

# Systematic Theology

## Chapter 53 Study Outline

Gifts of the Holy Spirit:  
(Part 2) Specific Gifts

*How should we understand and use  
specific spiritual gifts?*

# EXPLANATION AND SCRIPTURAL BASIS

Focus of this chapter will be on the spiritual gifts that are not well understood or whose use has aroused some controversy today. Primarily give attention to the gifts listed in 1 Corinthians 12:28 and 12:8-10:

- A. Prophecy
- B. Teaching
- C. Miracles
- D. Healing
- E. Tongues and interpretation
- F. Word of wisdom/word of knowledge
- G. Distinguishing between spirits

# Prophecy

- Prophecy is NOT:
  - Predicting the future
  - Proclaiming a word from the Lord
  - Powerful teaching
- Prophecy is:
  - Telling something that God has spontaneously brought to mind



# Prophecy

1. The New Testament Counterpart to Old Testament Prophets Are New Testament Apostles.
2. The Meaning of the Word *Prophet* in the Time of the New Testament.

*Much more commonly, the words prophet and prophecy were used of ordinary Christians who spoke not with absolute or divine authority, but simply to report something that God had laid on their hearts or brought to their minds.*

# Prophecy

3. Indications That “Prophets” Did Not Speak With Authority Equal to the Words of Scripture.
  - a. Act 21:4 – Paul disobeys
  - b. Acts 21:10-11 – Agabus’ inaccuracy
  - c. 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 – instructed to “test”
  - d. 1 Corinthians 14:29-38 – “weigh what is said”
  - e. Apostolic Preparations for their Absence – Paul elevates scripture not prophecy



# Prophecy

## 4. How Should We Speak About the Authority of Prophecy Today?

Prophecies today are merely human words not God's words

Prophecy is imperfect and impure

## 5. Spontaneous "Revelation" Made Prophecy Different From Other Gifts.

# Prophecy

## 6. The Difference Between Prophecy and Teaching.

Prophecy has less authority than teaching and is subject to scripture

## 7. Objection: This Makes Prophecy “Too Subjective.”

Refer to quote on page 1057

\*We must maintain balance between the Word and the Holy Spirit.

# Prophecy

## 8. Prophecies Could Include Any Edifying Content.

It must build up, encourage, consol

## 9. Many People in the Congregation Can Prophecy

Paul's expectation is that many or most will prophecy

# Prophecy

10. We Should “Earnestly Desire Prophecy.

11. Encouraging and Regulating Prophecy in the Local Church

Leadership is responsible to monitor the health and growth, give guidance, while encouraging believers in their gifts.

# Teaching

*The ability to explain Scripture and apply it to people's lives.*

# Miracles

- God's mighty power is evident
- God's glory is made evident

# Healing

## 1. Introduction: Sickness and Health in the History of Redemption.

Sickness and disease are results of the fall  
Healing a foretaste of eternity, glorified bodies

## 2. The Purposes of Healing.

Sign to authenticate the gospel message  
Demonstrate the kingdom of God  
Bring comfort and health  
Demonstrate God's mercy  
Opportunity to glorify God

# Healing

## 3. What About the Use of Medicine?

Part of God's provision

Not using it is wrongly testing God

Should be used with prayer

## 4. Does the New Testament Show Common Methods Used in Healing?

Laying on of hands

Anointing with oil

Go to the elders for prayer

# Healing

## 5. How Then Should We Pray for Healing?

Pray with faith

Believe healing is His will

Be persistent

## 6. But What if God Does Not Heal?

God is sovereign

Give him the glory in all things

# Tongues and Interpretation

## 1. Tongues in the History of Redemption.

unique to the new covenant age

a foretaste of the unity of language

Symbol of the powerful working of God

Paul affirms that he prays and sings in both tongues and in his own language



# Tongues and Interpretation

## 2. What Is Speaking in Tongues?

*Speaking in tongues is prayer or praise spoken in syllables not understood by the speaker.*

- a. Words of Prayer or Praise spoken to God:
- b. Not Understood by the Speaker:
- c. Pray With the Spirit, Not With the Mind:

# Tongues and Interpretation

## 2. What Is Speaking in Tongues?

d. Not Ecstatic but Self-controlled:

e. Tongues Without Interpretation:

f. Tongues With Interpretation: Edification for the Church:

# Tongues and Interpretation

## 2. What Is Speaking in Tongues?

- g. Not All Speak in Tongues:
- h. What About the Danger of Demonic Counterfeit?
- i. Is Romans 8:26-27 Related to Speaking in Tongues?

# Word of Wisdom and Word of Knowledge

- Mentioned only once in Scripture:
  - 1 Corinthians 12:8
- *Word of wisdom simply means the ability to speak a wise word in various situations*
- *Word of knowledge is the ability to speak with knowledge about a situation*
  - Often wrongly identified when prophecy is actually what is taking place

# Distinguishing Between Spirits and Spiritual Warfare

*Distinguishing between spirits is a special ability to recognize the influence of the Holy Spirit or of demonic spirits in a person.*