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TO GIVE AND BE GIVEN – LESSON 17

THE MESSAGE GIFTS

The nine gifts from Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 12) may be referred to as “manifestation gifts” and they manifest or demonstrate the supernatural. I Corinthians 12:7 says, **“But the manifestation of the Spirit (gifts) is given...to profit (benefit) withal.”** To “profit withal” means both to “profit” or benefit the church and to be a sign to unbelievers.

We will look at these nine gifts divided into groups of three, based on their common characteristics. The first group I will call “the message gifts.” Some scholars call them by a different name. The characteristic of these “speaking gifts” are that they bring a message from God by the Holy Spirit to be spoken by the believer for the others to hear. It is akin to an “oracle” being supernaturally spoken.

One is the gift of prophecy which is given clearly in one’s own native language. It is not “prophecy” in the sense of predicting the future; it is imply called “prophecy” because it is a direct utterance from God to his people. Sometimes the speaker may address it by saying something like “thus saith the Lord” but not always. However, it is spoken loudly enough that everyone present can hear it. It is generally a word of encouragement, or an exhortation, or a call to some action.

The other two message (speaking) gifts (I Cor. 12:10) are the gift of tongues and the gift of the interpretation of tongues. The gift of tongues mentioned here is neither the tongues that manifest upon being baptized in the Holy Spirit nor the tongues used in prayer or worship. It is a specific oracle from the Holy Spirit addressed openly to all who are present. Only those who have the gift of the interpretation of tongues will be able to give understanding or interpret it.

The gift of the interpretation of tongues is a separate gift. It is the necessary companion to the gift of tongues. The two operating in tandem become equivalent to the gift of prophecy.,

Some people may have one or the other of these two gifts, (tongues and interpretation of tongues) while some may have both. A few people may even operate in all three message gifts. These three message gifts are God’s way of speaking directly and clearly to His people. These gifts are most commonly manifested in Pentecostal or Charismatic churches or groups.

If you have never been used in the gifts, do not feel slighted. Holy Spirit will choose whom He uses, but we should be open to that possibility. If He prompts you to speak out, go ahead and trust Him to speak through you. It will take courage the first time, but then He will reward your obedience by using you again in the future. By quenching His unction upon you, the gift might then be withheld. That applies to all nine gifts.

“Trust and obey” applies to this just as it does in everything else in the Christian walk.