



Revelatory Gifts of the Spirit  
26 Nov 2023  
Small Group Notes

**Read 1 Cor 12:8-10**

This passage highlights spiritual gifts that focus on revelation from God which we are thinking about today.

How would you define the spiritual gifts mentioned here? In what ways is it helpful to have a list of spiritual gifts, and how might it be reductionistic regarding how the Spirit works?

Which of these gifts have you experienced and what was it like?

**Read 1 Cor 14:1-4**

What do these verses say about the role of prophecy in the church?

**Read Acts 2:17-18**

When we think of having a gift it seems permanent. We have it. The gift becomes ours. With spiritual gifts, however, it is not about us, but about how the Holy Spirit is using us.

How does the concept of a gift differ from focussing on this being a move of the Spirit? How much do you think our gifts change or stay the same? Is it helpful to know what your spiritual gifts are?

**Read 1 Thess 5:19-22**

What part of these verses do you find challenging or encouraging? Why is it important to hold verse 19 and 20 together with 21 and 22?

- Why is a misuse of revelatory gifts dangerous? What harm can come from this?
- When have you seen revelatory gifts misused in a way that was funny, or worse?
- Why might this lead people to avoid the revelatory gifts altogether?
- When have you seen a revelatory gift properly used?
- Why is it important that these gifts are not neglected?

- The revelatory gifts can be exciting, but they are also not the solid foundation on which our faith should be built. Why would this be the case, and what should we build our faith on?
- How can a person grow in using the revelatory gifts? What might discourage a person from doing this?

When weighing revelatory gifts here are the things I am aware of...

- First, consider the source.
- Second, consider the content.
- Third, and key to me, is to ask the Holy Spirit for confirmation as you receive it.

I expect that, if something is from the Holy Spirit, it will be confirmed in my spirit as it's given. That I will hear it and know, deep within me, 'that's from God'.

From here I might decide to let it go, pray into it, or hold onto as something from God. If not from God, or if I am uncertain, I'm generally nice to person and say, 'I'll think and pray about that' as I don't want to discourage someone just from my lack of certainty.

How do we test the revelatory gifts? What advice might you give someone if they asked you this? What might you add to what I have said here?

Can revelatory gifts reveal something that is negative? Some would say no. I would say yes, but it important to think about this. What things should we be mindful of regarding revelation that is negative?

Our Father works all things for the good of those who love Him. So, in a negative revelation I would expect to see something that is serving a greater purpose.

If you are going to say something negative you make sure it's from God and communicate it humbly and pastorally.

Again make sure it's from God.

Otherwise you could be doing the devil's work in God's name!

Most people need to be encouraged to speak out.

If someone is misusing a revelatory gift they should be encouraged to stop.

Some quick notes on use of the revelatory gifts. Which of these notes do you find most helpful?

1. Test everything against God's word. God will not contradict Himself. We should guard against an attitude that puts experience above the word of God. Your experience should align with God's word.
2. Pay attention to the Spirit of God. If someone brings a revelatory gift, ask the Spirit of God to confirm it for you.
3. Weigh things with others. Hold things lightly.
4. Acts on things that God gives you.
5. Don't be overly bold with declaring something is from God.
6. Learn to discern the difference between the Spirit of God and your own imagination.
7. Be humble in case you get it wrong.

How can we grow in being open to the work of the Spirit?

With all the spiritual gifts we should depend on the Holy Spirit for them to be effective. Have you ever seen the difference between someone trying to use a spiritual gift in their own strength as compared with using it with the help of the Spirit? What was the difference?

The sermon finished by thinking about the importance of love regarding the spiritual gifts. What are you aware of regarding how the chapters of 1 Corinthians 12, 13, and 14 relate to each other?

Why is love so key to the spiritual gifts?

How can we grow to be more outward focused, and why would the Spirit empower this?

**Sam Storms** – "If the focus of your spiritual energy is consistently introspective, you will rarely see the abundance of hurting people that surround you. Open your eyes and look for those who are weeping. Ask the Spirit to guide your steps to those who are weak, afflicted, and destitute. And as you go, listen for the voice of God to grant you a prophetic word that will encourage and console the suffering. Take your hands out of your pockets

and lay them on the sick, beseeching the Lord of Mercy for healing. Instead of first asking, “what is my gift?” Ask, “who is in need?” I’m increasingly persuaded that if God’s people will look outward before they look inward, they will encounter the charismatic and empowering presence of the spirit to equip them for every good deed. As I’ve said many times, before, if you’re still bewildered by what may or may not be your spiritual gift, act first, and ask later.