

✍ We are continuing with this topic of Spiritual Gifts, and we started last time by looking at the service gifts or support gifts. They, typically, are the unseen or not readily seen gifts, but they make up the majority of those gifted in the Body. These gifts are analogous to the cement, wood and sheetrock of building, they hold the place up and make up 95% of the construction but they are not what we see mostly. Remember what the main ministry of the church is outlined in our commission from the One who saved us, Matthew 28:19-20. Our main ministry is a spoken ministry, a teaching, preaching, instructing ministry just the same as Jesus' ministry was in Mark 1:15, Luke 4:43, and Luke 8:1. Our main ministry is to reach people with the truth, all other ministry and gifts are for the purpose of supporting that singular ministry. Thus, the speaking gifts are the upfront gifts because speaking and communicating the truth is what is upfront. As we saw last time, there is no such thing as healing ministry or a miracles ministry as opposed to what a number of television preachers claim to have and operate, they are false teachers. Certainly, Jesus and His apostles performed healings and miracles, but they were in support and not in place of their teaching, preaching and discipling ministries. We were commissioned to bring people to faith in Christ and make them followers of Christ. As Healings, miracles, faith, etc. are useful to that end, they are employed and distributed in the Body as God so chooses.

✍ God's people in the Bible had Gospel ministries where healings and miracles were incidental. Not healing and miracles ministries where the gospel was incidental. Those that do the opposite are false teachers looking to promote themselves and not the cause of Christ. Obviously, when a healing or miracle is performed, the person that performed it gets pushed upfront but not for the sake of miracle itself, but for the sake of getting the Word out. Think about it, if we healed the entire world and worked miracles that wowed everyone but did not transform them through the Word of God to believe on His one and only Son, we accomplished nothing. Jesus performed the miracles He did so that people would believe the message He preached, John 14:10-12. Jesus had a Gospel ministry that was augmented by miracles, He did not have a healings or miracles ministry. The message of every healing and miracle was "look at God" whereas many so-called miracles and healings today are for the purpose of exalting some preacher or minister, think about it! **Now, back to our list of service gifts.**

1. **Working of Miracles** is a support gift given to augment the ministry of God's Word. To be a miracle, it has to be outside the natural order of things, if it can be explained naturally, it is not a miracle. Miracles alter the natural order of things by injecting the supernatural.
2. **A question, why do we not have miracles like they did in the New Testament times?**
  - ✓ Some would say that we are carnal as believers today and that that is the cause, I would disagree. Are we then more carnal than they were in Corinth? But miracles and healings were far more frequent there. To say that we don't have certain miracles, healings and gifts because we are not good enough to see or experience them flies in the face of what a gift is, we do not earn gifts, they are given by grace, we cannot be good enough to get them or bad enough to lose them. The only answer to the question of why we don't see as many miracles and healings is that the Spirit hasn't given them the way He did at the other times, He gives as He wills, 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:11.
3. **Discerning or Distinguishing of Spirits, 1<sup>st</sup> John 4:1-3.**
  - ✓ Something we all are called to do, but the one gifted this way has a special ability in this area. They are able to see it before there is any indication to the rest of us. Beware of the "gift of suspicion" which is Satan's counterfeit of this. Again, as is true with all the gifts, this gift only operates in a beneficial way when the person is surrendered to Christ, following Him faithfully. The gifts are not for independent use, they exist and operate only under full surrender. An immature Christian cannot contribute much to the Body, their skills have to be refined by the One who gave them and that over time and through discipline before they can be fully useful. As an example, 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 3:4-7. Notice, the concern is with demonstrated maturity in the overseer. The concern is not in his skill or giftedness. We flip that, we search out the gifted instead of the mature, gifts are useless without maturity and may be detrimental.

**When you see a believer who is walking in the Spirit and demonstrating the Spirit's fruit in their lives consistently (the gift of discernment) and that person says that something isn't right in a situation, you better pay attention to it!**