

The Walk of the Spirit – The Walk of Power **“Spiritual Gifts and Operations”**

1Cor. 12 Paul outlines the operation of the Holy Spirit in the **gifts, offices, and callings** of the entire Body of Christ.

1Cor. 12:1 “Now concerning spiritual gifts, I would not have you ignorant.”

- Paul, by the Holy Spirit supplies all the information necessary to eradicate spiritual ignorance, misconceptions and religious error and bring illumination concerning the operation of spiritual gifts.
- As Spirit filled people, we can sometimes know about and not know how the gifts operate.

satan, the great deceiver has successfully spread confusion and division regarding this passage of 1Cor. 12 so much so that entire denominations and movements have split over the different interpretations of the operation of the spiritual gifts.

1Cor. 12:4-6

v.4 **Diversities of Gifts**: “Now there are **diversities of gifts**, but the same Spirit, and there are **differences of administrations**, but the same Lord. And there are **diversities of operation**, but it is the same God which works all in all.”

The gifts Paul is referring to are those nine **gifts** listed in 1Cor. 12:8-10:

1. The word of wisdom. 2. The word of knowledge. 3. The gift of faith. 4. The gifts of healings. 5. The working of miracles. 6. Prophecy. 7. Discerning of spirits. 8. Divers – different manifestations of tongues. 9. Interpretation of tongues.

v. 5 – “**Differences of administrations**, but the same Lord.”

To understand what Paul is talking about gifts, we look in Eph. 4:8,11:

“When Jesus ascended up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men... And He gave some apostles, and some prophets, and some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers.”

- There are different **administrations** or **offices** in the Body of Christ – those listed by Paul in Eph. 4: 8-11.
- But it is the same Lord Jesus Christ who ascended on high and gave those gifts to men.

v. 6 – “There are **diversities of operations**, but it is the same God which works all in all.”

- It is the Holy Spirit who determines how the nine gifts of the Spirit and the ministry offices operate.
- It is Jesus Christ who sets each person into his or her respective office or calling.
- It is God the Father who supplied the original plan.
- We see the Trinity’s involvement in the government of the Church on earth.

The gifts empower and qualify the offices:

Eph. 4 lists what we know as the “fivefold ministry gifts.”

The nine gifts of the Spirit empower and qualify these five offices.

God meant for every person called to one of these ministry offices to preach the Word with signs following – Mark 16:20.

God never intended for His Word to be ministered with powerlessness.

The spiritual gifts empower the ministry offices much the same way an electrical plant supplies power to the various appliances in our homes, offices.

Each appliance is designed to perform a different **function**, yet each one is hooked up to the same power source.

The Holy Spirit anoints different offices with particular blends of the nine gifts of the Spirit.

The Eight operations of God: 1Cor. 12:27-28

These nine gifts and fivefold ministry offices are all encompassed in eight operations of God which 1Cor. 12:27-28 outlines:

“Now you are the Body of Christ, and members in particular.

God has set some in the church, first Apostles, second, Prophets, third, Teachers, after that Miracles, then gifts of Healings, Helps, Governments, Diversities of Tongues.”

These operations are listed in a divine order as the government of God’s Kingdom on earth.

The Evangelists and Pastors mentioned in Eph. 4:11 are replaced in 1Cor. 12 with miracles and gifts of healings because these are the primary gifts that empower and qualify the evangelistic and pastoral offices.

The entry level into the fivefold ministry gifts is the working of miracles and gifts of healings because all five ministry offices of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher should be equipped with these two gifts of the Spirit.

Next is the operation of **Helps**, which handles the physical and material aspects of ministry.

Helps is followed by **Governments** or **Administrations**, which includes organizational skills and gifts needed in the church.

Both **Helps** and **Governments** support those who minister the Word of God by doing many of the natural things that ministers should not be occupying their time in.

Ex.

Ex. 18:13-26 Moses father in-law advised Moses to appoint able/qualified men to help administer decisions over the Israelites so they and he could be effective in ministry.

Acts 6:1-7 Church grew, Jews and Hellenists needed help in administering to the widows their allotment of provisions. It was decided that seven Spirit filled men with wisdom be appointed to administer to their needs, so the Apostles did not take time away from prayer and the Word.

Underlying everything else was the final and foundational operation of **Diversities of tongues**.

Where do you fit in?

No matter what God has called you to do in life, your calling can be found enveloped within one or more of these eight operations of God.

If you are born again, you are called to fill one of these operations empowered with the Holy Spirit.

Rom. 12 3 "...God has apportioned to each a degree of faith [a purpose designed for service].

Your calling is found in that purpose and it's your personal responsibility to seek the Lord and find out who you are and what your calling is.

Eph. 4:7 "But to everyone one of us is given grace according to the **measure** of the gift of Christ."

- A measure is a part of the whole.

- The “**whole**” that Paul is talking about here is the Body of Christ.
- It is a Body with many members in particular, each with an individual calling.
- Just as a person’s physical body has many members with different functions, such as hands, feet, eyes, a nose, and a mouth; Paul says that the Body of Christ also includes different operations that together make up the whole.

Have you discovered your grace, your measure, your part in the whole operation of the Body of Christ?

Are you functioning in that gifting/calling upon your life effectively?

Here is our proper attitude that goes along with the function:

Rom. 12:3 “For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone that is among you, **not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think**, but to think soberly, according as God has dealt to everyone the measure of faith.”

We didn’t merit or deserve the calling or gifting, God has sovereignly chosen us by His grace to be a part of the Body of Christ.

Certain gifts qualify each operation:

The nine gifts of the Spirit not only supply the power, but they qualify these eight operations.

Someone may claim to be an apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor/teacher – but unless they are qualified by the gifts that empower them for that ministry;

they are not what they are claiming to be.

In other words, there must be fruit for that calling to be verified.

Self-acclaimed people will have to use the power of their natural abilities to perform in those offices. They will be operating in the flesh or natural man, not the Power of the Holy Spirit.

So, a person can only qualify for a particular operation if certain gifts are working in their calling.

This last operation of **diversities of tongues** can only function as you are baptized in the Holy Spirit and speak with tongues.

Diversities of tongues: The Foundational Operation:

This is probably listed last in Paul's list because it is the foundational operation. The foundation of any structure is the most important part. It supports the rest of the structure. It may be unseen, un-noticed; but it must be there and it must be strong.

When you observe ministries that are successful, you will make the observation that there is a dividing line between Christians who believe in the power of God and the gifts of the Spirit and those who do not believe.

The dividing line between those who operate in the power of God and those who don't is this eighth operation of God – the **diversities of tongues**.

People who don't speak in tongues are more apt to not operate in the gifts of the Spirit, whereas those who do speak in tongues do operate in the gifts of the Spirit.

Speaking in tongues is the dividing line.

Speaking in tongues is actually the entry level to the operation of the spiritual gifts that empower the various **offices** and **callings** in the Body of Christ.

It is the generator that pulls the operation out of the natural and into the supernatural realm of the power of God.

Speaking in tongues equips us from the inside out. It effects our human spirit.

As you pray in tongues, God **builds an operation** of gifts inside of you to qualify you for what He has called you to do.

As He does, His gifts will begin to operate through you that equip you for your particular call.

This is why the devil is so afraid and determined to discredit and remove this operation from the Church.

He doesn't want you to pray in tongues and the less you find out about this foundational operation, the better he likes it.

He doesn't mind men build organizations, structures, monuments putting themselves in charge to control people and situations.

There are so many who claim to love and know Jesus, but yet deny the spiritual gifts are for today.

The devil is a tactical genius: if he can't remove the spiritual gifts and tongues from the church, he will attempt to move believers into fanaticism about the gifts and tongues and have unruly, out of order services that causes people to be frightened and stay away from.

Paul dedicated the entire chapter of 1Cor. 14 to correct the error and confusion of how tongues and the gifts should operate in the church.

The main issue the enemy will use to attempt to stop and quench the operation of the foundational diversities of tongues functioning in the church, is so that we don't hunger and seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit which will limit our intimacy of relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and the manifestation of His power to work the Kingdom works among us.