

ARE SPIRITUAL GIFTS STILL BESTOWED UPON DISCIPLES

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Are the Spiritual Gifts still Bestowed Upon Disciples

This is a question that has been thought about by many Christians over a long period of time; is God still bestowing his gifts of the Spirit upon disciples who are working in the Kingdom of God?

The answer is pretty simple and is a three-letter word. “Yes!”

“So does this mean we no longer have to read what follows?”

“No it doesn’t mean you can stop reading because there is a very important lesson for us all to be discussed and that is, why does it “appear” that the gifts are no longer given?”

Ah ha! The answer to this requires more than just a one-word answer and it has to do with how disciples conduct themselves and how they seek from God gifts to help them in their work in the Kingdom. That is not to say all will be given gifts and neither is it to say none will be given gifts, and those of you who are across this issue will recognise Cessationism and Continuationism are labels describing contrary beliefs about these spiritual gifts in today’s world.

I am not at all disposed toward applying labels to anyone and I note that these two are described as theological positions on the subject, and therefore they are correctly identified as being man-made labels that are touching on blasphemy of the Spirit of God. So be warned Faithchasers, there are some who are bound up in them.

My belief on this matter is that nowhere in the Word of God does the Lord, or the Apostles or any of the other contributing disciples give any indication that the spiritual gifts have been withdrawn. As I say, it borders on blasphemy to make a personal judgement based just on one’s own unsupported opinions. The Bible tells us that gifts will be given – and that word from God has not changed.

What I will be covering here is that the Word of God makes no guarantee that all those who ask will be given what they “want”. The fact of the matter is that the giving of gifts of God’s Spirit are very specifically given to targeted disciples who will use them in their earnest and genuine endeavours to go about their work of salvation in the Kingdom of God. Like it or not, there are criteria to be fulfilled and it is these that are the determining factor about their allocation (so to speak).

The underlying criterion is wrapped up in our relationship with God our Father through the works of Jesus Christ our Lord who atoned for our sins and was the propitiation for our righteousness with the Spirit of God. So our faith and belief

is brought into question here. We are commanded to be holy¹ and additionally the Beatitudes² from Matthew's Gospel need to be our modus operandi on a moment by moment basis and our desires need to be pure. There is no middle ground here. Multitudes of great numbers will be drawn away from these holy precepts by the desire for money, wealth, fortunes and fame, rock "n" roll music, flashing lights, smoke and rock band performances, entertainment designed to stir humanist feelings, questionable teachings, lies, false prophets, lying spirits, very questionable tele-evangelist-style faith-healers, syncretism, cults, the devious and the just plain evil.

And there are no accolades for modern technology either. I believe that social media is a tool that Satan is revelling in and is wreaking havoc across the world upon everyone into whom its barbed hooks have become infested sores. From what was televangelism is now multimedia on our phones and computers and we see that what was once just a communication tool has become the destroyer of every bit of humbled surrender to the Lord's work. If we think the grand days of television evangelism and the masters of deception were bad, then have a good think about social media as a weapon against those who are living a surrendered life unto the Lord our Saviour.

Let me ask the question about this. Is God really going to bless us with His holy gifts of the Spirit when our lives are unholy, undisciplined and anchored firmly into wanton worldliness? I am not going to answer this. And it is not just the congregations that are faulting here. Leaders of congregations have a lot to answer before the Lord Jesus Christ. Unruliness in meetings, Nicolaitanism³, syncretism and worship of pagan gods are but a few. Leaders without discernment have invited wolves to come inside the City gates and lead the blind and arrogant to their destruction. Will these congregations be given gifts of the Holy Spirit? I won't answer this either.

1Corinthians 14:22-23

(22) *Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.*

¹ 2Peter 3:11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

1Peter 1:15-16 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

(16) Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

Ephesians 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

² Matthew Chapters 5, 6 & 7

³ Revelation 2:6 & 2:15

- (23) *If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?*

1Corinthians 14:26-28

- (26) *How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.*
- (27) *If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret.*
- (28) *But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.*

1Corinthians 14:40

Let all things be done decently and in order.

All Christian congregations who have fallen to these Charismatic spirits from their pagan counterparts know of these scriptures but ignore them as if they are meaningless. At best one might say they cannot understand the words of the Holy Spirit of God – and that is being generous. The Charismatic movement has very deep roots in paganism but as the saying goes, you will never know where the smell is coming from if you never check out your own shoes.

Should we be calling out these church leaders and the wayward congregations? Or do we accept that God has given them over to reprobate minds that are contrary to His holy ways?

Titus 1:10-16

- (10) *For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision:*
- (11) *Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.*
- (12) *One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians are always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies.*
- (13) *This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;*
- (14) *Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth.*
- (15) *Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.*
- (16) *They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.*

Romans 1:22-32

- (22) *Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,*
- (23) *And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.*
- (24) *Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:*
- (25) *Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.*
- (26) *For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:*
- (27) *And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.*
- (28) *And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;*
- (29) *Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,*
- (30) *Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,*
- (31) *Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:*
- (32) *Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.*

2Timothy 3:4-8

- (4) *Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;*
- (5) *Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.*
- (6) *For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,*
- (7) *Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.*
- (8) *Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.*

It is a positive choice we have to make to worship and serve God in holiness and humbleness. The only reason all of the non-conforming churches exist today is because the multitudes crave them – and I speak here directly to the

Nicolaitan system churches and the Charismatic congregations. If we take a list of all Christian professing churches and remove all that have fallen to Nicolaitanism, syncretism with pagan gods, spiritists, unruliness, unholiness, mammonist, those contrary to the doctrine of the Lord Jesus Christ, cultists, and others that are contrary and having reprobate minds, there are, sadly, very few left on the list that God might be likely to give His Spiritual gifts. It is a truth that wayward churches continue to exist because their congregations are happy about being there.

1Corinthians 12:1-31

- (1) *Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.*
- (2) *Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led.*
- (3) *Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.*
- (4) *Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.*
- (5) *And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.*
- (6) *And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.*
- (7) *But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.*
- (8) *For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;*
- (9) *To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;*
- (10) *To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:*
- (11) *But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.*
- (12) *For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.*
- (13) *For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.*
- (14) *For the body is not one member, but many.*

For whatever the reason, popular churches of today cannot seem to hear these Words of God. Spiritual gifts are not given to everyone – does this therefore make those who have not got a certain prescribed set of gifts unbelievers and therefore are to be driven away from these congregations as maggots from a dead fish? The truth here is that spiritual gifts are given to the body of believers to serve as a functional arm, or leg, or eye in the body.

Scripture is explicit that not everyone in the body of Christ will speak in tongues – this is heresy to enforce such a non-scriptural concept. Scripture says that speaking in tongues in a congregation should be by three at the most and only then if there is an interpreter present. And what gibberish passes for speaking in languages for the teaching and preaching of the gospel is another matter not for here. The purpose of the gift of tongues is to use this as a tool to go out into all the lands and preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to the pagans.

We find this word “Tongues” in 1 Corinthians 12:10;

English – Tongues, Greek – Glossa. Meaning: A language that is specifically naturally unacquired. (Strongs).

The (more) correct English translation is: gifted “languages” that have not been acquired by learning. So the “tongues” we hear emanating out of errant congregations is a cacophony of unintelligible noise, ie no one can understand them and further why is the whole congregation shouting and mumbling and puffing stale breath into the air. This is unholy, this is contrary to God’s instruction and this is deception. It has nothing to do with the Holy Spirit of God. The gifts of language from God operate through known languages of the world and reflect that there are unbelievers present who speak that language. This is the plain simple truth.

Therefore whoever was the architect of demanding “every” congregant “must” speak in tongues or they are not saved (and will be refused brotherly inclusion) plus all those who condone this wretched lie are by their own words and deeds convicted by their own unbelief and twisted interpretation of God’s holy Word; and to boot will accept any gibberish as some sort of proof of it being a God-given bestowal on a holy and humble believer.

1 Timothy 1:6

From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling;

2 Timothy 2:16

But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

We could speak similarly of false and lying prophets, of fake faith healers, of copying pagan rituals and very questionable practise of “slaying” congregants in the spirit. These are all shocking abuses by those whom are supposed to be disciples of the Lord and children of God. What are these charlatans doing in the congregations that should be upholding everything that is holy? It is certainly not the work of Salvation.

So can we now understand why gifts of the Holy Spirit have dried up in most of our churches? Can we understand why there is a rise in these fake practitioners who are very quick to blame a sufferer for not having sufficient faith when they are not healed? Or the plethora of false prophecies – who do they blame for that?

This is all a very sorry state of affairs and the theological colleges and the multinational and national bodies who claim Christianity as their professed basis of their teaching and training (and approval of qualifications) have a lot of guidance to seek from God's Holy Spirit to bring them back to holiness and righteousness in the eyes of "I AM THAT I AM". One of the most frightening things that is spoken of in the whole of God's Word is the fierce reaction of the Holy Spirit toward unrighteousness – particularly toward those who put themselves up to be priests, ministers and pastors.

Leviticus 10:1-2

- (1) *And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not.*
- (2) *And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.*

Judges 1:7

Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Exodus 19:22

And let the priests also, which come near to the LORD, sanctify themselves, lest the LORD break forth upon them.

Exodus 19:24

And the LORD said unto him, Away, get thee down, and thou shalt come up, thou, and Aaron with thee: but let not the priests and the people break through to come up unto the LORD, lest he break forth upon them.

Fellow Faithchasers please do not be caught up in these very popular but faithless and hollow dens of unrighteousness. Discipleship unto the Lord Jesus Christ means to be holy and to have a righteous relationship with God. Pursue the Word of God with a passion and the Lord himself will teach you in the way you should go.

2Corinthians 6:14-18

- (14) *Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?*
- (15) *And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?*
- (16) *And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*
- (17) *Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,*
- (18) *And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.*

All those who are working in the Kingdom of God in all earnestness and purity of heart can ask of the Lord for spiritual gifts to help in the work that they are doing. For his own, the Lord will be very accommodating and His gifts will flow like a river giving life to all creatures.

So here we are at the end of this short discussion and I hope that all Faithchasers understand the reasons why the Lord initiated gifts to his Priesthood of Believers in the first place and secondly why we are no longer seeing them in abundance within the congregations. Emphatically these gifts are still bestowed upon the holy and humble servants of Salvation as they go about their work in the kingdom of God and we can be bold in asking for them when they are needed.

*“..... for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord,”*

May the Lord indeed bless his servants with all of their spiritual needs!

Geoff

Don't you just like how sometimes they say, "This is a blank page"?