

## **SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

**WISDOM** - This is Stephen, speaking to those who debated him, and it says, “they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking” [Acts 6:8-10]. In modern language, this is a spiritual mic drop. A person, who is sharing something profound.

**KNOWLEDGE** - Jesus often knew the thoughts of others. He knew the thoughts of the Scribes [Matthew 9:1-8], he knew the thoughts of the Pharisees, who were testing him after a demon oppressed man, who was blind was healed, he knew the thoughts of the scribes and Pharisees after he healed on the Sabbath and they were trying to find a reason to accuse him [Luke 6:6-11]. Jesus knew his disciples hearts when they argued over who was the greatest [Luke 9:46-48]. Ananias was given knowledge about Saul in Acts 9. The gift of knowledge is knowing what someone is thinking, or something specific about their life.

**FAITH** - the gift of faith is supernatural empowerment to believe God when everything looks bleak and dark, to trust God that He will bring about what He has promised even though it seems unlikely by human standards. The gift of faith is supernatural confidence in God. It looks to the present circumstances and sees God’s action. It is a mysterious surge of confidence which rises within a person in a particular situation of need or challenge.

**HEALING** - Gifts of healings refer to the restoration of physical injury or disease, such as the blind receiving sight, the lame walking, the deaf hearing, and the sick getting well. Healing is divine intervention which is inexplicable if left to natural causes.

**WORKING OF MIRACLES [powers]** - similar to healing, a display of God’s power. Working of miracles is raising the dead, turning water into wine, it’s Paul giving blindness to Elymas, who was turning people away from the Lord [Acts 13:11]. Miracles are a clear display of God’s power.

**PROPHECY** - The act of speaking in human words something the Holy Spirit spontaneously revealed to a follower of Jesus. There were a group of prophets, one named Agabus, foretold by the Spirit that there was going to be a famine, which led to the church send help to other believers. Later Agabus is told what would happen to Paul when he went to Jerusalem. [Acts 21:10-14]

**DISCERNING SPIRITS** - the ability to sense the deceptive work of the enemy and his followers. The ability to see behind the scenes into the spiritual world. The ability to distinguish between what the Holy Spirit does and what another "spirit" (demonic), or perhaps even the human spirit, does. We are instructed to test the spirits to see if they are from God [1 John 4:1]. In Acts 16, Paul discerns the power of a slave girl is demonic.

**TONGUES** - The ability to speak in a language unknown to the speaker [Acts 2], but not necessarily a known human language. Tongues can be a heavenly language [1 Corinthians 14:4-5]. Tongues can be used for personal prayer, or in a public gathering where an interpretation by the Spirit is needed [1 Corinthians 14:27-28]. The purpose is to build up an individual.

**INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES** - The ability to understand the message given through a tongue.

*\* Influenced by definitions from Matt Chandler and Sam Storms.*