

## GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

### There are Two types

#### 1) **Isaiah 11:2-3**

Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of the Lord ( not fright fear, but awe ) - these are for the **personal sanctification** of each individual.

#### 2) **Extraordinary gifts 1Cor: 12: 8-11**

Wisdom, Knowledge, Faith, Healing, Miracles, Prophecy, Discernment, Tongues, Interpretation of tongues. These are given for the **Common Good**, and given to anyone, but always for the good of others - for building up **COMMUNITY**.

Today we are looking at 2)) *extraordinary* gifts 1Cor: 12: 8-11

### **Wisdom**

The gift of wisdom is the special ability that God gives to know the mind of the Holy Spirit in such a way as to receive insight into how knowledge may best be applied to specific needs. This gift is the revelation of God's infinite wisdom. It will be the solution to the problem at hand.

Illustration: (1 Kgs. 3:16-28) So the example, perhaps, that is most well known in the Bible is of Solomon, when confronted by two women who were fighting over a baby, saying "No! This is MY baby!" And the other one saying, "No! It's MY baby!"

Lk 12:11-12. "When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say"

Fr Nicholas is listening to someone with a problem, he prays and then decides... (*it's not me*), BEFORE a workshop, retreat, sermon, he prays asking for wisdom, knowledge - let Christ in so he can come out.

### **Knowledge**

There are different ways that God can speak. A good example in the New Testament would be when Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman and said, "No, you've had five husbands, and the person you're living with now is not your husband." Word of Knowledge is a revelation of a portion of God's knowledge that would otherwise have been impossible for that person to know. It can come as a thought, a vision, a word, a sense or by an emotion - or a scripture verse or a picture.

#### Illustration:

- Acts 5:1-11 Peter received knowledge about what Anannis and Sapphira had done.
- 2 Kings 5:20-27 Elisha knowing that Gehazi lied to Naaman.
- Matt 10: 19 *When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say. You will be given at that moment what you are to say.*

- Matt 12: 25 *But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "This man drives out demons only by the power of Beelzebul, the prince of demons." But he knew what they were thinking and he said to them.....*

## **Prophecy**

To prophesy is to proclaim a message from God while under direct inspiration of the Holy Spirit. It can be either:

- Encouragement (Do not be afraid - your God is coming) or
- Admonition (Rev. 3:1 "I know your works, that you have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead.)

A divinely inspired utterance that edifies exhorts and comforts. (It can declare what will happen in the future but doesn't necessarily have to be predictive in nature in order to be a prophecy).

### Illustration:

- Acts 21: 9 Philip's daughters who prophesied.
- 1 Cor 14:1-40 Paul's teaching on prophecy.
- Whole of Matthew 24 is a prophecy

## **Healing**

The gift of healing is using God's healing power to restore a person who is sick, injured, or suffering.

### Illustration:

- Acts 5: 15-16 Peter and the apostles saw many people healed.
- Luke 6:19 Jesus healed all who sought Him.
- *(compare this gift with the next)*

## **Miracle**

Divine intervention to accomplish something that could not have been accomplished by natural means.

*(Healing is God speeding up the process that would naturally occur. Miracles are God intervening and doing something that would not naturally occur.)*

Illustration: Matt 14:17-21 Feeding the 5000 with 5 loaves and 2 fish.

## **Faith**

Not to be confused with the virtue. (Three theological virtues Faith, Hope and Love.) This **gift** enables the person to have perfect confidence that God will bring about that which is spoken or desired. There is no room for doubt, but an overwhelming confidence that God will do what He said He would do.

### Illustration:

- Acts 3:4-8 Peter had absolute faith that the lame man would walk.
- Joshua 10:12-14 Joshua had absolute faith that the sun would stand still.

### **Tongues**

A divinely inspired utterance given in a language that has not been learnt by the speaker. Once interpreted this gift is similar to prophecy.

### Illustration:

Acts 2:7-12 The disciples spoke messages in tongues to people at Pentecost.  
1 Cor 14:27-28 Paul's teaching.

### **Interpretation of tongues**

Interpretation of a message given in tongues interpreted by divine inspiration and is given in the language of the speaker. The purpose is to edify the church - often a prophecy.

Illustration: 1 Cor 14:5 Paul's teaching.

### **Discernment**

To see beyond the outward appearance and have a revelation that discerns the nature of the spirit which is at work. This gift discerns whether it is a human spirit, a demonic spirit, a godly spirit or the Holy Spirit.

### Illustration

- Acts 8:18-28 Peter discerning the spirit in Simon (*who practiced magic*)
- Acts 16:16-18 Paul discerned the demonic spirit in the young lady (*fortune-telling*)

### **Discerning spirits**

(Greek: *diakrisis*). The spiritual ability to discern from God's word between the spirit of evil and of God, the flesh and the spirit, and truth and error, before the fruit is evident. Paul had this experience with Elymas the magician (Acts 13:9-12).

Recognising what is of God versus the world, the flesh and the devil.

Spirits can be summarised under three headings: the Holy Spirit, the diabolical spirit, and the human spirit. God's Spirit always inclines us to the good, working either directly or through secondary causes; the devil always inclines us to evil, working by his own power or through the allurements of the things of the world; the human spirit may be inclined to evil or to good, depending upon whether the individual follows right reason or selfish desires.

**Jesus used many of these nine gifts**