



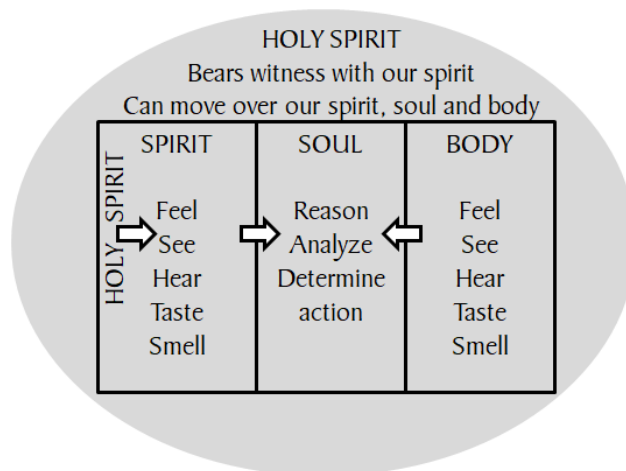
Sunday October 15, 2017
Gifts of the Spirit (Part-4) : Vocal Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Review

For instructional purposes, the nine gifts of the Spirit are commonly classified into three groupings:

GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT		
REVELATION GIFTS (Gifts that reveal something)	VOCAL GIFTS (Gifts that say something)	POWER GIFTS (Gifts that do something)
Word of wisdom Word of knowledge Discerning of spirits	Tongues Interpretation of tongues Prophecy	Faith Gifts of healings Workings of miracles



Today

we cover the three gifts we have categorized as vocal gifts.

For each gift we will give a :

- Definition
- Provide Biblical Examples : Old Testament
- Provide Biblical Examples : New Testament
- Discuss some of its Operations
- How it is received
- How it is to be shared/exercised

(Pastors, we need not read all the Scripture references. Please quickly mention the example and move on. Please plan 10 minutes for each of the three gifts, and then spend time in ministry)



DIVERSITIES OF TONGUES

Definition

This is the supernatural ability to speak in languages of men or of angels. While its primary use is as a prayer language to commune with God, this can also be used to reach unbelievers for Christ, as well as to bring a message to a church congregation when it is interpreted.

This gift of the Spirit is a supernatural work and hence is not the same as an acquired skill of learned languages (e.g. as a linguist).

Biblical Examples : Old Testament

While the gift of diversities of tongues is not seen in operation in the Old Testament we do see the first time when 'diversity of tongues' was released on the earth in Genesis 11:1-9.

Biblical Examples : New Testament

The Lord Jesus foretold this sign

The Lord Jesus foretold that those who believed in Him would speak in tongues. *"And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."* (Mark 16:17-18).

Throughout the Early Church

Starting from the Day of Pentecost we see several records of speaking in tongues in the Early Church:

- ✓ Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4)
- ✓ Church in Samaria (Acts 8:14-18). While it is not explicitly stated that they prayed in tongues, we can infer that something supernatural happened, when the Holy Spirit was given (Simon offered them money!). We are safe to conclude that they spoke in tongues as on the Day of Pentecost, which is what was the norm, as seen by the apostles response in Acts 10, at Cornelius' house.
- ✓ Saul, after his conversion (Acts 9:17; 1 Corinthians 14:18). Saul was filled with the Spirit when Ananias laid hands on him. We know Saul spoke in tongues a lot.
- ✓ Cornelius and his household (Acts 10:44-46)
- ✓ Believers at Ephesus (Acts 19:1-6)
- ✓ Corinthians Church (1 Corinthians 12:7-11,28; 1 Corinthians 14:1-40)
- ✓ Ephesian Church (Ephesians 6:18) Praying in the Spirit (or Praying with the Spirit) according to Paul's writings (1 Corinthians 14:14-15) is speaking in tongues.



- ✓ Jude, writing to all believers (Jude 1:20)

Operations

The diversities of tongues, or speaking in languages given supernaturally by the Holy Spirit has several uses. Broadly speaking we see that tongues can be **used in personal life** or **in public ministry**. Public ministry could be in a congregational setting for believers or towards the unsaved (unbelievers).

- ✓ All believers can speak with tongues (Mark 16:17)
- ✓ When you speak in tongues you can declare the wonderful works of God (Acts 2:11)
- ✓ When you speak in tongues you can praise, extol, magnify and glorify God (Acts 10:46)
- ✓ Tongues is one of the manifestations of the Spirit, where the presence and power of the Spirit is made evident (1 Corinthians 12:7-11)
- ✓ When you speak in tongues you could be speaking in earthly or heavenly languages (1 Corinthians 13:1)
- ✓ Tongues helps in praying mysteries, things beyond you personally know (1 Corinthians 14:2)
- ✓ Tongues brings personal edification - growth, strengthening, developing - like constructing a building (1 Corinthians 14:4)
- ✓ Tongues with interpretation to a congregation can bring edification to the gathering (1 Corinthians 14:5)
- ✓ Tongues can be a sign to the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 14:22)
- ✓ Prayer with the Spirit can help you overcome the weakness of the flesh (Romans 8:26)
- ✓ When you pray with the Spirit you make intercession for saints (Romans 8:26-27)
- ✓ When you pray with the Spirit you pray according to the will of God (Romans 8:27)
- ✓ When you pray with the Spirit you build yourself up on your faith (Jude 1:20)
- ✓ Praying in the Spirit enables you to stay in the love of God (Jude 1:20-21)
- ✓ Praying in the Spirit is part of your spiritual armor (Ephesians 6:18)
- ✓ For some praying in tongues (example: intercessory prayer ministry, public ministry in tongues and interpretation) is their membership function (1 Corinthians 12:28)

Please see the free APC Publication: The Wonderful Benefits of Speaking in Tongues

Receiving Tongues for Personal Use

We see in the New Testament that it was 'normal practice' to pray for believers to be filled with the Holy Spirit (or baptized in the Holy Spirit). At this point they begin to speak with other tongues and flow in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. From there on as a



believer you can speak (or sing) in tongues as part of your personal prayer life as often as you desire and whenever you desire.

1 Corinthians 14:14-15

14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.

15 What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.

Receiving Tongues for Use in Public Ministry

Tongues for use in public ministry (to minister to a congregation or other people in public) should be as the Holy Spirit prompts you.

Follow Biblical Instructions On The Proper Use of Tongues in Gatherings

Tongues with interpretation to a congregation can bring edification to the gathering (1 Corinthians 14:5) and could have the same benefit as prophecy bringing edification, exhortation and comfort (1 Corinthians 14:3).

Those speaking in tongues to a congregation should pray for interpretation (1 Corinthians 14:5,12-13).

Pray a lot in tongues in personal prayer. But when speaking to a congregation speak what everyone can understand (1 Corinthians 14:18-19).

When the church comes together as a congregation and there are unbelievers/uninformed people, it is better not to have everyone speak in tongues out loud at the same time (1 Corinthians 14:23). It is best that in such a setting two or three public messages be given, and someone interpret (1 Corinthians 14:27). However, in such a setting individual believers can pray quietly in tongues (1 Corinthians 14:28).

THE INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

Definition

This is the supernatural ability to interpret (give the meaning of) a message given in tongues. So typically this would be used to interpret a message given in tongues to a congregation. However it is possible that this same supernatural gift can be used by the Holy Spirit to help a person understand a spoken language that she/he has not learned at a given moment in time.

This gift of the Spirit is a supernatural work and hence is not the same as an acquired skill of learned languages (e.g. as a linguist).



Please keep in mind that this is interpretation and not translation. In interpretation you do not do a word for word translation but you give the gist of the meaning or essence of what is being spoken. So it is possible that the durations of a message given in tongues and the interpretation of that message may not match. Don't get alarmed or don't judge the interpretation based on this.

Biblical Examples : Old Testament

While we do not have several expressions of the gift of interpretation of tongues in the Old Testament, we have the account in Daniel 5:1-29, that took place in the palace of Belshazzar then king of Chaldeans. He saw a hand writing on the wall. The wise men and astrologers of his court could not read or interpret the writing. But Daniel read the writing and interpreted its meaning.

Biblical Examples : New Testament

In the New Testament we read about the gift of interpretation of tongues being listed among the nine gifts of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12:7-11, and Paul giving instructions on its use in congregational settings in 1 Corinthians 14.

Operations

Tongues and Interpretation for Personal Use

When praying in tongues in your personal prayer time it is not necessary for you to interpret. You can spend several hours praying in tongues, be spiritually edified and built up, without interpreting.

Tongues and interpretation can be beneficial in personal life as you get the meaning. While interpretation generally has to be spoken out, in personal use, you can pick up in your spirit the meaning of what you are praying in tongues. As long as you personally get the interpretation, that is fine.

Tongues and interpretation when ministering to a congregation

This has already been explained in the previous chapter and so will not be repeated here.

PROPHECY

Definition

Prophecy is simply God speaking to man through man. It is simply a supernaturally inspired message from God which a person receives and communicates either to another individual or a group of people.



Prophecy is not the same as good preaching. Good preaching can be done with study, preparation, skill and good oratory. Prophecy is supernaturally inspired by the Holy Spirit and does not depend on preparation or good oratory skills,

1 Corinthians 14:3

But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.

The simple gift of prophecy is given for **edification** (building up), **exhortation** (encouragement) and **comfort** (1 Corinthians 14:3). In addition to the above, a person in mature and consistent prophetic ministry would flow in **correction, direction, revelation, and prediction** (fore-telling).

Biblical Examples : Old Testament

We see God raising up and using many men and women as prophets in the Old Testament.

Biblical Examples : New Testament

The work of the Holy Spirit through the gift of prophecy (1 Corinthians 12:7-11), the prophesying believer as a membership function (Romans 12:6) and the ministry gift of prophet (Ephesians 4:11) continues to give expression to the prophetic in the Church today.

In fact we are living in the last days when God is pouring out His Spirit on all flesh, and men and women, of all ages will see visions, dreams and prophesy (Acts 2:17-18).

In this chapter we provide basic information dealing with the gift of prophecy. For a more detailed study on the prophetic, please see APC's free publication: Understanding The Prophetic.

Operations

All believers filled with the Spirit (baptized in the Holy Spirit) can prophesy, in fact, we must earnestly desire to prophesy.

1 Corinthians 14:1,5,31,39

1 Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.

5 I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied;...

31 For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged.

39 Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues.

The gift of prophecy brings an inspired word to bless and enrich peoples lives. Very often this gift will flow along with the other gifts, as a 'gift pack' (e.g. along with words of knowledge, words of wisdom, etc.).



Here is a short list on some uses the gift of prophecy can serve:

- ✓ To bring encouragement
- ✓ To motivate someone into action in a specific area
- ✓ To reveal the potential God has placed in a person
- ✓ To bring confirmation of what God has been speaking to someone
- ✓ To inspire prayer for a particular matter or an individual
- ✓ To bring guidance and direction
- ✓ To bring correction
- ✓ To bring revelation of Scripture or of the mind of God

How Prophecy Is Received

The Holy Spirit can use any of our spirit senses to communicate a word of prophecy to us. So we need to stay tune in to what the Spirit of God is releasing through our spirit senses.

In prophecy God often uses imagery - visions or visuals and symbols to communicate a message. So we need to correctly understand and interpret what He is showing us.

Hosea 12:10

I have also spoken by the prophets, And have multiplied visions; I have given symbols through the witness of the prophets."

Here are simple pointers to help you receive prophecy, which the Holy Spirit gives to you:

#1, Pray

start out by asking the Holy Spirit for a word of prophecy or for a release of the prophetic flow through you so you can bring a word of prophecy, as the Spirit wills. Desire to prophesy. Then start praying for the individual.

#2, Perceive

tune in and understand what the Spirit of God wants to communicate, and to whom He wants to communicate. The Holy Spirit can communicate to you through your spirit-faculties. There are many ways He can communicate His message to you. A still small inner impression or witness. Information that wells up in your spirit. A knowing on the inside. Pictures that come up in your spirit. A word, then a sentence, then a paragraph. Physical sensations.

Step out with the first word you receive and as you deliver this, you are likely to receive additional words and more information from the Holy Spirit.



#3, Prophecy

Discern if the Holy Spirit is speaking. If He is speaking, share the message. If He is not just pray and bless the person.

Our greatest hindrances to moving in prophecy are our emotions, our opinions, and our reasoning.

How To Release (Deliver) Prophecy

When delivering prophecy, keep the following in mind:

(A) There are many ways to express prophecy. You can speak it, pray it, sing it, do it, write it, draw it, paint it, live it. Choose the method that you feel the Spirit leading you to or what you see is best for the occasion.

(B) The words you choose to communicate the message, the tone of your voice, and when you deliver the message are all in your control (1 Corinthians 14:31-32).

(C) The timing, when you deliver the message is in your control. The presentation of the revelation is as important as the revelation itself. Be sensitive to the Spirit and act when He releases you to do so.

(D) Allow yourself to be judged. All prophecy must be judged (1 Corinthians 14:29-30; 1 Thessalonians 5:20-21). So always encourage the recipient to test what you have spoken to them. The Giver of the gift is perfect and the gift is perfect – but the vessel through which the gift is being released is not perfect. Therefore, the message may be tainted with some of the individual's own thoughts and ideas. Hence the need to test all prophecy.

(E) Do not be too hasty to use the "Thus saith the Lord" or "The Lord says" as a prefix to your prophecy. Instead, it would be much better to just say "I sense in my spirit..." or "I sense the Lord laying this on my heart for you..." etc.....because this allows the recipient to judge what you are saying.

(F) Remember we know in part and we prophesy in part (1 Corinthians 13:9). So do not expect long messages or all details. Share faithfully whatever you receive.

(G) Prophecy can flow along with other gifts. So be faithful to release other gifts that the Spirit of God desires to release, along with the word of prophecy.



Guidelines for exercising the gift of prophecy in small groups

- Use the gifts for edification, not for embarrassing people, or destruction or condemnation! (1 Corinthians 14:3, 5,12,16,17)
- Let everyone participate (1 Corinthians 14:26)
- Follow instructions and proper order (1 Corinthians 14:27,28,33,40)
- Allow yourself to be judged and corrected. Similarly, if someone makes a mistake, correct in love (1 Thessalonians 5:19-21)

You can also minister to the unsaved (unbelievers)

1 Corinthians 14:24-25

24 But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all.

25 And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you.

You can even take it to the streets! Prophetic evangelism – a fresh move of God in evangelism that is transforming lives out on the streets!

Don't try to be a 'fortuneteller'

People go to fortunetellers to hear what they want to hear about. Don't let believers use you as a fortuneteller.

Don't practice witchcraft

Witchcraft is essentially attempting to manipulate and control people, their thoughts and actions, using spiritual power or spiritual authority.

IN LIFE GROUPS THIS WEEK

Discuss each of the three vocal gifts going through the sermon notes.

Pray for people to be baptized in the Holy Spirit and to speak in tongues.

Plan to keep about 20 minutes of your time in trying to exercise the gift of prophecy in your life group as you pray and minister to one another. If people are not comfortable speaking out, they can write what they perceive as a note on a piece of paper and give it to the individual(s) they feel it is for. Give permission for people to make mistakes. It is ok to make mistakes. We are all trying to learn to listen to the Spirit of God.

Ministry Time



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Sunday October 15, 2017
Gifts of the Spirit (Part-4) : Vocal Gifts

This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons. Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passages: *1 Corinthians 12:1-11*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Discuss these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group study.

Discuss each of the three vocal gifts going through the sermon notes.

Pray for people to be baptized in the Holy Spirit and to speak in tongues.

Plan to keep about 20 minutes of your time in trying to exercise the gift of prophecy in your life group as you pray and minister to one another. If people are not comfortable speaking out, they can write what they perceive as a note on a piece of paper and give it to the individual(s) they feel it is for. Give permission for people to make mistakes. It is ok to make mistakes. We are all trying to learn to listen to the Spirit of God.



If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two main learning today and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Within the group, feel free to share areas of emotional healing that may be needed. (Keep all matters confidential). Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

- 1, families to be protected and strengthened*
- 2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.*

Close by thanking God together.