

**The Patio Pulpit For October 14, 2020**  
**The Baptism and Gifts of the Spirit**  
**1 Corinthians 12:8-10**

I am so thankful to the Holy Spirit for putting this series on my heart. We, the church of Jesus Christ, can experience the power of the presence of the Spirit in our lives as individual Christians with our focus always on the impact our gift has on the church. That's why we have gifts and that is why we should exercise our gifts, for building up the body of Christ. <sup>7</sup> *But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.* (1 Cor. 12:7 NAU)

I want to call your attention to one word in that verse, the word "manifestation." The Greek word translated manifestation in the four leading translations of the Bible means "as an action *making public, clear announcement, disclosure* (2C 4.2); *evidencing, making known, revelation* To make visible, audible, seeable, to make visible in public for the public good, in particular, for the common good of the local church where the gifted minister.

**ILLUS/APPLI:** Timothy was obviously very young when Paul left him to pastor the church in Ephesus and his new position made young Timothy more than a little fearful to the point that he did not want to do the work he was gifted to do.

<sup>5</sup> *For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.*

<sup>6</sup> *For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.*

<sup>7</sup> *For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.*

<sup>8</sup> *Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, (2 Tim. 1:5-8 NAU)*

There's a lesson in Timothy's experience that a lot of us can relate to. The thought of getting up and speaking to our folks in our church terrifies some of you and you would rather have a root canal than speak

in public. You would rather have a COVID19 test than speak in public, and they're pretty bad from what I hear. But what good is a gift if the gifted won't use it to minister to the rest of us in the body of Christ?

Not every gift is a speaking gift, as you can see, but every gift is to be a manifested gift. And I would dare say, every gift involves some speaking, but not the kind a pastor or teacher must do.

These are the gifts given to individual church members as listed in our text that are to be publicly exercised:

*<sup>8</sup> the word of wisdom*

*the word of knowledge*

*faith*

*gifts of healings*

*the effecting of miracles,*

*prophecy,*

*the distinguishing of spirits,*

*various kinds of tongues,*

*the interpretation of tongues. (1 Cor. 12:8-10 NAU)*

And this is a list of people who have a gift appointed to them by God. These people are singled out by the Spirit for their special ministry within the church. You can see the break between the 9 gifts from verse 8-10, and the "appointed" gifts beginning in v.28.

*<sup>28</sup> And God has appointed in the church,*

*first apostles,*

*second prophets,*

*third teachers,*

*then (workers of) miracles,*

*then (healers) gifts of healings,*

*helps, or, helpers*

*administrations, or those who administrate*

*( and those who speak in) various kinds of tongues. (1 Cor. 12:28 NAU)*

None of the gifts are meant to be hidden from the eyes and ears of the disciples of Christ. If no one could see it or hear it, what good is it doing? <sup>7</sup> *But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the*

*common good.* (1 Cor. 12:7 NAU) The gifts of the Spirit are designed to be shared.

I hope you have your Bible in front of you tonight and since you do, lets turn to 1 Cor. 12 and verse 8, and we'll be examining among other great truths from the word of truth, one of the more exciting gifts, "*the gifts of healings.*"

When so-called "evangelists" come to town, what are they known for? Their so-called "healing ministries." What draws the huge crowds to see them? Their healing ministries. Sick folk and their loved ones flock to Charlotte hoping to get in and get prayed over by the famous evangelists. But what happens time after time is the ones who are severely handicapped and in wheelchairs get turned away by "screeners" before they get anywhere near the evangelist. I watched a healing service led by Kenneth and Gloria Copeland where they prayed for a wheelchair bound young girl demanding that she be healed "in the name of Jesus," and when it didn't happen, they just moved on to the next poor deceived sick person. Yet their throngs believe what they say and buy what they're selling. Rather than calling them faith healers, I prefer "fake healers." And rather than calling them "prophets," I prefer to call them "the profits."

They aren't healing, they're stealing. They aren't teaching, they're leaching. They don't prophesy, they tell lies. They aren't relieving, they're deceiving. Well, they're relieving millions of people of their money. Remember their motto, "I get my money from you; you get your money from God. And the more you give me, the more God will give to you."

It is too bad that the quacks who hold these huge crusades have been left to define the gifts of healings and are known as "faith healers" when what they really are is "fake healers."

But, lets turn our attention now to the genuine gifts of healings.

*...and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,* (1 Cor. 12:8-9 NAU)

It's undeniable that these gifts were as much a part of the life of the churches in the 1<sup>st</sup> century as preaching is today in our churches. Why it

is not true for us is a bit of a puzzle to me. I do have a couple of suggestions as to why we today don't witness genuine tongues and healings **beginning** with our refusal to even consider the possibility that the gifts are for today as well as they were in the 1<sup>st</sup> century church. I don't know that that's the real reason. But it seems reasonable to me.

And my **second suggestion is this**, because of the thousands of charlatans and "fake healers" we are acquainted with who are on tv and who travel around our nation with their lies and deceptions and made-up stories, all designed to make themselves wealthy. I have said this before, it seems to me that after watching the extreme abuses of the gifts by false teachers and false prophets and now false apostles, we have swung to the opposite extreme and deny anything that smacks of the Charismatic Movement and the Pentecostal Movement. I stay away from both groups myself and disagree with them on almost every doctrine they teach.

The **third** suggestion I have for the absence of the gifts in the 21<sup>st</sup> century church is the absence of clear and Biblical teaching on the gifts in the vast majority of our churches. The modern church simply doesn't think about the gifts. I lay that at the foot of the pulpit.

The baptism of the Spirit is a universal and timeless promise to all who have, by the grace of God come to faith in Jesus, yet we're scared of it. This is from Acts 2 and v.38, it's Peter preaching to the thousands of Jews standing before him and the other 119 disciples. <sup>38</sup> *Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ because of the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

<sup>39</sup> *"For the promise is for you, \*those of you who are standing in front of me and John and the other 118 disciples, and your children and for all who are far off, that's the universal part of the promise, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself."* That's the timeless part of the promise. That's why I can say to you with all assurance that if you are in Christ then you have received the gift of the Spirit. And the words

*“receive the gift of the Holy Spirit”* is just another way of expressing the experience of being baptized in the Holy Spirit.

I say all that to say this, being that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is timeless and universal, then it makes perfect sense to me that so are the gifts the Holy Spirit gives without exception.

Does God still heal in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? Of course, He does. Do I have it all figured out why He does sometimes and why He doesn't other times? No, I do not. What I do have figured out is when the church obeys the word of God in the manifestation of the gifts, we should expect to see God manifest through us His gifts.