



# THE GIFTS & FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

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1 Cor 12:27-31



# QUESTION 5

## Understanding the Gift of Tongues



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**All manifestation on tongues fall under what 1 Corinthians 12:10 calls “divers kinds of tongues”; meaning different expressions of one spiritual gift, each with its own function.**



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**Tongues in Scripture appear  
as: languages, prayer,  
messages, signs, evidence,  
and intercession; each  
serving a different spiritual  
purpose.**



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# TONGUES AS INITIAL EVIDENCE OF SPIRIT FILLING

- [Acts 10:44-46] 44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message.
- 45 The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles.
- 46 For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.





# PRACTICAL DISCERNMENT FRAMEWORK

- Who is it directed to?
- God → likely prayer tongue
- People → likely public message



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# PRACTICAL DISCERNMENT FRAMEWORK

- Is interpretation present?
- Yes → public gift
- No → keep it private



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# PRACTICAL DISCERNMENT FRAMEWORK

- What is the setting?
- Private/devotional → personal use
- Corporate gathering → must follow order



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# PRACTICAL DISCERNMENT FRAMEWORK

- What is the result?
- Edification → from God
- Confusion/disorder → needs correction



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# PRACTICAL DISCERNMENT FRAMEWORK

- Paul's teaching in 1 Corinthians 14 gives two anchors:
- “Forbid not to speak with tongues” (v.39)
- “Let all things be done decently and in order” (v.40)



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# TONGUES AS INITIAL EVIDENCE OF SPIRIT FILLING

- Acts 19:6 - When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.



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# TONGUES AS INITIAL EVIDENCE OF SPIRIT FILLING

- When the Holy Spirit came upon believers, they spoke with tongues.
- A visible confirmation of receiving the Holy Spirit.
- An outward sign accompanying Spirit baptism.



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# PERSONAL PRAYER LANGUAGE GLOSSOLALIA

- Spoken directly to God, not to men (1 Cor 14:2)
- Used for personal edification and growth (1 Cor 14:4)
- The spirit prays, mind may not understand (1 Cor 14:14)
- Often called “praying in the Spirit” (Jude 1:20)
- Personal edification and communion with God



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# **PUBLIC TONGUES WITH INTERPRETATION XENOLALIA**



- Spoken aloud in a church gathering (1 Cor 14:27)
- Must be accompanied by interpretation (1 Cor 14:27-28)
- When interpreted, functions like prophecy (1 Cor 14:5)
- Purpose is to edify the entire church (1 Cor 14:26)



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# HUMAN LANGUAGES (XENOGLOSSIA)



- Speaking in unlearned human languages (Acts 2:4)
- Heard by foreigners in native tongues (Acts 2:8)
- Serves as a sign to unbelievers (1 Cor 14:22)
- Used by God for rapid evangelism (Acts 2:11)
- A sign to unbelievers and a tool for evangelism.



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# GROANINGS / DEEP SPIRITUAL UTTERANCE

- In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. Romans 8:26



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# GROANINGS / DEEP SPIRITUAL UTTERANCE



- The Spirit makes intercession with groanings which cannot be uttered.
- Intercession beyond human language.
- A deep spiritual expression closely related to tongues in prayer.



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# COMPREHENSIVE PURPOSES OF GIFTS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT



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# THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMON GOOD (1 CORINTHIANS 12)

- 1 Corinthians 12:7 (NIV): "Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good."
- The Greek word for "common good" is Sympheron. It means that which is profitable, beneficial, or advantageous for all.



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# THE PURPOSE OF INTERDEPENDENCE AND UNITY

- 1 Corinthians 12:14-20: Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to explain the distribution of gifts.
- God intentionally distributes different gifts to different people so that we are forced to rely on one another. The visionary leader (the "eye") needs the administrative organizer (the "hand") to execute the vision.



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# THE PURPOSE OF EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

- Ephesians 4:11-12a (KJV): "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry..."



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# THE PURPOSE OF EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

- The Greek word for "perfecting" or "equipping" is *Katartismos* (Κατάρτισμος).
- It is a medical term for setting a broken bone, and a nautical term for mending torn nets (Matthew 4:21).



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# THE PURPOSE OF EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

- The primary purpose of the Pastor is not to visit every sick person, counsel every broken marriage, and win every lost soul.
- The Pastor's purpose is katartismos; to mend, train, and equip the congregation so they can visit the sick, counsel the broken, and win the lost.



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# THE PURPOSE OF EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

- The church is not a hospital where the pastor is the only doctor; it is a teaching hospital where the pastor is training residents to practice medicine.



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# THE PURPOSE OF MATURITY AND PROTECTION

- Ephesians 4:13-14 (NIV): "...until we all reach unity in the faith... and become mature... Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching..."



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# THE PURPOSE OF MATURITY AND PROTECTION

- The word for "mature" is Teleios (Τέλειος), meaning full-grown or having reached its intended end.



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# THE PURPOSE OF MATURITY AND PROTECTION

- When the five-fold ministry gifts function properly, the congregation develops theological discernment.



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# THE PURPOSE OF MATURITY AND PROTECTION

- When a new, sensational, but unbiblical teaching sweeps through social media or popular culture, a mature church is not "tossed back and forth."



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# THE PURPOSE OF MATURITY AND PROTECTION

- The teaching gifts have anchored them in sound doctrine, protecting the flock from spiritual deception.



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# STEWARDSHIP OF GRACE

- 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV): "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."



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# STEWARDSHIP OF GRACE

- The word for "steward" is Oikonomos a household manager. A steward does not own the master's property;



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# STEWARDSHIP OF GRACE

- they manage it for the master's benefit. The phrase "various forms" is Poikilos, meaning multi-colored, diverse, or manifold.



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# STEWARDSHIP OF GRACE

- Peter establishes that we do not own our spiritual gifts. If you have the gift of administration, it is not your administration;.



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# STEWARDSHIP OF GRACE

- it is God's administration entrusted to your management. Furthermore, God's grace is poikilos (multi-colored).



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# STEWARDSHIP OF GRACE

- Just as a prism refracts white light into a spectrum of colors, the Holy Spirit refracts the grace of God through the diverse personalities of believers, resulting in a beautiful spectrum of ministries.



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# THE TWO CATEGORIES OF GRACE

- 1 Peter 4:11a (NIV): "If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides..."



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# THE TWO CATEGORIES OF GRACE

- Peter divides all gifts into two functional categories:
- Speaking Gifts (Utterance): Teaching, prophecy, exhortation, evangelism.
- Purpose: To deliver the very oracles (logia) of God, not human opinion.



# THE TWO CATEGORIES OF GRACE

- **Serving Gifts (Action):** Administration, giving, mercy, helps.
- **Purpose:** To minister using divine energy (ischys), not human burnout.



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# THE TWO CATEGORIES OF GRACE

- When a church member with the gift of mercy visits a grieving family, they are not merely offering human sympathy;



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# THE TWO CATEGORIES OF GRACE

- they are acting as a steward, dispensing the "multi-colored grace" of God's comfort to that family.



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# THE TWO CATEGORIES OF GRACE

They must do so relying on  
God's strength, or they will  
quickly experience  
compassion fatigue.



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# PITFALLS OF THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT



- Seeking Accolades and Attention.
- Gehazi: Greed and Deception.
- Martha: Busyness Over Presence.
- Simon the Sorcerer: Attempting to Commercialize Spiritual Power



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# PITFALLS OF THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT



- **The Messenger of Satan: Spiritual Gifts Twisted by Pride**
- **Acts 16: The Slave Girl with the Spirit of Divination.**
- **The Sons of Sceva: Attempting to Use Spiritual Authority Without Genuine Power.**
- **Acts 12: The Danger of Abandoning Faith Under Persecution**



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# QUESTIONS

- Which of these pitfalls do you find most relevant to your own life and ministry? Why?
- How can we distinguish between legitimate exercise of spiritual gifts and the pitfalls described in this study?
- What role does humility play in protecting us from these pitfalls?



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# FINALLY

- **Use Your Gift: Don't Hide It; *Neglect not the gift that is in thee...*** (1 Timothy 4:14)
- **Faithfulness Matters More Than Size of the Gift: *Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.*** (1 Corinthians 4:2)



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# FINALLY

- **Your View of God Affects How You Use Your Gift:**  
The wicked servant acted out of fear and a wrong understanding of his master.
- Someone may feel led to pray for healing but hesitates, fearing failure; this limits the operation of the gift.



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# FINALLY

- **Gifts Are Given to Produce Kingdom Impact:** *“The manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.”* (1 Corinthians 12:7)
- **Accountability Is Coming:** he master returned and required an account; this reflects spiritual responsibility.
- *Every one of us shall give account of himself to God.”* (Romans 14:12)



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