



GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

Week 5: Power Gifts

MEET

Sample Icebreaker Question:

Who is your favourite action hero and why?

MAGNIFY

Suggested Song(s):

Sing It Out (Dave Bilbrough)

Our God is Greater (Chris Tomlin)

It may also be useful to have some time here to sing and pray in tongues.

MESSAGE

If you read through I Cor. 12.4-II you will find that in the diverse gifts given by the Holy Spirit a list of 9 gifts. Often people divide these groups into three groups of three:

- The Vocal Gifts (tongues, interpretation and prophecy)
- The Power Gifts (gifts of healings, faith and miracles)
- The Revelation Gifts (word of knowledge, word of wisdom, discerning of spirits)

It is the aim of today to look at the three power gifts and examine how they work and how we can flow with them.

The Gift of Faith

Every Christian has faith. Romans 12:3 says that every one of us has been given the measure of faith. The moment you become a Christian, your spirit is transformed and that new-born, righteous spirit has a full portion of faith. The problem is that your spirit – to get the life and faith inside it out – has to flow through your mind which can be full of all sorts of traditions, habits, doubts, half-truths and so on.

So if you keep renewing your mind on the word about healing you will eventually clear that pipe to the point where the life and healing inside your spirit flows out and your body is healed.

However, this process may take 6 months and you only have 3 months left to live. In situations like this, the Holy Spirit may well give someone the gift of faith. The gift of faith lets the faith in your spirit flow into the physical world and bypass your messed up mind – it literally feels that all the unbelief in that area is just drained out of you. The gift of faith is always about one specific issue: it might be the healing of a disease, or the supply of provision, or protection from a particular danger. The gift of faith leaves you with supernatural faith in your whole self – a complete confidence that it will come to pass. I have seen the gift of faith used to see a car reach its destination without sufficient petrol, I have seen the gift used to believe for complete healings of incurable or even terminal conditions.

Sometimes the gift of faith is for other people. You just have such a supernatural confidence that such and such a person will be healed, or protected, or provided for. The gift of faith is a wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit as it is so hard to mess it up! You just believe what the Holy Spirit is supernaturally inspiring you to believe! The only way to kill that is to speak out the opposite of what the gift is giving you complete confidence in – don't do that!

Also, don't let the gift of faith mean that you neglect the process of renewing your mind. The gift is supposed to help in emergencies or in situations you are not ready for – it is not supposed to take the place of a renewed mind.

The Gift of Miracles

Whereas the gift of faith is simply a knowing and believing that changes circumstances and events and moves mountains, the gift of miracles involves your co-operation. It is an action that the Holy Spirit reveals to you that if you perform the action, the laws of nature will be broken and something miraculous will happen.

For example, it may be pulling someone out of a wheelchair and then they walk. It may be giving money into an offering and seeing a miraculous return. It may be washing your eyes in mud and seeing them healed. The gift of miracles requires an

action but the return on that action will be a miracle. It may be that you snap your fingers, blow on someone, clap your hands, pretend to shoot someone and they are healed by God. It may be you cook dinner for two and feed 200 by breaking it and sharing it. It may be you pour yourself a glass of water and as you pour it becomes wine.

God wants you to work miracles! When God gives you an action, no matter how weird it seems to your mind – DO IT!

The Gifts of Healings

The gifts of healings are particular gifts that heal particular conditions. It may be in a church service the Lord gives you the gift of healing for ears, and everyone with ear problems in the service receives their hearing for example.

We all know that if we stand on the Word and believe the truth that we are HEALED by HIS STRIPES then our healing will manifest. However, that truth can be obscured and blocked by religious tradition; our believing can be weakened and discouraged by external circumstances. If you have been sick a long time, it is difficult to see yourself well. The gifts of healings are like pouring petrol on a barbeque – they supernaturally speed up the healing. What you might take 3 months of faith to believe for at your current level of mind renewal will take 3 minutes when the gifts are in operation.

Normally the gifts of healing come with a word of knowledge so you know what sickness or which individual they are for. Sometimes though you are just praying for people the same way you always do and you feel a surge of power – that is a gift of healing. The gift of healing takes the love, life and healing power in your spirit and bypasses your mind and lets that power flow out of your body. You can renew your mind to the level where this is a common occurrence, but the gift is a helper as we are learning to encourage us and bring healings that for whatever reason we could not believe for. Again, as with all the power gifts, this is not an excuse to avoid renewing your mind. The gifts of healings are as the Spirit wills, but standing on the Word is divine healing guaranteed! The Word is a better place to stand than the gifts – but if you are believing for a healing and someone turns up with the gift then go get your healing! Go and get ministered to!

God wants us to minister in the gifts of healings – not just in church, but in our families, in the streets, in the office, in schools and colleges.

Remember the Bible says to eagerly desire these gifts. So make sure you ask the Lord for them to operate in your life!

Questions:

1. Which chapter of the Bible are the gifts of the Holy Spirit listed?
 - a. (I Corinthians 12)
2. What are the three power gifts?
 - a. (The gift of faith, the gift of miracles, the gifts of healings)
3. In your own words what is:
 - a. The Gift of Faith
 - b. The Gift of Miracles
 - c. The Gifts of Healings
4. Do you have a testimony of one of these gifts in action? (It could be personal or something you have witnessed or read about)
5. Was there anything in the sermon on Sunday that inspired, challenged or surprised you in any way?
6. Why do you think there are gifts of healings, even though we are all healed by the stripes of Jesus and can believe and receive our healing?
7. Why is it important that we continue to renew our minds even though there are power gifts?

MINISTRY

Don't forget all that has been built in the last few weeks! Make sure that people know that they are free to give messages in tongues and prophetic words following the Biblical guidelines. I would ask if anyone wants agreement that they would start to operate in the power gifts in a glorious way, and if so minister to them first. Then any other needs and so on.