

Charismaton/Gifts!

I. Slide#1 Intro:

A. A couple take aways from our study tonight:

1. Make it personal(you & your the gifts?). You can't put God in a box. **Remember, Jesus is Lord** (He has been given preeminence - **Jn.16:14**). Don't throw baby out w/ the proverbial bathwater(just because some abuse gifts doesn't make them bad).

B. Are we at Calvary Charismatic?

C. Slide#2 4 main groups when it comes to the gifts:

1. **Cessationism** -Gifts were only for the early church, **not** for today (**Cease**; opp **Continuationism**)
2. **Charismatics**(w/a seatbelt) - We believe **all** the gifts are for today. But, we also believe they need to be governed.
3. **Charismaniacs** - Believe all gifts are for today. But have a low view of the bible. (i.e.) when they prophecy it is often placed **above** the written Word.
4. **Pentecostals** - Believe all gifts are for today. But often believe speaking in tongues is a "**proof**" you have the Holy Spirit.

D. Define terms: In vs.4 we have the word **gifts** (χαρισματα) plural of χαρισμα (gift).

1. It means essentially "**a free, graciously conferred gift.**"
2. **Slide#3** A gift is by **grace**, which is the very core of the word gift...
Grace = χαρις; **Gift** = χαρισμα; **Gifts** = χαρισματα
3. **Charismatic** today refers to those who hold the gifts are for today, in which we most definitely do!

E. We are **not** looking at: **natural talents**(given by God through parents) **or** **learned skills**(learned by us) **but** **Gifts that God Gives** (ie. *Supernatural* gifts)!

F. Just because gifts are **abused** does it make them wrong?

1. As we see in the letter to the Corinthians, Gifts can be used incorrectly, they can be abused. It doesn't make them wrong, nor can we categorize them "not for today" because of that!

G. 2 Extremes: **Not for today!** <--> **Anything Goes!**

1. Chuck Smith said, "**No H.S. & you dry up; too much H.S. & you blow up; Right Balance & you Grow up!**"
2. **These should be Tools to build with, not Weapons to slay with, nor Toys to play with!**

H. Are they for today?

1. Some say, **they stopped at the end of the Apostolic Age!** Yet Peter prophesied **beyond** the Apostolic age...matter of fact **WAY** beyond it.

- a) Acts 2:17 says, **And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.**

II. Slide#4 **CHARISMATON/GIFTS! (12:1-11)**

- A. (1) **Don't be a ignorant!** Or, *uninstructed, uninformed, or unlearned.*
- B. (4-6) **Diversities & Differences** - God loves Variety!
1. There are a Variety of Gifts, Ministries, & Activities!
 - a) Different **Gifts** - vs.8-10.
 - b) Different **Ministries** - Eph.4:11,12 **And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,**
 - c) Different **Activities** - workings in NIV. *Results.*
 - (1) **Don't try to pigeonhole God on how He works.**
 - (2) **Allow other Christians/Churches to manifest the gifts a little differently than you!**
- C. (7,11) **Each one** - each one as He wills!
1. Donald gee said, "The Holy Spirit for His own wise reason imparts to every person a **special gift for the special service** to which he is called."
 2. Rom.12:7 **Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them.**
- D. **How many gifts are there?**
1. Some say the Lists in the bible are not complete, but are only a sampling.
 2. Rom.12:6-8 list adds **how** these 7 gifts are to be used:
 - a) **...if prophecy**, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or **ministry**, let us use it in our ministering; he who **teaches**, in teaching; he who **exhorts**, in exhortation; he who **gives**, with liberality; he who **leads**, with diligence; he who **shows mercy**, with cheerfulness.
- E. **How come Jesus doesn't talk about gifts?...He does!**
1. Read - Mark16:15-18
 2. **Note in vs.17,18 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons (miracles); they will speak with new tongues (tongues); "they will take up serpents (miracles); and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them (miracles); they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover (healing).**
- F. **Slide#5,6 [1] WORD OF WISDOM! (8a)**
- G. **Wisdom** = "Knowledge rightly applied".

H. How it works & doesn't work:

1. The gift refers to "the word" of wisdom, implying a "spoken utterance" through a direct operation of the H.S. at a given moment.
2. It is not an **abiding deposit** of supernatural wisdom.
 - a) We do not become a **reservoir** of this kind of wisdom; instead the H.S. comes upon us in time of need w/it.

I. **Slide#7** 3 situations in which God may give the **Word of Wisdom**:

1. In Answering Persecutors

- a) When **Paul** threw a *theological-hand-grenade* in the middle of the Pharisees/Scribes, standing before Ananias the High Priest. He said, **Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee; concerning the hope and resurrection of the dead I am being judged!**

2. In Defending the Faith

- a) **Jesus** w/the Sadducees, when they asked about the 7 bro's who consecutively married the same lady...**Who's will she be in the res.?**
 - (1) He told them **you are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven. Mt.22:29,30**
- b) Today this gift helps in defending the faith both in **Apologetics & Polemics!**

3. In Problem Solving or Question Answering

- a) Jesus was asked by the Pharisees & Herodians, **Tell us, therefore, what do You think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?**
 - (1) **Render to Caesar what's his & to God what's His!**

4. This gift helps in **answering questions on the spot!**
5. This gift is very useful in **counseling** also!

J. **Slide#8,9 [2] WORD OF KNOWLEDGE!** (8b)

K. The word of knowledge **isn't** just good helpful knowledge about life, it's specifically "Gods knowledge imparted unto us at a precise moment!"

1. **It is** the ability to understand Gods truth in a definite situation.
2. **It is** the ability to know facts about a situation or a spiritual principle that could not have been known by natural means.

L. **Biblical Examples:**

1. **Jesus** asks the **disciples** **Who do you say I am** (Mt.16:13-17).
 - a) Answer given by Peter - **You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**
 - b) **But who revealed this to him?** - **Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.**

c) Did Peter know this was happening? – Obviously not, Jesus had to tell him!

M. Today's Examples:

1. **Prayer** - When the Lord empowers you to pray for someone because they are going through a difficult time...& you find out they were, right at that time!
2. **Personal Examples** - The H.S. through me have exposed people in Adultery, Lying, & other sins. (i.e. things I had no knowledge)
3. **My favorite** - Teaching on Sunday mornings: People invite guests, God speaks through me & nails their sin. They think their friends **ratted** on them to the pastor!

N. Slide#10,11 [3] FAITH! (9a)

O. Not *saving* faith, but a **faith** of *a different kind*.

1. "The ability to **discern** God's will, **pursue** it with extraordinary confidence, & then **lay hold of** God's promises w/remarkable results."
 - a) They are people of prayer who simply take God at His word.
2. It is when faith of a **mustard seed** is turned into the faith of an **Avocado seed!**
3. Phillips Brooks writes, "it is undertaking something so great that you cannot accomplish it unaided!"
4. Example: **Elijah** on Mnt. Carmel. In *the most powerful evening prayer* shows us the gift of faith by boldly calling down fire from heaven!
5. Example: **George Muller** in 19th century England. By exercising the gift of faith he was able to raise money, time & time again, for the needs of the orphans w/o ever appealing to men!
6. You will run into situations in life where you need to pray for **the gift of Faith**.
 - a) "I often times come to God in prayer asking Him to **fill my thimble**; & I find out more often then not...I should have brought **my bucket!**"

P. Slide#12,13 [4] HEALINGS! (9b)

Q. Note plural: **Gifts** & **Healings**. The plural relates to the different classes of sicknesses to be healed. (Godet, Linguistic Key to the Greek N.T.)

R. What a great gift! It's only natural to want this gift because of human **sympathy** & **pity** for those suffering.

1. **These are not** healing's involving **medical** knowledge or practices; **but supernatural** abilities to restore someone to health.
 - a) Ex.15:26 **For I am the LORD who heals you.**
2. **The apostles** denied that these healing gifts were from themselves.

- a) Acts 3:12 **So when Peter saw it, he responded to the people: Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?**

S. Does God seek to heal everyone?

1. **Paul** said in 2 Tim.4:20, **Trophimus I have left in Miletus sick.**
2. When **Jesus** made the *hospital call* to the pool of Bethesda, He didn't clear the place...**but** only healed **one man** & left! (Jn.5)

T. **Slide#14,15 [5] MIRACLES!** (10a)

U. **Miracle** (*Dunamis*) – **operations of works of power.** Other words used: *signs, wonders, & powers.*

V. *Miracle* is used very loosely today.

1. Miracles refer to acts of God **against** the laws of nature! (this is the more technical usage)
 - a) Jesus turning the water into wine. Raising Lazarus from the dead.
 - (1) There can be no natural explanation for these events.
2. A Miracle can be referring to God using a **common** thing, with a miraculous **timing** & or **placement**.
 - a) **Timing example:** Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah.
 - (1) God could have created a **special** fish for this purpose? **Or**, made a submarine? **Or**, simply worked **His perfect timing** of having one of His *huge plankton eater whales* to come along to swallow up Jonah by sucking in everything in its path? [**Timing**]
 - b) **Placement example:** Peter finding fish w/coin in mouth.
 - (1) Whether God placed in right then, or the fish scooped it up when eating?
3. **O.T. Examples of Miracles: Samson** strength was not from his natural ability, but from his supernatural strength that God gave him. But he did not know that the LORD had departed from him. (Judges 16:20)
4. **N.T. Examples of Miracles:** 5 people **raised** from the dead in NT. **Philip** did miracles. **Paul** wrought unusual miracles. **Peter** did signs & wonders.
5. **Some say miracles are not for today because they fit into 3 neat time periods in scripture** (Moses; Elijah/Elisha; & Jesus)
 - a) **What about?** Joshua & the Jericho walls? Gideon & his miraculous fleece? Samson's strength tearing the lion/carrying gates/& pushin pillars? Daniel with the Kitty Kats? Jonah & the Big Guppy? The miracles coming soon in Revelation w/the 2 witnesses?
6. **We sure do not see them like we did in the book of Acts.** [true that]
 - a) **I believe God can use certain gifts, more than other gifts, during specific time periods, because again "He chooses" the "best Gifts"!**

W. **Slide#16,17 [6] PROPHECY!** (10b)

X. 1 Thes.5:20,21 **Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good.**

Y. *Propheteia* - “The speaking forth of the mind & counsel of God”.

1. To receive & communicate a message from God. **In the broadest sense: “all divinely inspired utterances”.**
2. **Remember**, It will always be in agreement to the Word of God!
3. Prophecy is not only **foretelling** the future, **but** we find **forth-telling** was the norm in the N.T. & the early church. **For edification, exhortation, & for comfort!**
4. **It is also the declaration of that which can't be known by natural means.**
 - a) Mt.26:68 **saying, Prophecy unto us, thou Christ: who is he that struck thee?**
5. The few times Prophecy was given in the N.T. as **foretelling** a future event - No **guidance** was given, **only the message!**
 - a) **Agabus** in Acts 11:28 [a Famine is coming. It will be world wide]
 - b) **Agabus** in Acts 21:11 [the fate of Paul if goes to Jer. **Agabus binds Paul's belt to his own hands/feet**]
 - (1) **Note** - the purpose of True Prophecy is not to satisfy our curiosity about the future, **but** to stir up our hearts to **do** the will of God!
6. Paul told the **Corinth Church**(14:1,39) to **especially desire this gift!**
 - a) Note also not all the people w/the gift of prophecy *held the office* of **prophet!**
7. Some consider today those like Chuck Smith & Dr. Walvoord as prophets in the **forth-telling sense**. [Seeing that a main part of their ministry is to get peoples focus on **the imminent return of J.C.**]
8. **Would God use you to speak for Him?** Whom would you have speak for you? [Someone your close with, one-minded; & one that will represent you properly!]

Z. **Slide#18,19 [7] DISCERNING OF SPIRITS!** (10c)

AA. “The gift reveals the true nature of the **source** of any behavior professed to be of God.”

1. **Example:** Peter w/Simon Sorcerer Acts 8:21,22 **Peter discerned the heart of Simon.** [Outwardly he had deceived the rest vs.13]
2. We have 2 worlds coexisting, the **natural realm & supernatural realm.**
 - a) **The bible tells us these worlds often collide!**
 - b) **Good spirits** (angels minister to us Heb.1:14 **Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?**)
 - c) **Bad spirits** (try to deceive us 1 Tim.4:1 **Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits & doctrines of demons**)
3. **W/o discernment the church can get ripped off!**

- a) Much of the church doesn't discern very well. I believe because we don't earnestly desire this gift!

BB. **Slide#20,21 [8,9] TONGUES & INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES!** (10d,e)

CC. Wow! What ugly things this topic has uncovered!

1. Many have been pressured into **receiving** this gift!
2. 2000 years later & I don't know if the 21st century church has it down any better than the 1st Christian Church of Corinth?
3. "Glossolalia is the spontaneous utterance of uncomprehended & seemingly random vocal sounds."¹
4. "Speaking in tongues is **prayer or Praise** spoken in syllables not understood by the speaker."²

DD. What is The Gift of Interpretation?

1. Again like the rest of the gifts it will be **supernatural**, not natural interpretation.

EE. Is this Topic Important?

1. **Is Prayer important?**... That's what it is! (see 1 Cor.14:14)
2. "But, it's **abused!**"... People have abused prayer **claiming this & that**, do we throw it out also?
3. Tongues purpose is simply another form of communicating w/God! **And that's Important!**
4. Tongues add a rich dimension to your Prayer life!
5. **You don't have to speak in tongues do you? No**, but wouldn't you want to if the H.S. deemed to give it to you?

III. **Slide#22 A LITTLE HISTORY:**

- A. The gifts were encouraged in **the early Church** [i.e. 1st cent. Here at Corinth]
- B. **Novatian** in 257ad (he gave to the Western Church the 1st full-length treatment of the **Trinity**) said, "This is He who places the prophets in the church, instructs teachers, directs tongues, gives powers & healings, does wonderful works, offers discrimination of spirits, affords powers of government, suggests counsels, & orders & arranges whatever other gifts, there are of charismata; & thus makes the Lord's church everywhere, & in all, perfected, & completed."
- C. The gifts were **awakened** at the turn of the century(1900's) in the Pentecostal movement.
- D. **Re-awakened** in the mid-1900's in **Charismatic Movement**.
 1. Gayle Irwin said, "Sad what was an integral part of the early church is only a movement today!"

¹ New Int. Dict. of the Christian Church.

² Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology.

E. **Note:** Acts 2 is different than anywhere else Tongues is used!

1. “If the Tongues talked about by Paul was the same as in Acts 2 when would there ever be an Interpretation needed?”

F. (12:31) Should we desire gifts & if so which one(s)?

1. **Best Gifts?**...Would that be tongues? (no)
 - a) Best gifts would be dependent upon the ministry that is needed *at that time*.
 - b) **Electrician analogy:** What is my best tool to do electrical with? Depends what job is to be done! {screwdriver, Klines/side cutters, crimps, wire strippers, hammer}

G. **Slide#23** HOW DO I IDENTIFY MY GIFT(S)?

1. **Know** what gifts are available!
2. **Be available** to receive the gift! (you **can't** give a gift to someone who **won't** receive it)
3. **Pray for** God's gift He's designed for you! (He has your name on it already)
4. **Step out** in Faith! (eg. Be bold in the Word of Knowledge)
 - a) Don't wait around to **feel** gifted, earnestly desire **the best gifts!**

H. **Slide#24,25** 3 CHALLENGES CONCERNING GIFTS!

1. 1 Cor.12:31 **earnestly desire the best gifts.**
2. 1 Tim.4:14 **do not neglect the gift that is in you,**
3. 2 Tim.1:6 **stir up the gift of God which is in you...**

I. Swindoll gives great advice about gifts:

1. “Your gift is **a privilege**; so accept it, but **don't flaunt it!**”
2. “Your gift is **a responsibility**; so use it, **don't abuse it!**”