

Spiritual Gifts

(Gifts of the Spirit)

Background

- Requested Topic – Gifts of the Spirit
- Topical, not expository
- 3 books:
 - John MacArthur, *Strange Fire*, 2013
 - Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 1994-2007
 - RT Kendall, *Holy Fire*, 2014
- Related topics:
 - The Holy Spirit
 - Baptism in/of/by the [Holy] Spirit

Setting The Scene

- Matthew 10:5-8 Jesus sends out the 12.
- Luke 10:1,8-9,17-20 Jesus sends out the 72.
- Acts 1:4-8 “you will receive power”
- Acts 2:1-13 Pentecost
- Acts 3:1-8 Peter & John went to pray...
- Acts 20:9-12 Eutychus raised from the dead

Some Scriptures concerning spiritual gifts

- Romans 12:4-8
- Ephesians 4:11-12
- 1 Peter 4:10-11

1 Corinthians 12-14

- 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
- 1 Corinthians 12:27-31
- 1 Corinthians 13:1-2
- 1 Corinthians 13:8-13
- 1 Corinthians 14:1-40

Questions for Discussion

- What is and what is not a gift of the Holy Spirit?
 - See also “gift” in John 3:16, Romans 6:23, James 1:17
- Can we make categories of gifts?
 - Natural/Supernatural
 - Miraculous/non-miraculous
 - Verbal/non-verbal
- Should we?
- Who are the spiritual gifts for?
 - Are they scattered sparingly throughout the church?
 - Are they pervasive throughout the church?
 - All believers?
 - Believers who are “baptised in the Spirit”?
- Do the spiritual gifts have strings attached?
- When are the spiritual gifts for?
 - The “early” church?
 - The “early” church and the 20th century and beyond?
 - Various times, they come and go?
 - All time?
 - Eternity?

A Closer Look

- Healing, gift of healing
- Tongues & Interpretation
- Miracles
- Gift of faith
- Wisdom, knowledge, prophecy, distinguishing between spirits

Conclusions

- Cessationism is not biblical (in a sense).
- Continuationism is not biblical (in the same sense).
- Gullibility is not faith.
- Our God is infinitely powerful, wise & creative.
- He "is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20).

Miscellaneous Quotations

From History

“In the earliest times, the Holy Spirit fell upon them that believe and they spoke with tongues, which they had not learned, as the Spirit gave them utterance. These were signs adapted to the time. For there was this betokening of the Holy Spirit in all tongues to show that the gospel of God was to run through all tongues over the whole earth. That thing was done for a sign, and is passed away.”

St. Augustine (354-430)

“In the early church the Holy Spirit was sent forth in visible form. He descended upon Christ in the form of a dove (Matt. 3:16), and in the likeness of fire upon the apostles and other believers. (Acts 2:3.) This visible outpouring of the Holy Spirit was necessary to the establishment of the early Church, as were also the miracles that accompanied the gift of the Holy Ghost. Paul explained the purpose of these miraculous gifts of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 14:22, ‘Tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not.’ Once the Church had been established and properly advertised by these miracles, the visible appearance of the Holy Ghost ceased.” **Martin Luther** (1483-1546)

“The gift of tongues was one new product of the Spirit of prophecy and given for a particular reason, that, the Jewish pale being taken down, all nations might be brought into the church. These and other gifts of prophecy, being a sign, have long since ceased and laid aside, and we have no encouragement to expect the revival of them; but, on the contrary, are directed to call the Scriptures the more sure word of prophecy, more sure than voices from heaven; and to them we are directed to take heed, to search them, and to hold them fast, 2 Peter i.19.” **Matthew Henry** (1662-1714)

“In the days of his [Jesus’] flesh, his disciples had a measure of the miraculous gifts of the Spirit, being enabled thus to teach and to work miracles. But after the resurrection and ascension, was the most full and remarkable effusion of the Spirit in his miraculous gifts that ever took place, beginning with the day of Pentecost, after Christ had risen and ascended to heaven. And in consequence of this, not only here and there an extraordinary person was endowed with these extraordinary gifts, but they were common in the church, and so continued during the lifetime of the apostles, or till the death of the last of them, even the apostle John, which took place about a hundred years from the birth of Christ; so that the first hundred years of the Christian era, or the first century, was the era of miracles.” **Jonathan Edwards** (1703-1758)

The works of the Holy Spirit which are at this time vouchsafed to the Church of God are every way as valuable as those earlier miraculous gifts which have departed from us. The work of the Holy Spirit, by which men are quickened from their death in sin, is not inferior to the power which made men speak with tongues.” **Charles Spurgeon** (1834-1892)

“These gifts... were part of the credentials of the Apostles as the authoritative agents of God in founding the church. Their function thus confined them to distinctively the Apostolic Church and they necessarily passed away with it.” **Benjamin B Warfield** (1887-1921)

“As there were offices extraordinary (apostles and prophets) at the beginning of our dispensation, so there were gifts extraordinary; and as successors were not appointed for the former, so a continuance was never intended for the latter.” **Arthur W Pink** (1886-1952)

Rev Charles F. Parham... His plan is to send among the heathen, persons who have been blessed with the “gift of tongues” - a gift which, he says, no others have ever had conferred upon them since apostolic times. His missionaries, as he points out, will have the great advantage of having the languages of the various peoples among whom they work miraculously conferred upon them and will not be put to the trouble of learning them in the laborious way by which they are acquired by other prospective missionaries.

From The Present Age

If we use the traditional Pentecostal terminology of “baptism of the Holy Spirit,” then we almost inevitably end up with two-category Christianity, for this is seen as a common experience that *can* and indeed *should* happen to Christians at one point in time, and, once it has happened, does not need to be repeated. It is seen as a single experience of empowering for ministry that is distinct from the experience of becoming a Christian, and people either have received that experience or they have not. Especially when the experience is described in terms of what happened to the disciples at Pentecost in Acts 2 (which was clearly a one-time experience for them), the Samaritans in Acts 8, and the Ephesian disciples in Acts 19, it is clearly implied that this is a one-time event that empowers people for ministry but that also puts them in a separate category or group that the one they were in before this experience. The use of the term “*the* baptism in the Holy Spirit” inevitably implies two groups of Christians.

But if we are correct in understanding the experience that has come to millions of people in the charismatic renewal as a large step of growth in their Christian lives, then some other term than “baptism in the Holy Spirit” would seem to be more appropriate. There might be several terms we could use, so long as they allow for repetition, varying degrees of intensity, and further development beyond that one experience.

Wayne Grudem

Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones says this about the baptism with the Holy Spirit:

1. It is conscious.
2. It is usually subsequent to a person having believed.
3. It is the highest form of assurance.

R. T. Kendall

Even those who believe in [modern] tongues acknowledge that unsaved people have tongues experiences. There is nothing supernatural about them. But there is something unique about speaking complete and meaningful sentences and discourses in a knowable language to which one has never been exposed. This is what the New Testament gift of tongues entailed. Anything short of this, as “private tongues” are, should not be considered the biblical gift of tongues. **Norm Geisler**

“3 Levels of the Anointing in the Life of the Believer” **Benny Hinn**

“When revival comes, we can identify the move of the Holy Spirit as coming in four stages.”

<http://maranathalife.com>

“The Five-Fold Levels of the Anointing” <http://www.joyministries.co.za>

Analysis of the lists of gifts, Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology* p1020, ISBN 978-0-85110-652-6

1 Corinthians 12:28

1. apostle⁷
2. prophet
3. teacher
4. miracles
5. kinds of healings
6. helps
7. administration
8. tongues

1 Corinthians 12:8-10

9. word of wisdom
10. word of knowledge
11. faith
- (5) gifts of healing
- (4) miracles
- (2) prophecy
12. distinguishing between spirits
- (8) tongues
13. interpretation of tongues

Ephesians 4:11⁸

- (1) apostle
- (2) prophet
14. evangelist
15. pastor-teacher

Romans 12:6-8

- (2) prophecy
16. serving
- (3) teaching
17. encouraging
18. contributing
19. leadership
20. mercy

1 Corinthians 7:7

21. marriage
22. celibacy

1 Peter 4:11

- Whoever speaks (covering several gifts)
- Whoever renders service (covering several gifts)