

Series: Propelled: The Serving Mindset

Message: Discovery of Sign Gifts

Scripture: Select Texts

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Sign Gifts

Any gift whereby its means of usage is derived to some degree from God granting more uncommon abilities.

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

⁷ But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

⁸ For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit;

⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,

¹⁰ and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues.

¹¹ But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

Sign Gifts

1. Word of Wisdom

The God-given insight and ability which would only be given by divine intervention enabling one to apply information effectively.

2. Word of Knowledge

The God-given ability to know something that could only be known by God's intervention.

3. Miracles

The God-given ability to discern and pray effectively for the supernatural.

4. Healing

The ability to discern and pray effectively for healing.

5. Distinguishing of Spirits

The unnatural ability to distinguish between truth and error.

6. Tongues

The God-given ability to speak a language not learned humanly.

7. Interpretation Of Tongues

The God-given ability to interpret languages not previously learned.

Four Issues of Confusion And Debate

1. The Baptism Of The Spirit

J.I. Packer, Keep In Step With The Spirit, pg. 203-204

Doubtless some believers have benefited and others would benefit from a post-conversion experience of inner enlargement, but this is not Spirit baptism in Paul's sense.

Can it be convincingly denied that the narratives of Acts, from Pentecost on, assume that faith-repentance and the gift of the Spirit in the fullness of his new covenant ministry come together? Surely not.

Acts 2:1-4

¹ *When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.*

² *And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.*

³ *And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them.*

⁴ *And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.*

J. I. Packer, Keep In Step With The Spirit, pg. 228

This charismatic's theology sees the Apostles' experience at Pentecost as the normative pattern of transition from the first and lower level to the higher, Spirit-filled level. But this idea seems to lack both biblical and experiential justification, while the corollary that all Christians who are strangers to Pentecostal transition experience are lower-level folk, not Spirit-filled, is, to say the least, unconvincing. Yet the honest, penitent, expectant quest for more of God (out of which has come for so many the precious experience miscalled Spirit baptism) is always the taproot of spiritual renewal, whether impeccably theologized or not; and so it has been in this case.

Next Week:

2. Speaking In Tongues
3. Getting Messages From God
4. Healing and Healers