

## YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS—*OUTLINE*

### How to Identify and Function in Your Gifts

*By Daniel A. Brown, PhD*

#### **INTRODUCTION—I CORINTHIANS 12:1-11**

Spiritual gifts are supernatural empowerments that God distributes among believers to better enable them to impact the world with the good news. Spiritual gifts are not natural talents or skills; they have nothing to do with our personalities, our training or our aptitude for anything in particular. Each gift is a miraculous manifestation of God's hand in the lives of people, and without the work and person of the Holy Spirit in our lives we cannot exercise a spiritual gift.

Although this series focuses on the nine spiritual gifts listed in I Corinthians 12, we don't know for certain if the list of spiritual gifts listed in these verses is exclusive, or if other spiritual gifts exist (for instance, some people have suggested that Paul's contentment with being unmarried [celibacy] is a spiritual gift).

#### **VARIETIES OF GIFTS**

- I. Our Potential Ignorance Regarding Spiritual Gifts.
  - A. We May Not Know That These Gifts Exist.
  - B. We're Unaware of How They Occur.
  - C. Gifts Are Not the Same as Worldly Counsel.
- II. Gifts Aren't Trophies or for Show.
  - A. The End Result of Spiritual Gifts: To Draw People to Jesus.
  - B. The Difference Between Ministry Gift-Mixes and Spiritual Gifts.

### III. Spiritual Gifts.

- A. *Word of Wisdom*—Arranges Thoughts, Situations Rightly.
- B. *Word of Knowledge*—Alerts Us to Something God Wants to Take Care of.
- C. The Purpose of Spiritual Gifts (Hebrew 2:4).
  - 1. Gifts Build the Body of Christ.
  - 2. God's Heart Is to Establish People (Romans 1:11).
- D. *Faith*—The Certainty and Peace That What God Says Will Come About.
- E. *Healing*—Curing of "Sickness", in Body and/or Soul.
  - 1. Power in the palms: lay hands on people.
  - 2. We all are to pray for healing; those with this particular gift will have a consistent track record of seeing people miraculously healed.
- F. *Miracles*—The Immediate Intervention of God to Spiritually or Physically Rearrange a Situation.
- G. *Prophecy*—To Declare Something of God's Heart for a Person or Group.
  - 1. Builds up and exhorts.
  - 2. Points to God.
  - 3. The prophetic word answers a longing in our heart.
  - 4. "Don't despise" a prophetic word (I Thessalonians 5).
  - 5. Judge prophetic words according to scripture (I Corinthians 14).
- H. *Discerning of Spirits*—Perceive Which Spiritual Forces Are Creating Difficulty.

1. Our struggle is not against flesh and blood (Ephesians 6:2).
  2. Identification in order to bring deliverance.
- I. *Tongues* – Praying/Speaking in Another Language.
1. In private, spiritual language for prayer.
  2. In public, only with an interpretation.
- J. *Interpretation of Tongues*—Not a Word-for-Word Translation.