

The Gifts of The Spirit

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Welcome to Brothers of the Word because brother you need the Word!

Today is Youth Sunday here at the Ark of Salvation and the message today will be for the youth but it also would be for the adults. Because with the adults, we have some that may have been in Christ a little longer than others, and some may not of been in that long, and may have missed some fundamental things along the way so this message will speak to both youth and the adults who may needed it.

We are now in the busiest week for gift buying out of the entire year, and I don't one everybody the focus on gifts they must by for someone else and neglect the gifts that God's given you. And I will be teaching today on "The Gifts of The Spirit".

"The Gifts of The Spirit", we get so caught up sometimes with all of the commercials and the newspaper ads and TV ads and they just bombard you from every direction, billboards, and just as shop and buy, buy, buy. And there's a lot of times we get so focused on the external. We forget the most precious things on the inside that even God has given us.

So we'll be talking today on "The Gifts of The Spirit" and this topic really needs an entire series to cover it properly, with each gift being a single message but since I don't have that much time, I'm just going to go through an overview today, just to give you a summary of "The Gifts of The Spirit".

The world has popular Rajas, the gifts of Satan but people don't hear a lot about the gifts of God anymore. They start teaching our children about magic at an early age. Two of the top youth TV shows right now: So number one is called the "Wizards of Waverly Place" – It's about a family of wizards doing magic in their schools and in their home, and learning wizardry. The second is called, "That's So Raven" and that's with Raven Symone, and she's a teenage girl that basically has this vision that was—seer, this psychic visions of thing that will happen.

And even back when I was a child growing up, one of the top TV shows that they had on TV back then, some of you might be old enough to remember, it's called "Bewitched" and it was about a family of witches that was married – Samantha was married to an earthly mortal and she would wiggle her nose, and you really 'tink, tink, tink' and it's magic what happens, things would appear and would transform. And one of the top movie series of all times is the "Harry Potter" series and they have released 6 movies thus far. Two more are later to be released within the next 2 years.

So our youth are being bombarded with magic and wizardry but yet when it comes to the Spiritual things of God, they don't know them.

Deuteronomy 18:10-12 says, “(10) There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch. (11) Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. (12) For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD they God doth drive them out from before thee.

So even though God tells us that magic and wizardry are abominations unto Him. It covers the TV and movie screens to everyday. And if you ask any youth to name some super powers they will all begin and just rattle them off. They would say super strengthen, super speed, and the ability to fly, the ability to become an invisible, the ability to be invincible, and they would go on and on naming these super powers. But if you asking anyone of them to name you some super natural gifts they can only name you 1 or 2.

God is not pleased with the world educating our children on its stuff better than we educate them on his word and it's never too young to begin to teach them about spiritual gifts. Because many times children they are more open to spiritual things than even adults. They dream more vividly. Their imaginations are more vivid and their faith is stronger. A child can hear something and even if it sounds crazy they'll laugh on to it and believe it. It's easier to trick them because they all believe things that adult—their minds don't rationalize things more.

So children while they are open, we need to teach them about the things, of the spirit, and I've even have three of my children even while they were in pre-school before they started kinder garden. Three of them with to their pre-school and teacher then they told them that mama have baby on her stomach and the teacher call us and say, “Why didn't you all let us know you have another on way?”

I said, “What, where did you get that from?” “We got it on the children”. I said, “Why are did you go tell the teacher that?” And sure enough each time mama took a test and found out the child knew it before we did.

So God can use them at an early and a lot of times adult put restrictions upon them and limitations. That if we didn't do so, God would open them up and use them. My mother used to take my brother, Bishop Dale around as an early teenager and lay hands on the sick and would get well. And if they aren't too young to learn about the Devil's gifts, then I proclaim to you today that they aren't too young to learn about God. So let's jump and tell them, we don't have much time and go through each one briefly.

1Corinthian 12:1 it reads, “Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant. (2) Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led. (3) Wherefore I give you to understand, that no

man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

(4) Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. (5) And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. (6) And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. (7) But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. (8) For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom, to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit.

(9) To another faith by the same Spirit, to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit, (10) To another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another divers kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. (11) But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

And there are many spiritual gifts and different—mentioning the gifts in the Bible. Different but all empowered by the one same Holy Spirit and a lot of the youth they maybe familiar with the TV cartoon called “Ben 10”. And this is a show where a little boy, he got a watch, an alien watch from space and basically it has ten alien beings that he can become in the watch. So he dials in the being he wants become on the watch and he smashes the watch. I see the children doing it. They are very familiar with this one and lot of the adults even like it.

And once he smashes that watch, his body transforms, his DNA transforms into that alien being that he wants to become and acquire the gifts of it. That relates to these gifts of the Spirit. That’s one Spirit, just like there’s one watch called an Omnitrix. And that one spirit would allow you to go into different modes and have different giftings that will transform your natural abilities into something super natural.

Today, we will discuss 9 Gifts of the Spirit as listed. And that 1Corinthians 12 and they are again the gift of wisdom, the gift of knowledge, the gift of faith, the gift of healing, the gift of miracles, the gift of prophecy, the gift of discerning of spirits, the gift of tongues, and the gift of interpretation of tongues.

1Corinthians 7:7 says, “For I would, that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that”. He didn’t give everybody the same gift. He gives you your own gifts that may manifest in you differently than your neighbor. And even our Pastor’s first name Nathaniel that literally means gift of God and indeed he’s a gift to us. How many of you would agree with that? And a gift is something that you freely give, not expecting to receive any compensation for that thing. That’s why you have to be careful even what you name your children and Pastor’s name means the gift of God but he’s the

only Pastor that I know that he preaches without a penny or pay. So he's literally a freely given gift. So names are very important and we need to be careful what names we give and what names we call our children, you may think he's cute and call all of your child bubo and they grow up and make a mess of their life and they come back and say mama what do you expect? You've been calling me bubo all of these years. You got to be careful I tell you, got to be careful.

Let's jump in here, the first gift; some of you may have been growing up called at yourself and you say, "That's why all this stuff is happening in my life."

The first gift is the gift of wisdom. The gift of wisdom is the ability to make decisions and give guidance that is according to God's will. Many of you all have to get the CD, I have time to wait you on to write because I got to get through this in a short period so just bear with me. A word of wisdom brings together knowledge that already exists and gives direction in its proper use. And just because we know certain things, doesn't mean that we know the best way to that thing is to be used and that's why wisdom comes in and we all here now that common sense is not so common anymore, and you can see that everyday.

And I won't tell you what they say is born everyday. I saw some hands go up on now they know a few of those. And Christians need more wisdom and the gift of wisdom. Students need the gift of wisdom to analyze the best college for them to attend, to look at their gifts and all of their talents, and to look at what the school offers. To take pre-existing knowledge and to apply it best according to God's will and purposes. And a good way to flow in the gift of wisdom better is to first gather as much natural knowledge about the situation as humanly possible.

My father used to say that person's judgment is no better than the information. So you need to gather as much information that you can on your own first. And then next see what God's word says about the situation according to that knowledge and the end just be still and to meditate upon that situation, upon the facts, and the knowledge of the situation, and upon God's word, and just be still, and let God's Holy Spirit reveal and speak to your mind the wisdom regarding that situation.

Solomon in the Bible operated in this gift when two mothers came to him and they both claim that the mother of the same child and he had to look at the facts of the situation and used wisdom, and he ordered the guards to split the child in half and give both mothers a half and he knew by the spirit of wisdom that he operated in that the true mother of the child would rather have a whole child raised, that was a lie by the other woman than to have a dead half of a child and he knew that that was the real mother.

The second gift of the Spirit is the gift of knowledge and that's the ability to know information that is not obtained through the 5 senses. When my brother Dale was

student in Morehouse College in the field of religion, the Lord one day in class gave him a word of knowledge concerning his professor and he asked for a meeting after class and he began to tell the professor what God had shown him concerning him. And the professor actually got offended at him and he reported him to the dean. They all came back to the professor later and he said, "I just want to know one thing, did that thing I told you, were the truth?" He said, "Yes, they were true but you as a student, you have no business getting in my business." But he saw the hand of God was upon them and he knew that he had no way of knowing these things other than by the Spirit of God, and I'm sure it convicted his spirit to hear a student even tell the teacher somethings.

And even my wife Stephanie here. The Lord gave her a word of wisdom, a word of knowledge. Yesterday she was about to go into the grocery store and she's a representative for the wireless internet service, Clear. And the Lord spoke to her a word of knowledge and said to take two business cards and that store which is there, there would be somebody that will need your service and she didn't argue with it. She said, "Alright, why will it hurt."

So she went back in the car and got two cards and she went in the store and did a regular shopping, and as she got ready go, she didn't see anybody, she said, "Well, I'm in, maybe I missed that" then she heard the Lord speak and say "No, wait they're not here yet". So she beetled around and took her time and she finally went ahead and checked out and went, "I guess that was just wrong."

When she got ready to get in the car, somebody called her up, getting out of their car. "Excuse me Miss? Do you work for Clear?" And he said, "I'm so fed up with AT&T. I've been having so many problems I need to switch. So many problems I need to switch. Do you have some information for your—" and when she gave that lady a card another lady said, "I need to get one too. I need to switch." And she got two customers because she listened on to the gift of knowledge.

Jesus through this gift knew that the Samaritan women – had five husbands and the one that she was with then was not her husband.

The third gift is the gift of faith and it is being able to trust God and encourage others to trust God no matter the circumstances. This gift is needed for the gift of healing to operate at its highest form and many people had been healed of cancer without everybody, anybody even laying hands on them physically but the healing came just, by them believing God and standing on his word. And Jesus said, "With this gift sufficiently developed enough". You can speak even to a mountain and that mountain would have to be moved and cast into the sea and obey they word just by "The Gift of The Spirit".

The fourth gift is the gift of healing. It is the miraculous ability to use God's healing power to restore a person who is sick or injured back to health. And most of you are familiar with this particular gift and Peter had this gift so developed in him that even if shout or heal the sick as he walked by.

The Bible say's in James 5, to bring the sick before the elders of the church and let them anoint them with the oil and pray over them. And that's why we have God Heals, every month here at the Ark.

The fifth gift is the gift of miracles and that gift is being able to perform signs and wonders that appear to spectators, to alter the natural order of nature and give authenticity to God's word in the gospel message. When Jesus multiplied food on many occasions, that was a miracle. When He walked out on the water, that was a miracle. When He spoke to Lazarus and said "Lazarus come forth", that was a miracle when they saw him coming forth in his death garments.

All of those miracles would have left any scientist present on the scene looking at it, scratching their head, wondering, how in the world did he do these things? Miracles, unlike magicians don't create the illusion for the spectator but it's the real thing and what appears in a miracle to happen actually happens.

The sixth gift is the gift of prophecy and that is being able to proclaim a message from God. The Bible say's "To covet this gift" because being able to here from God will help lead you using all of the other gifts of the spirit. Jesus had to hear from God to walk through all of those porches of sick of people to go and minister, to one man that has been laying there for so many years. And even though we all want to hear a good prophecy and we have each in ears many times, prophecy involves correction in many cases.

When you read his word and wasn't all just money coming and I see there's a new house and a new car. It had correction and it. He used his Prophets to speak to his people when they were are off track and to get them back into the will of the Lord and warn them about things that would happen if they wouldn't turn from their ways. And this is another gift that most people are familiar with and our Pastor walks in this gift very strong as a Prophet of the Lord; and even doing the God Heals Services, as people come up for prayer, for healing. He usually gives them a prophetic word concerning their life at that same time.

The seventh gift is the gift of discerning of spirits. It is the ability to determine wether or not a message, person, or event is truly from God or it's demonic in source. This gifts help with healing too because many times a spirit is what afflicting the person and not a physical thing and you have to be to see that with this gift of discerning of spirits in order to speak to the spirit itself and to cast it out. So that the person might be deliver the ailment and this is the critical gift for

parents to have. To be ever than know even what type of spirits their children are around and even in their children many times. And my mother when we were young and she was headed out of town, there was a young man that we had staying with us at that time for a little while. And when she got up to go out of town, God put in a spirit using this gift of discerning of spirits that she was not to leave her children home with this young men and it wasn't to years later that we found out that he was in to homosexuality and she had 60 young children at home.

I tell you parents, you need this gift of discerning of spirit and there even been some people that are trying to come over and play with my kids and the spirit of discerning of spirit rolls up in me and I said, "You can't even set foot unto my door" and it was so – I couldn't explain it but I had to be held over my house and do what the spirit was leading me to do. So, you need to be careful and use this gift to even know what's spirits to bring into your house—what spirits to allow your child to go over their house and so many molestations and things happen on sleep over than – think, parents go, after school over houses and so many things happen, that the gift of discerning of spirits would have avoided.

The eight gift is the gift of tongues and this is the ability to speak in a foreign language that you have not learned. The gift of tongues can be stirred up by the moving of the Spirit or like I did on Friday night going to the bathroom without— with a bare feet and I stump my, it's too small, his toes up against the chair. And for reason I haven't, I've researched it but I couldn't find an explanation why just sudden unexpected pain will sometime cause their tongues to speak in things that are not English and when I tell you that I'm not so good, come may through and I like that utterance just came for us there.

So if any of you have any rational of what this may cause this gift to stir up in times of unexpected sudden extreme pain. Please let me know after service because I couldn't find anything on that one. And I can guarantee that in those circumstances that is the utterances of the spirit but it does happen. That's all that I can tell you. It does happen. And Paul said, he speaks with tongues of men and angles. So that foreign language can be one of earthly origin or one of heavenly origin. If the foreign language is an earthly language be gift is used to communicate the gospel to an unbeliever as a sing and it communication and they will hear it in their native tongue, even without you knowing their language.

If their language is heavenly in nature, then it is used to edify yourself as a prayer language and intercede for things that your mind may not know about it. But your spirit does and this is commonly called praying in the Spirit and impulse they had an ordeal problem where many people would stand up in church and used their heavenly language that was meant to edify themselves and they would use it in the public church meeting and it was causing disruption and confusion and people that did not understand. And it was that situation that caused him to advice to only use

this gift in public when there's an interpreter present to avoid that problem and he didn't want that what was meant for personal edification to be confused with that meant for corporate edification.

You can read more about that in 1 Corinthians chapter 14. The night gift, the final one I'll go over today as the gift of the interpretation of tongues and it goes with this eight gifts since that is the ability to translate the tongues spoken and communicate it back to others in their own language that they can understand. This gift transformed the personal edifying gift of praying in tongues and to the corporate edifying gift the prophecy.

When they are coupled together it becomes and provides a Rhema word from God to the church where they can understand it.

1 Timothy 4:14 say's, "Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery".

2 Timothy 1:6 say's "Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands".

How do you stir up these gifts? By study, prayer, association and youth just like if you have a natural gift of singing and you stir it up by getting involved with the choir or praise team, filling your home with praise. Just being around other good singles will teach you some things about singing and brother I'm going to give you blessings to help you improve you voice.

When sorrow just got the prophets, he began to prophecy into our office close just by the association. The more you sing the more the gift will stir and I remember my mother came that somebody on the audience and she said that the gift of God and in song is too strong than you would sit out here baby. You need to be out there letting the people—he had this gift in you. She joined the choir back again from there and whenever she'd sing, she just blesses my soul and I won't to tell you to that was because I was eavesdropping and I wasn't suppose to be here and that. And they were sustaining of the gift of snooping and I would claim I was using that gift but since there isn't, I won't tell you who that was. If you note in 2 Timothy once—he didn't say to allow the gift to be stirred up. He instructed you to stir the gift and in the natural, if you see a gift in your child for a sport, you don't sit back and say I'm a just wait on him to grow older and just it has come to a more know. You start training them on the fundamentals of that sport and then you put him on the team and make him go to practice and then on game there show up and you see the gift stirred up in them.

I had my kids in Karate and we want some National Tournaments but it wasn't in class when I was practicing the blocks, and the punches, and the kicks that really

stirred up to get here. It wasn't until I went to a tournament and had an opponent that was 6'5" and 275 pounds and saw him coming at me. It was something about looking that giant that stirred up the gift in me, that warrior spirit and I had to hit that bronco with everything I had.

And when my baby one day had a fever of a 103 degrees and mama was about to head out to the emergency room, I felt the gift of healing stir up in me and I had take that baby and laying hands on that baby and speak to the devil I say "No, You don't say—" this is God's house and God's child" that she is covered under the blood and I've re-gain, to proclaim healing on that child and within 5 minutes that fever was significantly down and there's nothing like difficulty and act or adversity to stir up the gift of faith in you. And may wonder why you may have to go through so much sometimes. They could look like other people may not go through.

But it's God sometimes sending stuff to stir up the gift of faith in you. And each time He will send it on to you and say, "Let me allow this struggle to come that way, that it may stir up that gift of faith in him that I placed on the inside and until you pass the test and allow that gift of faith to stir things of keep on coming until it's activated in you. And I tell you parents, as you hear this word and one of the things that both Pastor and I did within the last week. I went to a highly anointed service and they give everybody a pile of anointing oil that had been prayed over and it was really imbued with the Holy Spirit and I took that oil and came home and called all of my children in and I had a praise and worship session and then I anointed my wife and I. We anointed all of our children one by one with that oil and we spoke prophetic things over them and we began to call up the gifts of God and prayed that they be stirred with them and Pastor did the same thing with his kid even on yesterday.

So you need to pray over you children even if they don't understand it, you can go at it while they are asleep and just put a drop of oil on their head or their pillow and pray over them that God would stir up the gift that He will speak to them in dreams and visions that He will use them even at a young age. I tell you, the reason we are in ministry display gifts because my mother covered us in prayer.

When we woke every morning, it would be to the sounds of my mother on our knees crying out to the Lord for our children and for others interceding. So make sure that you are anointed and stir up the gift even in your own children.

And as a final note 1 Corinthians 13 tells us that love or charity is greater than all of the spiritual gifts. So we must desire and ask for spiritual gifts out of love and desire to help God's children and help further his to Kingdom. So make sure that you don't have a selfish purpose and make sure that you practice love it's the greatest of all. Don't get so excited and concerned about spiritual gifts that you neglect the simple gift of love.

I just wanted to close on that note. And I thank you today for joining us at Brothers of the Word because brother you need the Word!