

GIFTS (MEASURES) OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Spiritual gifts (1Cor 12:1-4) are those gifts which come from the Holy Spirit.
- B. According to the New Testament there are four measures or manifestations of the Holy Spirit which are given:
 - 1. The Spirit without measure
 - 2. Baptism of the Holy Spirit
 - 3. The miraculous indwelling
 - 4. Indwelling of all Christians

DISCUSSION:

I. DISTRIBUTION OF THESE GIFTS

- A. Only Christ given Holy Spirit without measure Jhn 3:34
- B. Only apostles (Cornelius, special case with a special purpose) had the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
 - 1. This gift was a promise of the Father Acts 1:4,5,8.
 - 2. It was fulfilled on Pentecost Acts 2:1-4
- C. Miraculous indwelling given only to Christians on whom the apostles laid their hands.
 - 1. "Diversities of gifts" by the Holy Spirit 1Cor 12:4-11
 - 2. With the laying on of the apostles hands gifts were imparted to the believers.
 - a. The seven at Jerusalem Acts 6:1-8
 - b. Philip could perform miracles, but could not confer gifts of power to others Acts 8:12-17
 - c. The twelve men Paul baptized Acts 19:1-7
 - d. Timothy was given a gift through the laying on of Paul's hands 2Tim 1:6
- D. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit which is promised to all who are baptized for the remission of sins Acts 2:38.
 - 1. Indwelling of Spirit is discussed in more detail in another lesson: "The Indwelling Of The Holy Spirit".
 - 2. It is promised only to those who will obey the gospel Acts 5:32

II. THE PURPOSE OF MIRACLES AND SPIRITUAL GIFTS

- A. The miracles of Jesus Matt 12:28
 - 1. Established the source of His teaching and verified His divine mission Acts 2:22; Jhn 3:2
 - 2. Identified Him as the Messiah Jhn 20:30,31
- B. The miracles of the apostles
 - 1. Verified their claims to be ambassadors of heaven 2Cor 12:12
 - 2. Indicated the presence and approval of God in their work Mk 16:17-20
 - 3. Confirmed (established beyond doubt) their word Heb 2:3,4
- C. Those empowered by laying on of apostles' hands

- 1. This provided needed instruction 1Cor 14:6,26. The Word was not complete at this time and the apostles could not be everywhere at once.
- 2. This enabled those who were teaching to convince the unbeliever 1Cor 14:23-25
- 3. Paul said all things were to be done unto edifying 1Cor 14:5,12,17, 26

III. THE DURATION OF MIRACULOUS GIFTS

- A. The apostles were the only ones able to impart spiritual gifts Acts 8:12-18
- B. When apostles and those on whom they had laid their hands died, then miracles and spiritual gifts ceased.
- C. 1Cor 13:8-13 Three gifts listed as pertaining to divine revelation: Prophecies, tongues, and knowledge.
 - 1. Says they were in part and places then in contrast to that which is perfect (full or complete).
 - 2. When that which is perfect is come then that which is in part shall be done away.
 - 3. Contrasts childhood with manhood Vs. 11
 - 4. Contrasts seeing dimly with seeing face to face Vs 12
- D. The Bible is the perfect law of liberty Jas 1:25
 - 1. It is perfect and has come 2Tim 3:16,17
 - 2. It is all the truth into which the Holy Spirit guided the apostles Jhn 16:13
- E. It is evident that the need for miracles and special gifts has ceased.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Since Christ was the only one to receive the Holy Spirit without measure, the apostles were the only ones baptized with the Holy Spirit, and the miraculous gifts have ceased; this leaves only one manifestation or measure of the Holy Spirit and that is the indwelling of each individual that responds in obedience to the gospel plan of salvation.
- B. However, this does not enable one to perform miracles. Those in Acts chapter 8 had been baptized, verse 16, but the apostles had to come and lay their hands on them to impart a miraculous measure or a special gift of the Holy Ghost, verse 14-17
- C. This indwelling was promised to those on Pentecost after they repented and were baptized for the remission of sins.
- D. It was also promised to all that the Lord shall call Acts 2:39 and this includes us today, subject, of course, to the same conditions of obedience to the gospel of Christ.
- E. We don't belong to Christ unless the Spirit dwells in us Rom 8:9 and only through obedience can we have the Spirit dwelling in us.
- F. Have you obeyed the gospel of Christ?