

# SELF-CONTROL

## Definitions

Offner: "Self-control means power over oneself".

Webster: "restraint exercised over one's own impulses, emotions, or desires".

## Case Study

I Samuel 26 (David sparing Saul)

## Biblical Principles

- We are commanded to be self-controlled (I Thes 5:4-8; I Pet 1:13; II Pet 1:5)
- We need to exercise control over flesh (mortal bodies) and not let sin reign (Rm 6:12-13)
- We should exercise self-control in order to help us achieve spiritual rewards (I Cor 9:24-27)

## Applications

- 1) What are some practical ways to express this fruit to others around us?
- 2) What specific action(s) will I do this week to express this fruit?
- 3) Since the source of this fruit is the Holy Spirit, we need to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to develop this fruit within us.

## SPIRITUAL GIFTS

The word "charisma", which is usually translated spiritual gift refers to a gift of grace from and through the Holy Spirit. A spiritual gift is not simply a natural ability or talent, nor is it a church office or fruit of the Spirit. Spiritual gifts are actions of the Spirit which manifest His power to meet the needs of the body through its members.

Spiritual gifts are given to all members of Christ's body at the moment of salvation (I Pet 4:10; I Cor 12:7,11).

(Note: refer to Exhibit B for a listing of all the spiritual gifts identified in the Bible and the relevant passages; refer to Exhibit C for a brief description of the gifts).

### Purposes of Gifts

The primary purpose for God giving spiritual gifts to Christians is the edification, growth and building up of the body of Christ (I Cor 12:7, 14:12,26; Eph 4; I Pet 4:9-11).

A secondary purpose of the gifts, especially the "sign" gifts found in the early church, was to confirm the authority of the Apostles and to confirm the authenticity of the church (I Cor 14:22; Is 28:11; Heb 2:1-4).

Spiritual gifts are still given today. There is a difference of opinion as to how many gifts a person can possess. Some feel that a person can be given more than one gift, while others feel that each person receives one gift. Wes and Pastor Loren feel that we probably each receive one gift (based on I Cor 12:7,11; I Pet 4:10; Rm 12:6 and II Tim 1:6).

### Relationship of Spiritual Gifts and Spiritual Fruit

Both the Fruit and Gifts of the Spirit are necessary for a healthy church. There are some basic distinctions as follow:

- 1) The Fruit of the Spirit describes the character a Christian should have (ie. the kind of people we should be). The Gifts of the Spirit describe what we do as members of Christ's body.
- 2) All the Fruits of the Spirit are intended for all Christians. Spiritual Gifts are distributed by God and each believer has only one (or at most a limited number).
- 3) The Fruit of the Spirit is meant for all times and all places. Some Gifts of the Spirit were temporary and other gifts are not always present in every situation.

### Relationship of Spiritual Gifts and Spirituality

There is no correlation between spirituality and the possession of spiritual gifts. For example, the Corinthian church was very gifted (I Cor 1:7) yet was very unspiritual (problems included divisions 1:11; immaturity 3:1; pride 4: 6,18; incest 5:1; lawsuits 6:10; and drunkenness at the Lord's Supper 11:21).

## Relationship of Spiritual Gifts with Love

Love is not a spiritual gift, but a fruit of the Spirit. Love should be the underlying motive and method for using all spiritual gifts. Why? Because love is not self-centered but focuses on others and the needs of the Body.

### How to Discover Your Spiritual Gift

- \* It is not necessary to know your gift before you can serve the Lord effectively. Dedication to the Lord and willingness to serve Him are more important than discovering your spiritual gift(s).
- \* There is no verse commanding you to discover your spiritual gift, but there are many commands to serve.
- \* Serving is often the key to discovery.
- \* Even after discovering your spiritual gift, you likely have other talents that the Lord can use.
- \* There are clear scriptural commands that apply to all believers irregardless if we have the corresponding spiritual gift:

The Spiritual Gift to Some	The Command to All
1. Pastor (shepherding)	1. "Edify one another" (I Thess. 5:11)
2. Ministering or helping	2. "By love serve one another" (Gal. 5:13)
3. Teaching	3. "Teaching them to observe all things. . ." (Matt. 28:19)
4. Exhortation	4. "Exhorting one another" (Heb. 10:25)
5. Giving	5. "Every man as he hath purposed in his heart, so let him give" (II Cor. 9:7)
6. Showing mercy	6. "Be ye kind one to another" (Eph. 4:32)
7. Faith	7. "For we walk by faith" (II Cor. 5:7)
8. Evangelism	8. "Ye shall be my witnesses" (Acts 1:8)
9. Discerning spirits	9. "Try the spirits" (I John 4:1)

James A. Davey suggests some practical steps to discovering your spiritual gift:

- 1) Know your own desires and aspirations
- 2) Know what spiritual abilities others see in you
- 3) Minister (serve). The presence or absence of a particular gift is often confirmed by experience (ie. is God glorified and people helped?).

## What is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Here are some basic biblical truths:

- \* Baptism of the Holy Spirit is God's work of placing a believer into the universal body of Christ. Therefore it is a positional experience, not an emotional one (I Cor 12:13; Gal 3:27).
- \* Occurs at the instant of salvation. It is one of several ministries of the Spirit that occurs at moment of salvation (eg regeneration, indwelling, sealing and baptism) (Eph 1:13; I Cor 12:13; Jn 3:1-7).
- \* Baptism of the Holy Spirit is not the same thing as being filled/controlled by the H.S. Baptism occurs at the moment of salvation; "filling" becomes real many times after (Acts 4:8, 31; 6:3; 7:55; 9:17; 11:24; 13:9; Jn 14:16-29).

## HEALING & THE GIFT OF HEALING

Some people say that PHYSICAL healing was directly a part of the atoning work of Jesus Christ. Is that true? No. Physical healing of our earthly bodies was not directly included in the atonement. However, the great news is that we will get new, redeemed bodies at the great resurrection (I Cor 15:51-52,54; Phil 3:20-21; I Jn 3:2).

If physical healing is in the atonement, then:

- 1) Why are believers all not healed? All believers get sick and all eventually die.
- 2) Why did Paul not so instruct Timothy (I Tim 5:23)?
- 3) Why did Paul not heal Trophimus (2 Tim 4:20) and Epaphroditus (Phil 2:27)?

### Is Gift of Healing Still a Valid Gift Today?

There are three major schools of thought regarding the "sign" gifts like Healing, Tongues and Miracles. Many charismatic scholars would say these gifts are freely given out to Christians today. Non-charismatic scholars would disagree and say either 1) they were temporary and for the purpose of authenticating (confirming) God's Word when it was proclaimed in the early church; once the New Testament was written and the early church was established the sign gifts ceased or 2) the sign gifts are not regularly given out BUT God sometimes will give at least on a temporary basis if needed to establish His church in an given area.

Even the Apostles' gift diminished after the church was established (eg. early in Paul's ministry he healed at will -- Acts 28:8 -- but later in his ministry he left people unhealed -- Trophimus & Epaphroditus -- and counseled Timothy to take a little wine for his stomach).

What about the claims of those who say they have this gift? One problem is that real, objective evidence of healings is lacking. None of the modern faith healers have stood up to close inspection.

## Gift of Healing (cont.)

The biggest problem is that the modern day "healers" do not heal anything at all like those who had the Biblical gift of healing. Jesus and the Apostles had the gift of healing. A look at the way they healed, compared to modern day "healers" is revealing:

How did Jesus and the Apostles heal?

- 1) Healing was done by a word or touch (Jesus: Mt 8; Jn 5:8; Mk 5:25-34; Apostles: Acts 9:32-35; Acts 28:8).
- 2) Healing was done instantly (Jesus: Mt 8:13; Mk 5:29; Lk 17:14, 5:12-13; Jn 5:9; Apostles: Acts 3:1-8, 9:32-34).
- 3) Healing was total (Jesus: Lk 4:38-40; Apostles: Acts 3:6-10, 9:34).
- 4) Everyone was healed (Jesus: Mt 8:16; Lk 4:40, 9:11; Apostles: Acts 5:12-16, 28:9).
- 5) Organic diseases were healed (eg. crippled legs, withered hands, blind eyes, palsy), not just functional diseases/problems (eg. sore back). (Jesus: gospels; Apostles: Publius's Father, Acts 28:8).
- 6) The dead were raised (Jesus raised Lazarus, Jairus daughter and the widow's son, Jn 11:1-44, Mt 9:18-26, Lk 7:11-17; Peter raised Tabitha and Paul raised Eutychus, Acts 9:36-43; 20:9-12).
- 7) Healing was free (Acts 3:6)

### Does That Mean Supernatural Healing Can Not Occur Today?

No. God is described as a healer and the great physician. God is our loving Heavenly Father and we are His beloved children. Sometimes He will choose to physically heal when He knows it is best for us. We have the right to ask for God to consider healing (Jn 16:23-28).

God can heal as He wills:

- 1) God heals because of His person (Ex 15:26).
- 2) God heals because of His promise (Mt 21:22; Jn 14:13-14, 16:24; I Jn 5:14).
- 3) God heals because of His pattern (Mt 8:17).

Is all supernatural healing of God? Not necessarily. Even though Satan has limited powers, he may be able to heal since he does possess the angelic powers God created him with. Satan is a deceiver and sometimes disguises himself as an "angel of light" (2 Cor 11:14; Mt 7:22-23; II Thes 2).

### **Why Do Christians Get Sick?**

- 1) Some sickness is due to our own folly (not using wisdom in taking care of our bodies -- biblical principle of reaping what we sow).
- 2) Some sickness is from God (Ex 4:11). Why? Because adversity can be for our own good (Jm 1:2-4; I Pet 5:10) and for our glory in eternity (Rm 8:18, I Pet 1:6-7). Sickness can also be used to bring glory to God (Phil 2:27-30; Jn 9:1-3).
- 3) Some sickness is from Satan (Lk 13:11-13).
- 4) Some sickness is punishment for sin (Number 12; Duet 28:20-22; Ps 119:67; I Cor 11:27-30; Ps 32:3-4).

### **Why Do Christians Die?**

- 1) Discipline of God (I Cor 11:30; Acts 5; I Cor 5; I Jn 5:16).
- 2) Our work here on earth is finished (2 Pet 1:12-14; Jn 17; 2 Tim 4:6-7).
- 3) For the glory of God (Jn 21:18-19).

### **GIFT OF MIRACLES (SIGNS & WONDERS)**

A miracle could be defined as "a extraordinary event done by God through human agency, an event that cannot be explained by natural forces". God can and still does miracles (all things are possible with God, Mt 19:26). Most non-charismatic scholars believe that no person today possess this gift.

The gift of Miracles is considered a temporary sign gift. The gift in the Bible was limited to the Apostles and a few close colleagues commissioned by the Apostles like Philip. The gift was not given to average Christians. (FYI - the miracles the Apostles did were miracles of healing and the casting out of demons, not miracles of nature like stilling the sea).

The miracles claimed today by those who say they have the gift are not of the same quality and nature of the miracles performed by the Apostles. The miracles of the Apostles were immediate, thorough and permanent. Miracles included the raising of the dead.

Even the Apostles gift of miracles was over before the end of their lives. This is consistent with the purpose of all the sign gifts which was to authenticate (confirm) God's Word when it was proclaimed in the early church.

## Uniqueness of Apostles

The Apostles were the foundation for the developing early church (Eph 2:20). The foundation is complete and is now being built upon.

Following are some reasons that the office of Apostle is not for today:

- 1) Church founded on Apostles (Eph 2:20).
- 2) Apostles were eyewitnesses to the resurrection of Jesus (I Cor 15).
- 3) Apostles were chosen personally by Jesus (Mt 10:1-4; Lk 6:12-16).
- 4) Apostles were authenticated by miraculous signs (Acts; 2 Cor 12:12).
- 5) Apostles had absolute authority (Jude 17; Acts 2:42).
- 6) Apostles have an eternal place of honor (Rev 21:11-14).

## TONGUES - SOME BIBLICAL TRUTHS

- 1) Tongues, like other spiritual gifts, were (are) given to believers to be used for the common good and edification of the whole body of Christ (I Cor 12:7, 14:12,26).
- 2) I Cor 13:8 says that tongues will cease. There are different opinions as to when the gift of tongues has/will cease. One starting point is I Cor 13:10 which refers to the continuation of tongues until "the complete/perfect comes".

Some say this completion refers to the second coming of Christ and the resurrection of believers (referring to I Cor 13:12 which could be referring to our face-to-face meeting with Christ). Others believe that the completion refers to the completion of scripture and the establishment of the NT church. Closely related to this view is the opinion that the tongues ceased with the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 (Is 28:11-12; Lk 21:20,24).

Many conservative scholars are of the opinion that tongues ceased during the apostolic age (i.e. upon completion of scripture and establishment of the NT church). Reasons for this view include:

- a) Tongues were a miraculous, revelatory gift and the use of miracles and revelation ended with the Apostles.

The last recorded miracle occurred about AD 58 (healing on the island of Malta). There were no subsequent recorded miracles.

Miracle gifts are mentioned only in I Cor, an early epistle. There are no mention in later epistles.

Heb 2:3-4 said that miracles are in past.

Before end of 1st century the NT was written and circulating. Revelatory gifts ceased to serve any purpose.

- b) Tongues were primarily a sign to unbelieving Jews of Israel (I Cor 14: 20-22). Tongues signified that God had begun a new work that encompassed the Gentiles. That purpose was achieved during the time of the Apostles.
  - c) History seems to record that tongues did cease as a regular practice. Paul wrote at least 12 epistles after I Cor and never mentioned tongues again. Peter, James, John and Jude never mentioned tongues. Post apostolic age theologians like Augustine and Chrysostom considered tongues obsolete.
- 3) Tongues, like all spiritual gifts, were (are) not given to every believer, but are given to certain individuals according to the will of God (I Cor 12:11, 30).
  - 4) Tongues were not given to attest the reality of conversion, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, any subsequent work of grace in the life of the believer or of spiritual vitality.
    - a) The Corinthians were saved but not all spoke in tongues (I Cor 12:30).
    - b) The Corinthians were all baptized by the Holy Spirit (I Cor 12:13), but not all spoke in tongues (I Cor 12:30).
    - c) Subsequent works of grace are associated with the filling of the Holy Spirit (Eph 5:18; Acts 4:31).
    - d) The Corinthians who spoke in tongues were carnal and divisive (I Cor 1:10-11, 3:1-3, 11:18-19).
  - 5) Tongues, like all spiritual gifts, were (are) divinely given and the believer should not covet, seek or tarry for them (I Cor 12:11; I Pet 4:10).

The early church on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2), was not praying for or tarrying for the gift of tongues. They were waiting for the promise of the Father as commanded by Jesus (Acts 1:4-5).

- 6) Tongues have no corporate edifying effect when uninterpreted (I Cor 14:1-19).
- 7) Tongues in corporate, public meetings were (are) restricted by God for the sake of order and peace (I Cor 14:33, 40). The proper use of tongues must follow the guidelines found in I Cor 14:27-28.
  - a) Two or three may speak in tongues.
  - b) Each person must speak in turn.
  - c) Each tongue must be interpreted (if no one can interpret the tongue, then there should be no speaking in tongues in the corporate assembly).

## Tongues (cont.)

- 8) Tongues are known languages and all are capable of being interpreted (I Cor 14:6-10, Acts 2:6-11).

What about I Cor 13:1 where the phrase "of angels" is used by Paul? Paul was speaking hypothetically (ie. even IF those things were true, without love they would be meaningless). There is no evidence that angels use a special heavenly language. Whenever angels appear in scripture, they use a normal human language (Lk 1:11-20, 26-37; 2: 8-14; 24: 1-7).

Tongues in the book of Acts was always with known languages (Acts 2:6, 8-11). When tongues were used in church, someone was to always interpret (I Cor 14:13,27); can not interpret ecstatic speech or gibberish.

### WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE SOURCES OF TONGUES TODAY?

- 1) From the Holy Spirit (only possible IF tongues is still a God given spiritual gift today).
- 2) Faking it.
- 3) Learned Behavior.
- 4) Psychological/self-induced (due to desire for experience combined with instruction, motivation and peer pressure).
- 5) From Satan/Demons (refer to: Eph 6:12; I Jn 4:1; Gal 1:7; II Cor 11:13-15; I Tim 4:1; I Cor 10:20).

### SOURCES CONSULTED (Abbreviated)

Gardiner, George E. The Corinthian Catastrophe.

Hummel, Charles & Anne. Spiritual Gifts.

McArthur, John. Charismatic Chaos.

Mitchell, John. A Biblical Study of Tongues and Healing.

Offner, Hazel. Fruit of the Spirit: Growing in the Likeness of Christ.

Swindoll, Chuck. Flying Closer to the Flame.

Rick Jarmer -- various notes from his files.

EXHIBIT A

Ministry of the Word	Common Ministry of Word & Holy Spirit	Ministry of Spirit
1. Col 3:16	Filling; Indwelling	Eph 5:18-19
2. I Pet 1:23	Spiritual Birth; "Born Again"	John 3:3-8
3. John 17:17	Santification	II Thes 2:13
4. II Tim 3:16-17	Teaching	Jn 14:26, 16:13; I Cor 2:13
5. John 5:39	Bearing Witness; Testifying	Rm 8:16; I Jn 5:7
6. II Tim 3:16; Jm 2:9	Convicting	Jn 16:8-11
7. I Pet 2:2; I Thes 2:13; II Tim 3:16-17	Causing Spiritual Growth	Gal 5:22-23
8. Eph 3:3; Gal 1:11-12; Jn 8:31-32, 17:17	Revelation; Revealing truth	I Cor 2:10; II Pet 1:21; Jn 16:13
9. John 5:39	Glorify/Magnify Christ	Jn 16:14
10. Eph 6; Rev 21:11	Overcoming Satan	I Jn 4:4, 5:4-5
11. Lk 2:10, 8:13	Producing joy	Gal 5:22
12. Ps 119:11	Keep us from sinning	Rm 6:1-23, 8:1-17
13. Ps 119:105	Guide & lead our lives	Rm 8:14, Gal 5:18

# EXHIBIT B

## SPIRITUAL GIFTS - LISTING FROM ALL RELEVANT PASSAGES

	Eph 4:11	I Pet 4:11	I Cor 12: 28:31	I Cor 12: 8-10	Rm 12: 6-8	I Cor 13: 1-3	I Cor 13:8	I Cor 14:6	I Cor 14:26
<b>SPEAKING GIFTS:</b>									
1. Speaking		x							
2. Teaching					x			x	x
3. Exhortation					x				
4. Knowledge				x			x	x	
5. Wisdom				x					
<b>SERVING GIFTS:</b>									
6. Giving					x				
7. Leading					x				
8. Administering			x						
9. Discerning				x					
10. Helps			x						
11. Serving		x			x				
12. Mercy					x				
13. Faith				x		x			
<b>SIGN GIFTS: (temporary?)</b>									
14. Healing			x	x					
15. Miracles			x	x					
16. Tongues			x	x		x	x	x	x
17. Intrap of Tongues			x	x					x
18. Prophecy/revelation				x	x	x	x	x	x
<b>GIFTED MEN: (positions)</b>									
19. Apostles	x		x						
20. Prophets	x		x						
21. Evangelists	x								
22. Pastors/Teachers	x		x						

SPIRITUAL GIFTS . . .

ARE . . .

GOD-GIVEN ABILITIES!

A. Speaking Gifts (Words)

1. Speaking - An ability to express plainly God's word in a meaningful way.

2. Teaching - To lay down in systematic order the complete ladder of a doctrine and to apply it incisively and diligently to life.

3. Exhortation - To draw alongside of someone in order to comfort, encourage, rebuke, and lead into insight toward a specific action.

4. Knowledge - To arrange the facts of Scripture, categorize them into principles, and communicate them to repeated and familiar situations.

5. Wisdom - To locate formerly unknown principles of God's Word and to communicate them to fresh situations.

B. Serving Gifts (Deeds)

6. Giving - To make and give things most generously and beyond all human expectation.

7. Leading - An executive ability to stand before people and inspire followers by leading them aggressively but with care.

8. Administering - A legislative ability to stand behind people in order to collect data, set policy, and develop plans which will guide a course of action for many with skill and wisdom.

9. Discerning - A judicial ability to stand over people in order to detect a genuine or non-genuine motive by distinguishing the spirit-source behind any person's speech or act.

10. Helps - To define and tackle tasks for and with people in order to lift external burdens.

11. Serving - To serve others in the family of God in practical and often behind-the-scenes ways.

12. Mercy - To empathize with people in misery and to lift internal burdens with cheerfulness.

13. Faith - To see through mountainous problems to the Ultimate Resource with the vision that it is timely to rely on God's willingness and ability to perform in this particular matter.

C. Sign Gifts

14. Healings

15. Miracles

16. Tongues

17. Interpretation of Tongues

18. Prophecy/Revelation - The God-given ability to set before people the Word and Wisdom of God "as direct revelation" plus the doing of it persuasively through personality as an herald.

Since Scripture is complete and since apostles and prophets did establish the foundation of The Church (Eph. 2:20), this gift of "direct and authoritative revelation" and these offices have ceased. Today there is no gift of prophecy wherein a revelation comes directly from God; however, all may prophesy wherein a word from God indirectly from The Bible is very fitting.

D. Gifted Men Are Gifts to the Church

19. Apostles

20. Prophets

21. Evangelists

22. Pastors and Teachers