as one should seek the Baptiser instead of the baptism, the Healer instead of healing, and Blessor instead of the blessing you must seek the Giver instead of the gifts.

Glorify God with a holy body which is wholly sanctified (I Cor. 6:20, II Cor. 7:1, I Thes. 5:23). Be lovely. Love is the best soil in which gifts will grow. Of course, love is neither one of the nine gifts or the substitute for a gift. Paul said for us to seek love with gifts, and not love without gifts (I Cor. 12, 13, and 14).

### DON'T DESTROY GOD'S FAITH IN YOU.

If you are not faithful in the little things you will not be faithful in large things (Luke 16:10). Be prepared for battles through opposition, and persecutions of every kind, even through your own family, kinfolks, and church people. A soldier boy must go through maneuvers before he gets to the front lines. We will know as we follow on to know (Hos. 6:3). We cannot master the eighth grade until we master seven grades before hand. Start a boy in business with \$5,000 and he will generally go broke. Start him off with \$5 if you want him to make a success. Let him learn his lessons on a small scale. Before one is a pastor he should first

hold all the smaller offices. Before one is a captain he should first be a private. Jeremiah "sat where they sat."

Before God could use Moses he sent him through the school of "hard-knocks." Before he went to that school he said, "Look who I am." After he was prepared he asked "Who am I?" The preparation process took place in the lives of Jacob, Daniel, Saul, Paul, and everyone whom God used.

After a diamond is mined out of the ground it must go through the cutting machine before it shines. The only thing that can cut a diamond is another diamond. Gold and silver must go through the furnace, a tree through the mill, and brick through fire.

More doors will open if you will go through the ones already open. Do what God has told you and He will tell you something else to do. Your car lights will shine farther just as you drive. He that doeth His will shall know of the doctrine (John 7:17). Abide in Him. Dwell in Him (John 15:7, Ps. 91).

#### BE LED BY THE SPIRIT.

If you will be led by the Spirit in the little things between services you can work with the Spirit in service to know which gift is in operation. You can't pull your consecration off and put it on as an overcoat.

As I went to pray for a lady suffering with gall stones I felt led to read a verse of scripture. She was healed before I prayed. If we will work with the Spirit, the Spirit will work with us (Mark 16:18). The people were led in different ways as they prayed for the sick in the Bible days. We must learn to work with the anointing. (See my book "The Grace of God in My Life.")

We should not have a certain, fixed time and method to pray for people to receive healing or the Holy Ghost any more than we should have a certain

fixed time and way to speak with tongues, discern spirits, work miracles, dance in the Spirit, or see a vision. Study the Bible examples. Sometimes the people may get healed before or without preaching. Just as the prophets in the Old Testament days waited until the Spirit moved upon them, so we must wait upon our ministry (Rom. 12:7).

Soldiers are given guns, but they yet belong to Uncle Sam. Guns are gifts as long as the soldiers are in service, but not to be used as the soldier pleases. Soldiers have time out to be instructed and have their guns cleaned and refilled. Just as a soldier uses a gun as orders are given, so we must use gifts as God anoints. Just as a soldier boy fires only as his turn comes, so we must prefer each other in the service of God and not "cross-fire" on each other when the Holy Ghost is working. Just as a policeman must have his gun loaded before he says, "stick em up," so we must be under the anointing before we command the devil.

#### YOU MAY HAVE GIFTS LYING DORMANT.

Gifts develop with use. Timothy had a gift he needed to stir up. Some have gifts they never use (Tim. 4:14, II Tim. 2:6). Use them instead of trying to figure out what to call them.

#### KEEP IN CONTACT AFTER GOD BEGINS TO USE YOU.

Fasting is essential. Many people should omit the evening meal before going to service at night, or eat a very light meal. Be temperate when you do eat. Jesus set us an example. Watch your meats.

You must deny yourself of many legitimate things. You can love the comforts of this life more than you do fellowship with God (II Tim. 3:4). Have a regular hour each day to wait in the presence of God, spending most

of the time worshipping Him and letting Him talk to you. You are no better than Jesus, who spent hours each day in prayer. He slipped away and rested.

Be temperate in talking and visiting. How can you tell people what God said if you are hearing people talk all day? Abstain from joking, speaking unnecessary words, wrath, stubbornness, fear, worry, hurry, pride, jealousy, envy, worldiness, hatred, strife, and many other things that will destroy you spiritually.

Keep a healthful body and obey the laws of nature. Live in God's presence.

The reason some seem to have more gifts than others is that they keep themselves in shape spiritually.

Keep self dead at all times. Do not be scared into keeping silent when the Spirit is leading you. Don't overstep faith.

We are in the midst of a world-wide revival—a battle between Christ and antichrist, the supernatural and the natural. We fight not against flesh and blood, but against spirits (Eph. 6:12). Fight with Spiritual gifts. Desire—covet earnestly—Spiritual gifts!

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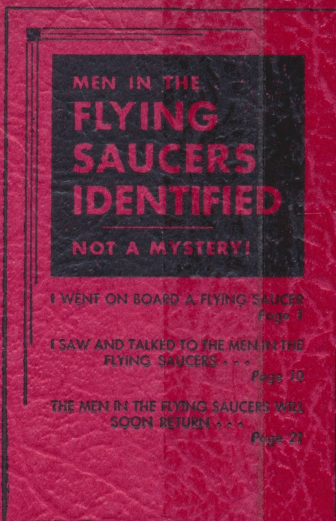
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