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Author's note: Since I missed the LW article last week due to traveling, this is kind of a 'double issue,' longer than normal, to bless you!

THREE CRUCIAL GIFTS

But earnestly desire the best gifts...1 Cor 12:31 NKJV

Of the nine gifts of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12, three are pointed out by their listing or grammatical usage as being of an essential character. You must have these! They are the word of wisdom, the gift of faith, and the gift of diverse kinds of tongues. Let's examine these gifts, see why and how they are emphasized, and how we can receive and apply them.

The Word of Wisdom

Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom...Prov 4:7 NKJV

God has a purpose for everything He says, where He says it, why He says it and how He says it. The word of wisdom is the first gift listed in 1 Corinthians 12:8. In the seminal reference work, NUMBERS IN SCRIPTURE, E.W. Bullinger says the number 'one' (or first in a listing) refers to unity or commencement. As a revelation gift, the word of wisdom gives unity to all the gifts of the Spirit. It is also the commencement point to all true works of God in the life of a believer. Every godly act of power begins with a word of wisdom. God tells, inspires or leads you into what He wants done.

It is also the problem solving anointing. The Lord has an answer that brings a solution to every problem you face in your personal, ministry, business, social life, etc. It is an answer that ends a problem, or leads to the ending of a problem (your problem may need a series of step-by-step words of wisdom). God wants you to prosper. Let Him lead you into prosperity and success by continually receiving His words of wisdom.

How do you receive the word of wisdom? Simply, by asking...

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. James 1:5 NKJV

The Gift of Faith

In 1 Corinthians 12:8 - 10, the English word 'another' is translated by two different Greek words: HETEROS and ALLOS. HETEROS is used of another when there are only two involved, you and another. When ALLOS is used, there may be more involved than just you and another. HETEROS is used of the gift of faith and the gift of tongues. When it comes down to the gift of faith, it is just you and God. Moses stood alone, just him and God, when he commanded the Red Sea to part. Joshua stood alone, just him and God, when he commanded the sun to stop. You and God by spiritual faith stand alone together to produce miracles and healing.

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything(gives one spiritual strength), but faith working through (which is energized by) love (this is what makes one powerful). Gal 5:6 NKJV with literal translation.

The greatest misunderstanding on the subject of faith is that all faith is the same. All faith is NOT the same. There are different kinds of faith. The gift of faith in 1 Corinthians 12 is the God given ability to command or decree the will of God to come to pass, according to what God has shown you by revelation. The gift of faith is what makes you powerful. God reveals His will and you command or decree it to come to pass...

Just yesterday, I received a testimony from one of our interns. Let's see if you can spot the operation of the gift of faith as she gives the testimony:

"Please allow me to share with you the following testimony:

On January 13 2010, a friend of mine, M, sent me the following telephone message: "Hi! Mum was today diagnosed with cancer of the colon..."

I read the message and ignored it a few minutes. Then read it again and felt a holy anger arise in me and I shouted NO to the devil. I then called M and informed her that I would be at her home before the day was up. At 8pm I knocked on her door and found a small gathering (a mix of believers and unbelievers)...

Oh my! I took a deep breath and said "over to you Holy Spirit!" After leading the group in a praise and worship session, I gave a brief charge and stood up to pray for the lady in the Name of Jesus.

At a point I sensed it was DONE. She was healed and I told her so and asked her to do what she had not been able to do. She got up and walked up and down the staircase. Apparently this had earlier been a chore. I closed the session with songs of thanksgiving and counseled her not to accept any sympathy messages.

The following day, she went to the hospital as scheduled. Speaking with M later in the day, she told me that a second scan taken that day revealed symptoms of the presence of cancer according to the doctor who's been the lady's doctor for 30 years. So on Friday, the lady was wheeled into theatre for an operation. I called M in the afternoon and she told me they were waiting for the doctor to come out.

An hour later, M calls me and she's in tears – OF JOY!! She says that the doctor came out saying that he had just witnessed something he had not seen in all his years of practice. He had called another doctor into the theater and together they checked the lady thoroughly and found NO TRACE of cancer! He said "if there is a God you pray to, then He has answered!" He said he could only describe it as a miracle! I began to cry too, giving glory to God. The doctor gave her "a clean bill of health" and advised her to, after the stitches healed, go back to her "shamba" and daily routine of activities in the village.

The lady has caused a stir in the village and is busy testifying of the goodness of the Lord.

Today I am more aware and conscious of my identity in Christ and - the groaning world that is waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God. I can only say, here I am Lord; use me."

Do you see the gifts in operation? Revelation by feeling (a holy anger) is just as valid as revelation by seeing or hearing. The holy anger revealed the Lord's displeasure and desire to heal the woman. Then she commanded or decreed NO to the devil. This was the anointing of faith which, along with the gift of word of wisdom, and others, stayed on her until she sensed it was DONE.

The gift of faith, as an anointing from God, is the bridge between revelation and miracles. Command or decree to come to pass what God has shown you by revelation. Then you can rejoice as you see the glory of God!

THE GIFT OF DIVERSE KINDS OF TONGUES

...we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."
Acts 2:11 NKJV

Bless the LORD, you His angels, who excel in strength, who do His word, heeding the voice of His word. Ps 103:20 NKJV

As regular readers of Living Waters know, I have written much about the great gift of tongues. I only want to point out here that tongues has two great operations: in your private prayer life, as your prayer, praise and worship tongue to God, and in your ministry, as the anointing comes upon you, to decree the word and will of God to men, nations, demons and angels. This is a very powerful but misunderstood aspect of tongues. When the anointing of diverse kinds of tongues comes upon you, your divine language will change. You will not be speaking to God, but God will be speaking through you, causing His word to go and prosper where He wills it to go. When this anointing comes, just flow with it. This is very powerful!

So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. Isa 55:11 NKJV

These three gifts are crucial for you to live the more abundant life, and be able to fulfil your ministry. The Lord wants you to have them...so, go and ask, seek and knock!

"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. Luke 11:9 NKJV

Remember, dear ones, we must be about our Father's business...

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