

## Welcome Holy Spirit Conference – Vocal Gifts (Session 4 of 6)

*"The manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. (1 Cor. 12:7-11)"*

### Introduction – The Vocal Gifts

Remember as we look at these 9 spiritual gifts, the number 9 represents divine completeness. Jesus died on the 9<sup>th</sup> hour of the day (3PM). When He said "it is finished", He purchased these gifts too for you and me (His earthly body). All who are joined by faith with the completeness of God's redeeming love, should manifest these gifts to bring heaven to earth, to lead others to Christ (2 Cor. 5:14-15).

The Lord imputes (assigns) righteousness to us and redeems us through faith in His atonement, blood sacrifice for all sin. ALL sin has been atoned for so that Christ has the legal right to baptize each disciple with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit comes with God's promised, heaven-sent gifts to clothe (equip) and empower His children to bring the Kingdom of Heaven to earth and glorify the Father. *"I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high (Luke 24:49)"*

God's Holy Spirit power and gifts come to us from on high to make His disciples world changers and conquerors who shine His Light into darkness! The body of Christ receives these gifts as the person of the Holy Spirit takes residence within them: 3 vocal gifts, 3 revelation gifts and 3 power gifts.

The vocal gifts are: different kinds of tongues, the interpretation of tongues and prophecy. These involve vocalizing God's Kingdom come through the supernatural utterance of the Holy Spirit. The vocal gifts give us: a spirit language; the ability to interpret the spirit language both individually and when in a group setting and prophetic utterance for edification of the body of Christ.

### I. The Gifts of Tongues

*"(1 Cor. 12:10) to another prophecy... to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues."*

*"(Acts 2:4-8,11) All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? ... (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!"*

#### A. Different Kinds of Tongues

*"If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. (1 Cor. 13:1)"*

*"For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit. (1 Cor. 14:2)"*

### 1. Tongues of men (1 Cor. 13:1)

Communication from God through men can be shared even in an unknown language by the speaker to others in their native language.

### 2. Tongues of angels (1 Cor. 13:1)

Communication between God and angels is spiritual and through it the angels in the language of listener communicate God's work and will for His creation.

### 3. Tongues unto God (1 Cor. 14:2)

The mysteries of the Spirit can be spoken from men to God and God to men. This holy communication is not initiated in one's mind but comes from the connection of God's heart to men's heart through the Holy Spirit.

Tongues are a gift of God used to edify the body of Christ which has been born of His Spirit!

There is private and public use of this gift!

This gift when used in private prayer with God allows the Spirit to talk directly to our new heart, "Spirit-fed and renewed mind" which bypasses the hostility in one's carnal mind (Romans 8:7).

*"For this reason the one who speaks in a tongue should pray that they may interpret what they say. For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding. (1 Cor. 14:13-15)"*

Using the gift of tongues in a public service to declare the wonders of God should have an interpreter to ensure that every heart hears God's message. (Note: See interpreter below.)

## B. Every Believer Should Seek the Gift of Speaking in Tongues

1. Often, Tongues is the initial evidence of one being filled (specially immersion/baptism) with the Holy Spirit. We see this 3 times in Acts 2, 10 and 19. Acts is a historical book that covers the work of the Holy Spirit across many years, in many places.
2. Tongues is our gift from God of a personal prayer language. When we speak in tongues, we are speaking supernaturally to God. Our mind might be unaware of what is being said as we vocally speak in tongues, but our spirit is deeply connecting in a 2-way conversation with the Lord.
3. Tongues edifies the body of Christ. The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Cor. 14:4, "Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves". It stirs up faith, confidence and boldness in God's children to be witnesses for the Gospel and shine the Light of Christ.
4. Tongues magnify God as one's life is surrendered to His Spirit and Truth. *"For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God (Acts 10:46)". "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord (Psalms 150:6)."*

5. Tongues releases praise and singing in the Spirit to the Lord. *“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. (1 Cor. 14:15)”* Both in known languages and unknown tongues one praises and sings to God thanks to the gift of tongues.

## II. The Gift of Interpreting Tongues

*“Therefore, let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret. (1 Cor. 14:14)”*

Whenever the gift of tongues is in operation, the gift of interpretation also operates alongside. The Holy Spirit desires to communicate through this gift to both its participants and its hearers. This gift produces spiritual edification and prophetic words without disrupting the order of prayer both in public and private.

- A. How does the gift work in private prayer? One will pray both in their known language and tongues as the Spirit leads the prayer. The “back and forth” flow between the known language and tongues produces a fuller, more spiritual and powerful prayer time with the Lord. The Spirit better leads one to who and what needs to be prayed for. One’s prayer life becomes more than just times of reading wish lists to God. Private prayer becomes a living, vibrant and powerful session of communing with God through one’s heart to heart spiritual connection. Praying in tongues leads us to hear the thoughts of God on matters close to our heart. Because one is alone with God in this time, there is not a need to tell others everything that is being communicated and happening in one’s heart.
- B. How does the gift work in public? As the gift of interpretation grows through one’s usage of it during private prayer time it can become a gift used in a group gathering. Being around tongues and using tongues helps one to discern what the Spirit is saying. This happens when we are alone with God and it can happen in public. Those who are expecting interpretation from their times of praying alone with God are candidates to interpret when tongues are released over a gathering. The same way that God communicates to one’s heart during their times in spiritual prayer in private can occur to an interpreter for the edification of all in public.
- C. How is order kept in public when tongues are spoken? One must ensure that an interpretation is given when in public or stop using tongues so that all can follow the movement of God during the time of speaking in tongues.
  1. The gift is manifested as the one speaking in tongues waits for an interpretation from a person who did not speak in a known language over the group;
  2. The person who spoke over the group in tongues waits for someone to give an interpretation and if none is given will themselves give an interpretation. The use of tongues by the speaker returns in a timely manner to speaking a known language.
  3. If there is no interpretation given, the use of tongues in public for the time being should be stopped for the sake of keeping order in the meeting. The Holy Spirit does speak to hearts without tongues but tongues are meant to add to what God wants to emphasize. Leaders of a meeting can instruct everyone to speak in tongues for a brief period of time without interpretation to open hearts to hear from God but must restore order by

returning to a known language which all can understand. Similarly, a speaker can have people start praying in a known language to hear what they are about to emphasize.)

*“Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel. Therefore let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret. (1 Cor. 14:12-13)”*

Final Note on “Gift of Interpretation of Tongues”: Typically, this gift isn’t a spiritual gift operating like experienced on the day of Pentecost which demonstrated a supernatural word for word interpretation of one’s message translated into multiple languages. Rather, it is a gift of sharing what God desires to speak with power directly into the hearts of the people in attendance.

### III. The Gift of Prophecy

*“Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. (1 Cor. 14:3)”*

The gift of prophecy is the manifestation of a supernatural utterance or word given to another or other(s) to encourage, to inspire or to lead the hearers. It comes through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

The gift of Prophecy is considered by the Apostle Paul to be the greatest gift of the Holy Spirit. Its manifestations in the Old Testament brought forth prophets whom God directly spoke through to His Jewish people. In the New Testament, this gift of the Holy Spirit is manifested through the church (both Jew and Gentile) to edify, to exhort and to comfort the bride of Christ. The use of the gift of Prophecy is spoken about 22 times between 1 Cor. 11 through 1 Cor. 14.

However, this gift in the New Testament church is one of the most misunderstood and misused gifts of the Spirit, which is why its use is minimal today. The church still needs to be edified, exhorted and comforted with a timely word from God through the Holy Spirit!

#### A. The Biblical Meaning of “Prophecy”

It is to speak a message inspired by God which can but doesn’t have to involve foretelling a future event. It includes proclaiming God’s ever-present truth, providing divine instruction, or comforting and encouraging people. All these meanings rest upon Divine Scripture and the Holy Spirit. Therefore, take note, if the message contradicts Scripture or proves to be false it is not inspired by God’s Spirit.

#### B. The Main Purpose of the NT Gift of Prophecy (NOT full-time fortune telling)

These 3 differentiate between fortune telling and God’s main purpose for the gift being manifested in and through His body:

1. Edification: builds up and strengthens the body for upcoming service and ministry;
2. Exhortation: calls God’s people near Him, summons them to help (join the battle), and encourages them to believe that Christ in them will enable and empower them;

3. Comfort: gives consolation and special help through God's Holy Spirit presence. Comfort manifests through being an advocate, intercessor, consoler and comforter who is following the inspiration of God's Word and Spirit.

The body of Christ is promised the companionship of the Holy Spirit (Helper) in John 14:16. His Spirit-filled body should be prepared to help others see and know that the presence and power of God are available to all. Men and women operating within the gift of prophecy will edify, exhort and comfort others as they advocate, intercede (pray), console and speak of God's agape love. (Note: For the protection of ALL, it is recommended that one NOT operate in this gift in mixed company, one on one. BE-WARNED that private prophecy shared between a man and a woman has been problematic in the contemporary church.)

#### C. What the Gift of Prophecy is NOT

1. It's not foretelling or predicting future events;
2. It's not criticizing others and exposing their weaknesses;
3. It's not meant to be quenched or neglected (Paul emphasized its importance)
4. It's not only for the office of a prophet (Think NT not OT prophecy)

#### D. The Gift of Prophecy Operating in One's Life

The gift of prophecy is for the body of Christ. All the offices like the office of the Prophet are for helping leaders to lead their people to follow Jesus in the fullness of His Word. A Prophet is a person who has been receiving inspired messages for the body of Christ repeatedly for some time and has had time to perfect this gift and its calling. Similarly, someone who teaches isn't automatically seen as operating in the office of a Teacher. Prophecy is a gift that flows through prayer, meditation on God's Word and service over time from and through the body of Christ.

#### Closing

This has been the basic teaching on the vocal gifts. Part 2 of the gifts will be the revelatory gifts and Part 3 will be the power gifts. All are best approached with a solid understanding of the ongoing ministry of the Holy Spirit and the baptism of the Holy Spirit.