

# THERE ARE DIVERSITIES OF GIFTS 3

**Brother Jason Bright**  
**Phoenix Assembly Church**  
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Edited by Sister Nicole Wentzell

Lord willing, we're going to finish this message on the *gifts* tonight. We may not hear a lot necessarily said about the gifts but what I really want to leave with us is: the gifts are in the church. Let's not think that they are for some other brother or some other sister.

If we go to First Corinthians 12, one of the key verses that we've been looking at is verse 7.

1 Corinthians 12:7

*But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.*

That means *every* man and *every* woman. Paul said *every*. It's not just the minister, it's not just the deacons or those we might look at who have some kind of administration, but it is for *every single one*.

We don't know how God is going to work in our life. We know that there are the ministering gifts but the entire body of Christ has its function. A lot of times we may look specifically at the ministry because of the impact it has, in a mystical sense that would be the head of the body, but we know every member of the body is important.

I knew a teacher who was a colleague of mine, he had a rattlesnake. One day he was careless and the rattlesnake bit him on the finger, I think it was his index finger. The top half of it just rotted and they had to amputate it. That was just half of his finger but when you saw him, it didn't take long to see his hands and instantly you could see he was missing something. He was not complete and it was extremely noticeable.

And just a funny little story: one time we were going to go to his house and somebody said: at what time do you want us to be there? He extended his hand and fingers to indicate *five o'clock* and a person said: okay I'll be there at four-thirty then. [Laughs]

That was just *half* of his finger that was missing. Don't ever let the devil tell you that you are not important in the body of Christ.

The devil, he'll tell you one thing or the other: if he knows that you're not worried about not being important enough, he'll try to make you feel more important than you really are. He'll try to get you pushed way too far up. And if that's not the direction that you're going to go, he'll tell you that you're not worth anything to the body of Christ. I have to say: both of those are lies.

We are all brothers and sisters in Christ and we all have a spiritual gift imparted to us. When I say *a spiritual gift*, I don't mean that we have just *one* gift, but also it's *not* that we have *all* the gifts either.

Many times we'll be surprised how multiple gifts can work together at the same time, even through the same individual. If we don't stand back to see what the Lord did, we might not think even of it as two or three different gifts working at the same time.

With the help of the Lord, I would like to go ahead tonight, review a little bit and try to finish up this study to see what all these nine gifts are. I don't know it all but I hope we can learn something to help us tonight. Above all, let's be expecting. The Lord is working in His church. He always has been.

Again, if we're not careful we can think: maybe in five years, maybe in ten years, but I'm hoping in ten years I will already be out of here. Praise the Lord. The way this world is going, I can't imagine being here another ten years. I'm just amazed how much it has changed in the last two or three years.

Let's know that the Lord is ever present. He has a work *today* for the church. Praise the Lord. That means He has something for *you* today.

When we look at the gifts, there are three main ways the gifts can be used. Sometimes God will use a gift *for our personal edification*. We read where Paul spoke of people speaking in tongues at home. There may not even be an interpretation but he said that's *edifying for that individual*. [1Corinthians 14:4]

That's just one example and we could probably apply that to every gift. There are times the Lord uses a gift for our personal edification or the Lord moves for our personal help.

In other cases, it could be *for somebody else*. The Lord can use one individual, a gift operating in that person for the benefit of another. Praise the Lord. That's the second way the gifts can work.

The Lord can also use a gift *for multiple people*, like an assembly, or even for the whole body of Christ. We are living in a day today, what we say here or what is said in Canada, in South Africa or wherever, can be heard around the world.

Now let's continue to read.

1 Corinthians 12:8

*For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom;*

Now we know there is *wisdom* and there is also the *gift of wisdom*. We should all have wisdom but the *gift of wisdom* it's at a specific time, especially if there is a condition, or we have to make a decision and we don't know what to do. If we are praying about it, if we are seeking the Lord, in His time God can bring an inspiration. It could be through a vision, it could be through a dream or some other avenue and He can *show* us with certainty and *give* us the confidence to make the decision. So He gives us *wisdom*.

1 Corinthians 12:8

*to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;*

In this case, we actually come to *know* something. We saw that work in Brother Branham a lot of times together with the gift of healing. He would tell the person *this is what you have*. He would say *you have a certain infection* and the person either had not told Brother Branham or maybe they had said: I'm feeling like this or like that. But the way the gift worked, it could tell them what it was.

One time I believe he was finishing a sermon and he said: there's a brother sitting behind me, he's very worried about his young daughter, she has a hole in her heart. He said: don't worry anymore, the Lord has healed her. The fact that the Lord healed her, that was the *gift of healing*, but the fact that he *knew* that she had a hole in her heart, that was the *gift of knowledge*.

Now, is everybody going to have it like that? No. In fact, I would say at that level it's probably very rare that we're going to see it like that.

But we've also heard of people, maybe they're on the job, maybe they're working on a machine or something, and nobody has been able to fix it. Now they're in charge and they're thinking about all the possibilities and they just can't seem to figure it out. Many times they'll just silently say a little prayer *Lord, help me with this*.

Then you'll hear them testify: my eyes were drawn to this red wire. I followed it and I saw that it was connected over here and something impressed me that it should be connected over there instead. They make that connection and just like that, everything works perfectly.

That's the Lord working, giving them *knowledge*. They didn't know everything about that machine. They didn't know somebody had made a mistake in putting the wire over here when it should have been over there. But the Lord can *show* that. Praise the Lord.

1 Corinthians 12:9  
*To another faith by the same Spirit;*

Again, we *all* must have *faith*. Amen? *The just shall live by faith.* [Romans 1:17] Praise the Lord. From the time that we come to the Lord, God has to give us a certain portion of faith or we would never be able to believe the gospel message in the first place. So He gives us *faith* and we believe the Word.

As we grow in the knowledge of the Word and as we live our Christian life, God continues to *reveal* His Word to us and He continues to *increase* our faith. As we hear the Word, He gives us the ability to believe the Word and we *grow in faith* until we die or until the Lord comes.

The *gift of faith* is the same principle. It's *believing* what God has *revealed*.

Let's go to what we call *the faith chapter*: Hebrews 11.

Hebrews 11:6  
*But without faith it is impossible to please him:*

That's God.

Hebrews 11:6  
*for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

If we're going to live by faith, you and I, we have to *individually* seek God. That's more than just showing up for church service. I will say this: showing up for church service is important, some people need to hear *that* message, but in addition to that, we have to seek God *individually* and believe that He is going to reward that effort. Praise the Lord.

Hebrews 11:7  
*By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet,*

It had not yet rained on the earth.

Can you imagine if you had never seen rain and somebody told you that water is going to fall out of the sky? From the natural side you would have to say: that's crazy! All the water is on the ground. Or if it is up there, it's a cloud or a gas, but that it will somehow turn into a liquid and fall down, for the natural mind that would make no sense.

But Noah was *warned of God* and he *believed* God.

Now it says:

Hebrews 11:7

*moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house;*

What we need to see here is that Noah did *not* just say: I think it's going to rain so I'm going to build an ark. God *told* Noah *it's going to rain*. [Genesis 6:17]

Sometimes we think *faith* is: well I need something to happen so I'm going to believe it. I'm going to ask God and I'm going to believe it. I have to say: of course we should trust God when we have a need. We can bring it before Him and we can trust Him that He's going to resolve the situation. But that's *not* the gift of faith.

Here we see the level of Noah's spiritual walk as a type for our spiritual walk. God *revealed* something to Noah, God gave Noah *His Word* and Noah *believed* the Word of God. Praise the Lord.

It says here:

Hebrews 11:8

*By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.*

Here we have Abraham, it says *he was called*.

Abraham did *not* just say: well I'm tired of how things are going here so I'm going to get out and start anew. In fact, from the natural side, Abraham may have been very content where he was with his family but God told him *get out from your family, get away from your family and go out, and I'm going to show you a place*. [Genesis 12:1] And Abraham *believed* God.

So what is the *gift of faith*?

There could be a situation, sometimes it looks like there is just a brick wall in front of us and we feel like there is no way we can get past the situation.

I can give an example related to healing: maybe we have some kind of a disease and the doctors have said we're going to have this for the rest of our life. What are we going to do? We don't live with this the rest of our life. So we begin to seek the Lord. That's just one example.

It could be something related to our work or it could be something related to our spiritual walk but we just have this mountain in front of us and it just seems there is no way we can get through it.

Again, as we seek the Lord, as we bring that to Him, there could be a time when the Lord moves. How He does it, that's up to Him. But one way or another He reveals *it's all going to be just fine*. He *reveals* it.

I'm not talking about us just saying: well I'm going to believe that it's going to be fine. Yes we trust the Lord, but at the end of the day we have to see: how is He going to move? And the time comes, He can *show* us.

Again, maybe it's a dream, maybe it's some kind of an impression but somehow He moves on our spirit. One way or another He shows us *I'm going to take care of it. It's going to be fine*. Then we can *believe* what He has shown us. Praise the Lord. That is the *gift of faith* in action. It's something that He has *revealed*.

When we speak about our general spiritual walk, it's the Word of God that He reveals. We *all* have to have that faith. *The just shall live by faith.* [Romans 1:17]

But the *gift of faith* is a temporary specific revelation, in other words: it's about a certain situation in our life. We're not always going to be facing that, once we get through it, we'll be through it. Praise the Lord. The Lord says *it's going to be alright* and we *believe* the Lord. He works it out, we move on, and now it's in the past. He got us through that using the *gift of faith*. Praise the Lord.

1 Corinthians 12:9  
*to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;*

We've seen that work a lot through the ministry but it doesn't have to be. You could have a man and his wife, they both serve the Lord. The wife may get sick, the husband can pray for his wife and God can operate a gift of healing. It's not *the gift of healing*, it's *says gifts*.

There are so many different ways that the Lord will work. If it was *the gift* like: I have *the gift* of healing, we should be able to bring anybody who is sick, pray for them and the Lord would heal them. But we know that He does not always heal. At the end of the day *He is Sovereign*. We can put it in His hands and trust Him.

In different individuals there are times we begin to see a certain way that the Lord works and we can begin to have confidence. He can even show us but He doesn't have to, sometimes we just pray, trusting in the Lord and God activates that healing gift. It's not that the person is instantly better, sometimes it may be a day or two, or it may take a week, it just depends on the situation.

But that individual can testify: I was prayed for on Sunday. I started feeling better Sunday night, then Monday I was better, Tuesday I was better, and by Wednesday I forgot that I was ever sick! Has that happened?

Sometimes we go for prayer, the Lord heals us and He does such a good job, we can forget that we were sick in the first place. We go through the whole day and then we remember: wait a minute, I feel good today! Praise the Lord.

What is that? The Lord worked *a gift of healing*.

It's not that a person says: I have this gift so just bring somebody who is sick and the Lord's going to heal them. Even Brother Branham, there were times when he prayed and trusted the Lord, but the Lord did not show him anything. Yes there were hundreds of times when the Lord *did*, and I'm talking of people who were so close to death.

There was the case of a man, cancer had eaten up his body and he weighed about one hundred pounds. It makes us wonder how he was still alive, but then the Lord gave Brother Branham a vision.

In fact, if I remember right, the wife had called Brother Branham, she basically said: I need you to pray for my husband so he can be healed. He said: look, if the Lord doesn't show me something, and He hasn't yet, I can't do anything. I'll just keep seeking the Lord. Then he was about to go out of his house, he was at the door and the Lord showed him, I think he just saw the man *healthy* and he understood: God's going to heal him.

The man's doctor, a very well-known doctor said: there's no way he's going to survive this, but when the Lord showed that to Brother Branham, the situation turned around. The man began to feel better, he began to get hungry again and to gain weight, and in a few short weeks or months, he was completely restored: no cancer, healed!

They tell you, stage-4 in that condition: that's terminal, you're going to die. Set your house in order and write your will. But God operated that *gift of healing*.

1 Corinthians 12:10  
*To another the working of miracles;*

Many of these gifts work together. There are *gifts of healing* but there are also *miracles*. There have been cases where somebody is unable to speak. They are prayed for, the Lord moves and they're able to speak.

There are cases where people are deaf, God moves and *instantly* they can hear. That's not the gift of healing alone, that's *not* where they first hear a little something, the next day they hear a little more, and after a month they can hear normally. It is *instant*. That's a *miracle*.

When God does something like that instantly, it's a *miracle*.

There are other ways He can work in a miraculous way. I once spoke of a case when I was in Culiacán. I didn't have a car and I would walk to the grocery store to get my groceries. I had two bags of groceries and I was carrying them back. As I was walking down the sidewalk, there was a group of young men on the other side of the road. They saw somebody who pretty clearly wasn't from their country. They were drinking and they began to say things. There were five or six of them and only one of me.

They were about the age of twenty and I was twenty six. I wasn't exactly known for karate skills or anything like that. I heard them getting louder and louder, and any man knows what that means. They were yelling at me and it was just a matter of seconds until they were going to cross the street and *Lord help me*. I thought that might be the end. I said *Lord, I'm in Your hands*.

I didn't have a gun, probably a good thing because I was in Mexico and I could get in a lot of trouble for that, but I certainly could not have won the fight. I just said *Lord, I'm in Your hands* and then a miracle happened.

There were cars going by on the street and this car came and stopped right next to me. The window rolled down and the person said: hey, aren't you my teacher? I didn't even recognize the student. I said: yes I'm your teacher. He said: would you like a ride back to where you're going? *Of course!* I got in and I rolled the window up really fast. I was out of there, it was like a three-second thing.

I just wondered what the young men thought. They were about to cross the street and send me to the other side and I just disappeared! I thank God for that. That was a *miracle*.

So there are different ways the Lord can work a miracle.

1Corinthians 12:10  
*To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy;*

We can really look into *prophecy*, there's a lot there. Many times when we think of prophecy, we think it's something that's going to happen, something in the future. And yes lot of times the Lord can use that *gift of prophecy* to speak of something that is to come. But He can use that *gift* just as well to bring something that has already happened, or something that is happening to show where it's going and to *give peace* to the person who is receiving the prophecy.

Sometimes it's just for their encouragement. Sometimes the Lord says *I see that you've been troubled and you've been praying and crying at night, wondering if I even see that. Yes my child I've seen you*. And they know nobody saw them. This is the Lord. He doesn't have to tell them what's going to happen, He just says *it's going to be okay. I'm going to answer your prayer*. Praise the Lord.

Could He also speak of something that's going to happen? Absolutely.

So the *gift of prophecy* is one of the vocal gifts.

I hope I'm not wrong in saying it like this, but for the most part when we think of the *gift of prophecy*, this is something we see when believers are gathered and the Lord will use it for edification.

Paul spoke about how He can even use that gift for the unbeliever. He said *if everybody speaks in unknown tongues and the unbeliever comes in, they're going to say they are crazy.* [1Corinthians 14:23] He said *but if the unbeliever walks in and just one person tells them the secrets of their heart, they're going to have to fall down and recognize that's God.* [1Corinthians 14:24-25] Praise the Lord.

So *prophecy* is a vocal gift. Praise the Lord. And it operates without being preceded by tongues. It's not an interpretation even though these gifts work together. Can an interpretation be a prophecy? Yes but prophecy alone does not require tongues.

Now if somebody has the gift of prophecy, does that make them a prophet? The words *prophecy* and *prophet* come from the same root word, but the answer is absolutely no. Remember Philip, it said *he had four daughters that did prophesy*, right? [Acts 21:9]

A *prophet* is part of the five-fold ministry. [Ephesians 4:11] That is a special ministry. Yes it also involves *prophecy*, we can say, in a higher level. Now again I'm not saying the person is higher, it's the *gift* that has a greater impact on the body of Christ. Still, a young sister who has the *gift of prophecy*, it also has an impact on the body of Christ.

As Paul said *I do not suffer a woman to teach* [1Timothy 2:12] a sister will not be a prophet but can she have the *gift of prophecy*? Yes she can.

1 Corinthians 12:10  
*to another divers kinds of tongues;*

I thank the Lord that I've heard many manifestations of this *gift of tongues*. It's not something we hear a lot, especially today, but it is still in the church. I remember most when I was at Faith Assembly when Brother Jackson was alive. Many in the church spoke in tongues, including Brother Jackson, and it did not sound the same with everyone.

I remember Brother Jackson once said: you might hear somebody speak in tongues and you think: that can't really be another tongue.

He said he had been on islands and in the jungles of Africa where he heard some tribal dialects that sounded like they were just saying huh-huh huh-huh-huh but they were communicating!

We can't use our natural thinking: could that really be a language? That's in the Lord's hands.

I think I skipped *discernment*. Yes I did, I jumped over it.

1 Corinthians 12:10  
*to another discerning of spirits;*

I'm running out of time so I'm going to finish this quickly.

Sometimes from the exterior event we can't say anything against what's happening. Remember Paul, when the young lady came out and she said *these men are servants of the most high God, they show to us the way of salvation.* [Acts 16:17] And it said she did that for days.

Now I have to believe that from day-one, Paul was not comfortable in his spirit. A lot of people would love that: oh I've got somebody building up my ministry. I'm sure Paul prayed about it. Maybe he could not exactly pinpoint that it was wrong because she wasn't saying anything wrong, but there came a point when God *revealed* to Paul *she has a wrong spirit* even though what she was saying was true.

There was a deeper purpose behind that situation which really was to end up calling attention to get Paul and them in trouble. Once God showed that to Paul by operating the *gift of discernment*, Paul could look at her and tell that spirit to leave her. And we know that the spirit left her. [Acts 16:18] That's one example.

And then of course, we have *interpretation of tongues*.

In closing: whenever there is a mature Christian who is operating a *gift of tongues* in an assembly, and I say *mature* because there is a learning process, they are not to speak in tongues and then just leave it out there as: well that was a message in tongues. Paul spoke of this in First Corinthians 14. If that's how it's going to go, it's better to be kept to themselves or spoken outside of the service. [1Corinthians 14:28]

Paul said: you can speak in tongues if there is an interpreter, when it's already known that somebody has the *gift of interpreting tongues*. If not, pray that the Lord gives *you* the interpretation so that when a message in tongues is given, there can be the interpretation. [1Corinthians 14:13]

I'm going to go ahead and close. Let's stand.