

Excerpts from “**Refreshed by the Holy Spirit**” by Bekeh Utietiang & Chidi Osondu, 2001

The Sanctification gifts of Isaiah 11:2. Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of the Lord. Every body needs these gifts to grow as a Christian.

The Spiritual gifts or the Manifestation gifts of service of 1Corinthians 12:4-11. A word of Wisdom, a word of Knowledge, Faith, the gifts of Healing, the working of Miracles, Prophecy, the Discernment of Spirits, families of Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues. Every Christian needs these gifts for witness.

In other New Testament texts, we can find other lists of spiritual gifts. What St. Paul did in the above passage was not to give a full list of all the gifts to the Corinthians; rather, he gave them enough examples of spiritual gifts so that they can understand what he was talking about.

THE GIFTS OF REVELATION

These gifts are supernatural communication revealed through the Holy Spirit to the heart of one who has received the Holy Spirit. The knowledge of other people’s experiences and situations that is revealed through these divine gifts are not made known to the public until those who have received any or all of these gifts choose to speak. These gifts are:

The gift of word of Wisdom: It is given supernaturally to a believer who through this wisdom wonderfully solves problems in difficult circumstances and thereby gives glory to God. Through this gift, the person receives a special touch by God in order to enable him or her give active, directive or a practical teaching which is an instrument of God for the hearers. The possessor of this gift uses it in counseling, in solving crisis, in moments of trial, in times of decision, in moments of opportunity, etc. Examples of this gift are found in: Matthew 22:15-22; 21:23-27; Acts 6:1-10; Mark 10:20; 1Kings 3:16-28; Luke 18:22; Acts 15:28-29; Acts 4:19-20, etc.

The gift of the word of Knowledge: This gift is the experience of knowing something through the realization of truth concerning things and matters. It comes through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit revealed to someone for a special need. It enables a person to explain divine truths with clarity, distinctness and without ambiguity. The possessor of this gift is able to apply the traditional teaching of the Church to a new context, or to use examples to explain the mysteries of faith. We find examples of this gift in: 1 Sam 9:19-20; 10:22; 1 Kings 19:18; 2 Kings 6:8- 23; John 1:47-58; Acts 10:9-22; Math.5:1-12; 19:1-9.

The gift of Discernment of Spirits: This gift is an illumination by God, which enables the person to see through the appearance of an action or inspiration or action in order to judge its source. Inspirations or actions can come from three sources: God, the person, or from the devil. This gift is not an ability of one’s mind; it is a supernatural gift. Due to the importance of understanding how to discern the Spirit, further study is very important.

THE VOCAL GIFTS

These are gifts that deal with supernatural communication which the Holy Spirit reveals by using human voice. This is heard not only by the gifted person but also by those around him or her. These gifts are:

The gift of Tongues: This is a manifestation of the Holy Spirit to an individual enabling him or her to speak aloud in different languages. The Spirit urges someone to speak out in tongues for the community (1Cor12:14; Acts 2:4). The importance of this gift also requires one to study it more fully.

The gift of the Interpretation of Tongues: The message given in the gift of tongues is not understood by all except it is interpreted. It is a clear overall meaning of the message and its importance. It is possible for one person to have both the gift of tongues and that of interpretation but this does not happen often. Usually, after the gift of speaking in tongues is manifested in a prayer group, each member should pray for an interpretation of the message. This is done by remaining quiet, empty, alone before God to see whether words can begin to come to mind. Be still and know that I am God (Ps. 46:10).

The gift of Prophecy: For a message to be given to an individual or group, God manifests to man his own thoughts. Through prophecy, an individual or community is able to know the thoughts of God in some areas of Christian life. Prophecy can be used for communicating Christ's message to the world as when a priest or a minister is teaching the message of Christ. It is also used to describe the signs of the times or judging the current situation. Note that the gift of prophecy does not equal the facts of the word of God in the scriptures, for the scripture is the first and most authentic source of our faith. Prophecy must be tested as to confirm its source. For St. Paul, prophecy is a charismatic ministry given to some and it ranks second, after the ministry of the apostles, in importance in the Church (1Cor12: 10, 29). Examples in the Bible where this gift is manifested include: Acts 13:2; 11:28; 21: 1; 1Cor. 14:29-32; 1Tim. 1:18; 4:14;

THE GIFTS OF POWER

These are called mighty gifts in which the power of God appears so as to manifest a miraculous answer through a supernatural creative intervention. Through these gifts, the power of God is manifested in the world in a particular striking way. These gifts bring out fully the reality of the words of Christ in the Gospel (Mark 16:17-18). These gifts are:

The gift of Faith: The charismatic gift of faith is not the same as the faith by which Christians believe and turn to Christ. It is a manifestation of the Spirit making God's power present here and now within the person. With the gift of Faith, we are enabled, without human reasoning or any sense of doubt on any level, to ask or to speak in the name of Jesus in such a way that what he says or asks must come to pass. The difference between the gift of faith and the virtue of faith as found in every Christian, is that, while the latter is the dynamism within the Christian by which he or she assents to Christian truths and acts upon them in a usual way, the former is a passing power by which God moves the person to pray or to act with certitude.

The gift of Healing: The gift of healing is different from the power of prayer for healing, which is part of the ordinary life of the Christian community. Christians pray for one another and receive results, priests minister the sacrament of the sick and people are healed. There are priests and laypersons who pray for healing resulting in healings with more frequency and extraordinary effects. This is the gift of healing. God himself is the healer. His purpose of healing is to release those who are under the power of the enemy (Acts 10:38), to bring the heathen to obedience and faith (Romans 15:13), to confirm the preaching of the word (Mark 16:17-20), to glorify Himself (John 9:1-3). Healing could be psychological, spiritual, physical, physiological, etc.

The gift of working Miracles: This gift refers to a remarkable or surprising event that happens by the direct intervention of God, not following the generally known laws of nature. It is in fact the suspension of the laws of nature and the intervention of supernatural and divine power. This gift is a source of God's presence and power, and therefore, it is often a source of belief to many. Examples of miracles include an instant healing of a very deadly ailment, raising a person dead back to life, a sudden conversion of an enemy of the Church, etc. Examples abound in the Bible where miracles were performed. Some are: Acts 8:5-7; Mark 6:39-44; 9:38-39; Luke 5:4-7; John 2:1-11.