

Biblical answers about spiritual gifts

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A Word and Spirit Church

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What are spiritual gifts?

In the general sense, they are things that God has given to people to do things for Him, and to help them live godly lives.

“But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:7)

“According as his [God’s] divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him [Christ] that hath called us to glory and virtue” (2 Peter 1:3)

What are spiritual gifts?

In a specific sense, they are gifts God gives for the benefit of the Kingdom of God. These include:

- The gift of Christ as the Saviour (John 3:16, 17)
- The gift of His words in the Earth (Psalm 68:11; John 17:8)
- The gift of eternal life & salvation (Romans 6:23; 2 Timothy 2:10)
- The gifts of people as ministers to the Church (Ephesians 4:8)
- The gift of the Holy Ghost (Acts 2:38; 10:45; Romans 5:5)
- The gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:4; Hebrews 2:4)

Proper Pentecostal doctrine

The gift of the Holy Ghost

and

The gifts of the Spirit

What is the gift of the Holy Ghost?

“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth*; whom the world cannot receive” (John 14:16, 17a)

* Only Christians can receive the Holy Ghost.

Jesus said to the disciples at Jerusalem, “wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.” (Acts 1:4b)



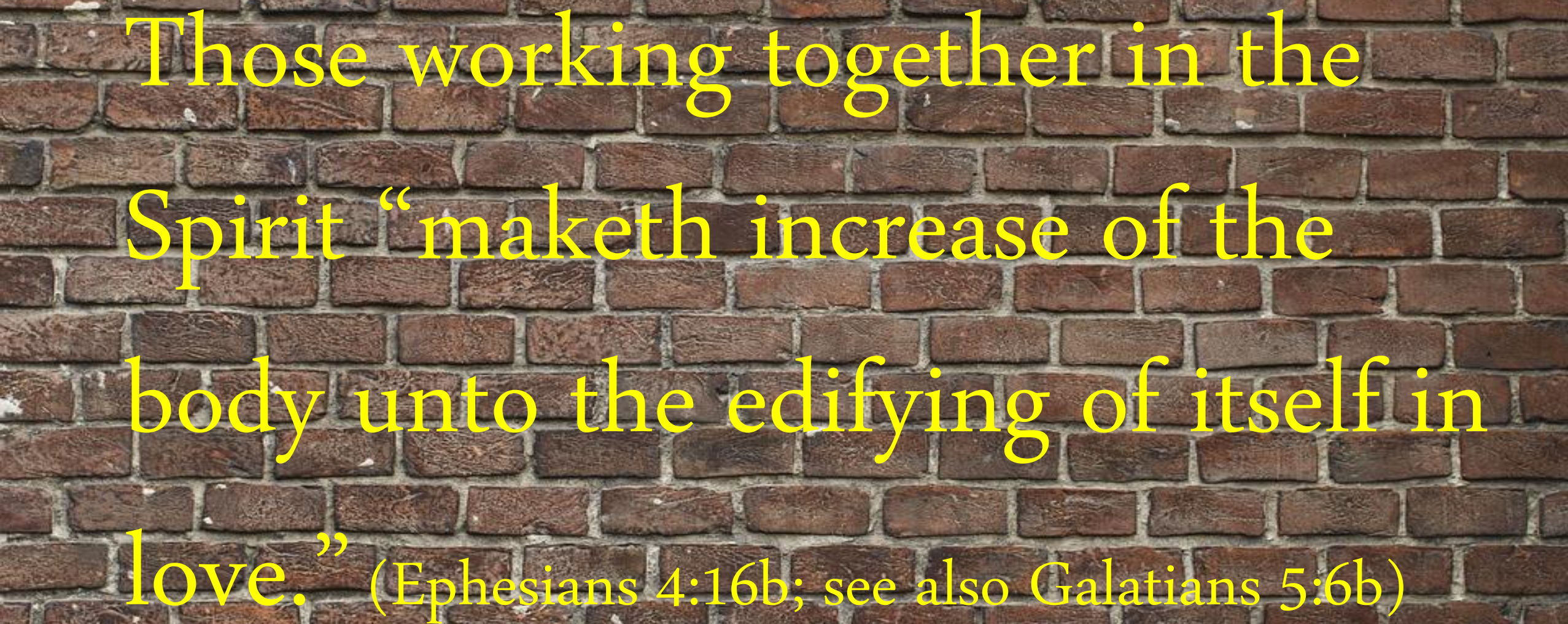
“And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:4a)

What is the gift of the Holy Ghost?

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” (Acts 2:38)

“... on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?” (Acts 10:45b-47)

“... the love of God is shed abroad
in our hearts by the Holy Ghost
which is given unto us” (Romans 5:5b)



Those working together in the
Spirit “maketh increase of the
body unto the edifying of itself in
love.” (Ephesians 4:16b; see also Galatians 5:6b)

Can people speak by the Holy Ghost?

“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” (2 Peter 1:21)

“Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.” (1 Corinthians 12:3)

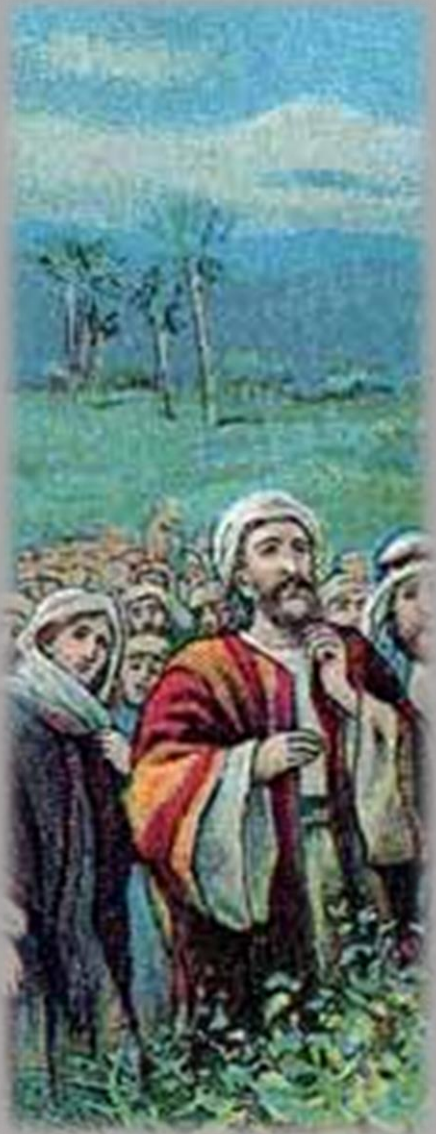
“And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” (Acts 2:4)

Can people speak by the Holy Ghost?

“Despise not prophesyings.” (1 Thessalonians 5:20)

“But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort. ... but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.” (1 Corinthians 14:3,4)

What are the gifts of the Spirit?



“Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.” (1 Corinthians 12:4)

“God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will” (Hebrews 2:4)

What are the gifts of the Spirit?

“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.” (see 1 Corinthians 12:7-11)

- “the word of wisdom”
- “the word of knowledge”
- “faith”
- “the gifts of healing”

What are the gifts of the Spirit?

- “the working of miracles”
- “prophecy”
- “discerning of spirits”
- “divers kinds of tongues”
- “the interpretation of tongues”

“But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.” (1 Corinthians 12:11)

Why are the gifts of the Spirit necessary?

For the edification of the Body of Christ (the Church).

“Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.” (1 Corinthians 14:12)



Why are the gifts of the Spirit necessary?

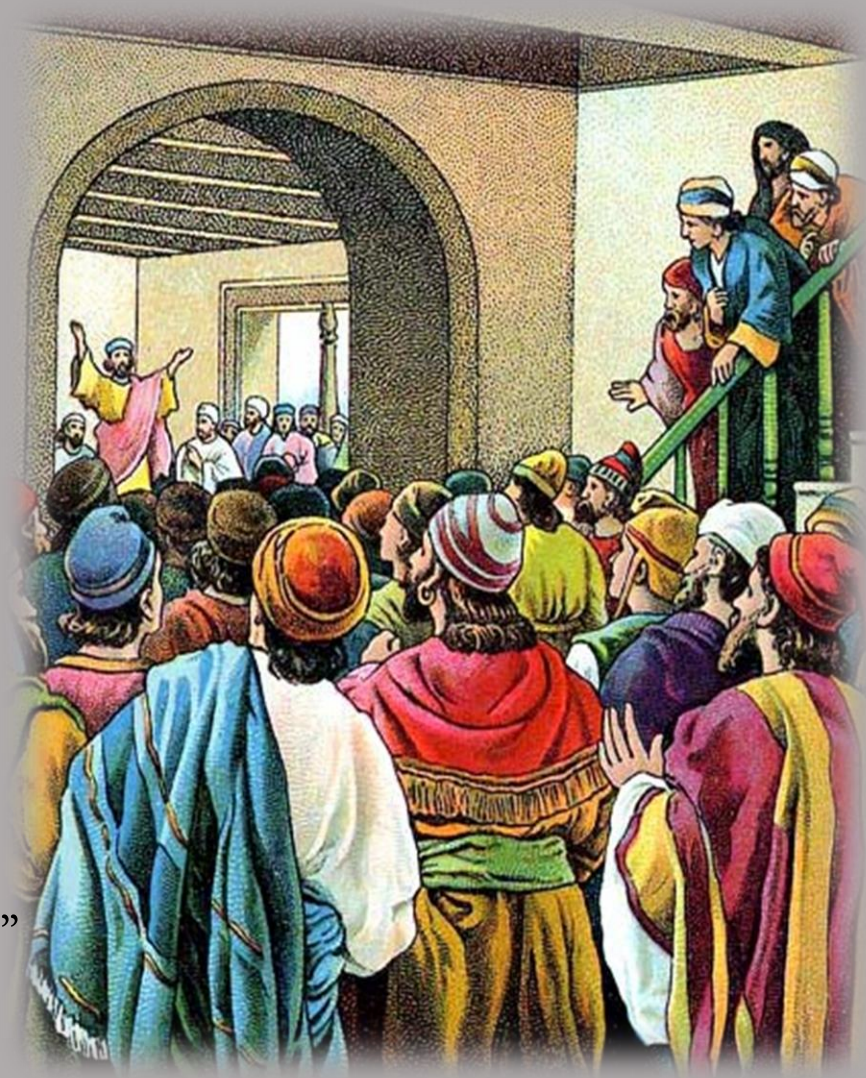
“How is it then, brethren? **when ye come together**, everyone of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.” (1 Corinthians 14:26)



Why is the gift of the Spirit* necessary?

“In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.” (Ephesians 2:21,22)

* Listen to the sermon “Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?”



Does God want us all to prophesy?

“Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.”

(1 Corinthians 14:1)

“For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted.” (1 Corinthians 14:31)



What can prophesying do?

Prophesying edifies: “he that prophesieth edifieth the church.”

(1 Corinthians 14:4b)

Prophesying profits: “what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine?” (1 Corinthians 14:6b)

Prophesying teaches and comforts: “For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted.” (1 Corinthians 14:31)

What can prophesying do?

Prophesying convinces: “But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all: And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.” (1 Corinthians 14:24,25)

What does it mean to “covet” the best gifts?

“But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.” (1 Corinthians 12:31)

The more excellent way is Charity in Chapter 13.

Covet the gifts that edify the best at a given time.

“Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues.” (1 Corinthians 14:39)

What two gifts operate together in the Church?

In the Church public setting, the gift of tongues operates with the gift of the interpretation of tongues.

“... greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.” (1 Corinthians 14:5b)



How is the gift of tongues applicable to prayer?

“For if I pray in an unknown tongue, **my spirit prayeth**, but my understanding is unfruitful.

What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.” (1 Corinthians 14:14,15)

Is all this applicable to me?

“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.” (1 Corinthians 12:1)

References

Found under www.victoryfaithcentre.org.au/sermons

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