

# Gifts of the Spirit

*Rev. William Mark Bristow*

*Fanaticism! Holy Rollers! Pentecostals! That was my Grandmother's idea of divine healing. She had been taught these things were not for day, as I was also taught. I was born again at 10 years of age in a Bible believing fundamental church. Yet, I longed for power to LIVE the Christian life – even at 10 years of age. May I be honest with you? I did not see that power in the lives of the church folk. I knew many of them well. They loved the Lord, but living this thing every day – well, God knows we're only human. I noticed that when a prayer occasionally seemed answered, we were shocked, stunned, and a little afraid. I wanted more. I knew from the Bible there was more. At the age of 14 I received this wonderful Baptism with the Holy Spirit (which we will discuss later in this teaching) and almost immediately certain Gifts of the Holy Spirit began to flow in my life. There were miracles, and the miracles produced many, many salvations among the young people with whom I associated. I had great, great zeal, with little scriptural knowledge, but I had people such as Bud and Betty Miller who host [www.bible.com](http://www.bible.com) who had great, great patience and loved me. Over the years I have had occasion to do music for and work with wonderful ministries such as the late John Osteen, Charles and Frances Hunter, R. W. Schambach, the remaining staff of Kathryn Kuhlman, Steve Brock (soloist for Benny Hinn), Dr. Jerry B. Walker, Phil Driscoll, Lillie Knauls, Dale Evans Rogers, T. L. Osborn and many others.*

*But I have probably learned the most about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit from a lesser known but great lady of God, Aquilla Wilkins Nash. I certainly learned much from the ministry of the late Kathryn Kuhlman (where I learned of this great Power of God), and that of The Hunters, and my great friend The Reverend Dr. Jerry B. Walker who is known for salvations and miracles in his lengthy revivals.*

*I'll admit to you there are fanatics. You have seen them, as have I. There are even downright phonies, charlatans. Sure. But, I have seen the real and the true. I'm speaking of healings which are medically documents, some of which I personally witnessed with my own eyes. If you are unsure (and I don't blame you for skepticism), then please take your Bible and study with me. I am fond of quoting Kathryn Kuhlman's oft used statement, "If I tell you one thing and the Bible tells you something else, the Bible is right."*

*Here are some of the things I have learned over the years through the study of The Word of God and through the dealings of the Holy Spirit and through observing these great men and women of God up close as they ministered under the anointing of the Holy Spirit.*

*The Power of the Holy Spirit and His Gifts are Capacities for Service*

Acts 1:8

**8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. <sup>1</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

***The Holy Spirit is here to do everything Jesus would do if he were here in person.***

John 14:16-18

16 **And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 17 *Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.***

18 **I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.** <sup>2</sup>

***Jesus did miracles as a “MAN” empowered by the Holy Spirit.***

Philippians 2:7

7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: <sup>3</sup> (KJV)

Philippians 2:7

7 but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
(NRSV)

***No miracles are recorded of Jesus in the Word of God until the Holy Spirit comes upon Him at His Baptism.***

Luke 3:21-22

21 Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, 22 And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased. <sup>4</sup>

Luke 4:1-2

And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, 2 Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered. <sup>5</sup>

***The Council of Nicea in 351 A.D. stated, “Jesus is as much man as though he were not God, yet at the same time, as much God as though He were not man. Fully man, yet Fully God without conflict.” God cannot be tempted, yet Jesus was tempted in all manner like as we are yet without sin (Heb 4:16)***

***Yet, what man could say,*** John 8:58

58 Jesus said unto them, **Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.** <sup>6</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

<sup>3</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

<sup>4</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

<sup>5</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

<sup>6</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

**Or**

Matthew 26:53

53 **Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?** <sup>7</sup>

**Or**

John 18:6

6 As soon then as he had said unto them, **I am** he, they went backward, and fell to the ground. <sup>8</sup>

***Just before going to the cross, Jesus prays***

John 17:5

5 **And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.** <sup>9</sup>

***In English we call this “incarnation”. Our Hispanics of West Texas have a dish called “chili con carne” chili with meat or flesh. This is God con Carne, literally God with meat or flesh, John 1:14***  
14 **And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.** <sup>10</sup>

***Every miracle between the incarnation, God putting on flesh, and the resurrection, Jesus performed as a man filled with the Holy Ghost. John 14:10***

10 **Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.** <sup>11</sup>

***That is why He could promise his believers to do the same works***

John 14:12

12 **Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.** <sup>12</sup>

Mark 16:17-18

17 **And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.** <sup>13</sup>

***This is why it was vitally important for the disciples to tarry or wait in Jerusalem the Holy Spirit had come upon them with power.***

Luke 24:49

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<sup>7</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

<sup>8</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

<sup>9</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

<sup>10</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

<sup>11</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

<sup>12</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

<sup>13</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Acts 1:8

8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. <sup>15</sup>

***Before we look directly at that “power” the gifts of the Holy Spirit, let us look at His nature and work.***

John 14:15-17

15 If ye love me, keep my commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another **Comforter**, that he may abide with you for ever; 17 *Even* the **Spirit of truth**; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. <sub>16</sub>

John 14:25-27

25 These things have I spoken unto you, being *yet* present with you. 26 But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, **he shall teach you all things**, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. 27 **Peace** I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. <sub>17</sub>

John 15:26-27

26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, *even* the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, **he shall testify of me**: 27 And **ye also shall bear witness**, because ye have been with me from the beginning. <sub>18</sub>

John 16:7-15

7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. 8 And when he is come, **he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment**: 9 Of sin, because they believe not on me; 10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; 11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. 12 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. 13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, **he will guide you into all truth**: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. 14 **He shall glorify me**: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you. 15 All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you. <sub>19</sub>

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<sup>14</sup>*The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.*

<sup>15</sup>*The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.*

<sup>16</sup>*The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.*

<sup>17</sup>*The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.*

<sup>18</sup>*The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.*

<sup>19</sup>*The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.*

***Growing up I was taught the Gifts of the Spirit ceased after the time of the Apostles, and that only the Apostles had these gifts.***

***Did only the Apostles have these gifts?***

***The 120 in the upper room including Mary the Mother of Jesus.***

Acts 1:14-15

14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

15 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,) <sup>20</sup>

Acts 2:4

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

***Stephen ordained as a deacon in Acts 1:5 (to wait tables and give food to the needy)***

Acts 6:8

8 And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people. <sup>22</sup>

***Philip also ordained as a deacon in Acts 1:5***

Acts 8:5-8

5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. 6 And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. 7 For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed *with them*: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. 8 And there was great joy in that city. <sup>23</sup>

***Ananias - a certain disciple***

Acts 9:10-17

10 And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, **Ananias**. And he said, Behold, *I am here*, Lord. 11 And the Lord *said* unto him, **Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth,** 12 **And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight.** 13 Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: 14 And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name. 15 But the Lord said unto him, **Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:** 16 **For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.** 17 And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother

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<sup>20</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

<sup>21</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

<sup>22</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

<sup>23</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

Saul, the Lord, *even* Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. <sup>24</sup>

***The household, kinsmen and friends of Cornelius***

Acts 10:24

24 And the morrow after they entered into Caesarea. And Cornelius waited for them, and had called together his kinsmen and near friends. <sup>25</sup>

Acts 10:27

27 And as he (Peter) talked with him, he went in, and found many that were come together. <sup>26</sup>

Acts 10:44-48

44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. 45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, 47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days. <sup>27</sup>

***Agabus the Prophet***

Acts 11:27-28

27 And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch. 28 And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar. <sup>28</sup>

***Certain Prophets and Teachers***

Acts 13:1-2

Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. <sup>29</sup>

***Ephesian believers speak with tongues and prophesy***

Acts 19:1-7

And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, 2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. 3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. 4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

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<sup>24</sup>*The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.*

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<sup>26</sup>*The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.*

<sup>27</sup>*The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.*

<sup>28</sup>*The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.*

<sup>29</sup>*The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.*

5 When they heard *this*, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid *his* hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. 7 And all the men were about twelve.

### ***Believer's testify to Paul about danger in Jerusalem***

Acts 20:22-23

22 And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there: 23 Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me. <sup>31</sup>

Acts 21:4

4 And finding disciples, we tarried there seven days: who said to Paul through the Spirit, that he should not go up to Jerusalem. <sup>32</sup>

### ***Philip's four daughters***

Acts 21:8-9

8 And the next *day* we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was *one* of the seven; and abode with him. 9 And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy. <sup>33</sup>

### ***Agabus again***

Acts 21:10-11

10 And as we tarried *there* many days, there came down from Judaea a certain prophet, named Agabus. 11 And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver *him* into the hands of the Gentiles. <sup>34</sup>

***There are more instances than we will study now, but suffice it to say, more than the 12 had these gifts of the Spirit in their lives.***

### ***Were these gifts only for the time of the Apostles?***

Acts 2:38-39

38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. 39 **For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.** <sup>35</sup>

Mark 16:17

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<sup>30</sup>*The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.*

<sup>31</sup>*The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.*

<sup>32</sup>*The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.*

<sup>33</sup>*The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.*

<sup>34</sup>*The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.*

<sup>35</sup>*The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.*

17 **And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;**<sup>36</sup>

***Irenaeus – Against Heresies, II 49.3 (A first century Pastor after the time of the disciples writes)***

*But they fall far short of raising the dead, as the Lord raised them, and as did the apostles through prayer, and as among later Christians, because the need was so great and the whole of the local church besought God with much fasting and supplication, the spirit of the dead man has returned and his life has been granted to the prayers of God's people...*

*But if they suggest that the Lord has done these things only in appearance, I will refer them to the prophetic writings, and prove from them that all this had been foretold about Him and really happened, and that He alone is the Son of God. So it is that in His name those who truly are His disciples, having received grace from Him, put it to effectual use for the benefit of their fellow-men, in proportion to the gift each one has received from Him. Some drive out demons really and truly, so that often those cleansed from evil spirits believe and become members of the Church; some have foreknowledge of the future, visions, and prophetic utterances; others, by the laying-on of hands, heal the sick and restore them to health; and before now, as I said, dead men have actually been raised and have remained with us for many years. In fact, it is impossible to enumerate the gifts which throughout the world the Church has received from God and in the name of Jesus Christ crucified under Pontius Pilate, and every day puts to effectual use for the benefit of the heathen, deceiving no one and making profit out of no one: freely she received from God, and freely she ministers.*

*Similarly, we hear of many members of the Church who have prophetic gifts and by the Spirit speak with all kinds of tongues, and bring men's secret thoughts to light for their own good, and expound the mysteries of God. **Against Heresies, V.6***

***Others used by God through the centuries of whom you may find writings containing evidences of the Baptism with the Holy Spirit and the Supernatural Power of God are:***

***Girolamo Savonarola (Italy, 1452 – 1498)***

***Madame Guyon (France, 1647 - 1717)***

***John and Charles Wesley (John 1703 – 1791, Founders of the Methodist Church)***

***Maria B. Woodworth-Etter (1824, 1944 Early America)***

***Charles Finney (1792 – 1875, Early America)***

***Dwight L. Moody (1837 – 1899, Early America)***

***John G. Lake (1870 – 1935, Africa early 1900's)***

***T. L. Osborn (Contemporary Healing Evangelist)***

***Kathryn Kuhlman (1907? – 1975 world renown Evangelist this century)***

***Oral Roberts (Contemporary Healing Evangelist this century)***

***All believers ... “And these signs shall follow...”***

***Before looking directly at the gifts let's answer a few more questions.***

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<sup>36</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

***Doesn't the scripture say that not everyone will speak with tongues?***

1 Corinthians 12:29-30

29 *Are* all apostles? *are* all prophets? *are* all teachers? *are* all workers of miracles? 30 Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? <sup>37</sup>

***This scripture deals with "offices" of the church, not with gifts of the Spirit.***

Ephesians 4:11

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; <sup>38</sup>

***The same offices are given, Apostles, Prophets, Teachers, then from Acts 8:6 (miracles and healings with Philip) we see miracles are the gifts of the Evangelist. Tongues and Interpretation are most often associated with a local church and pastor today. Those gifts are seen more than any other gifts in the local church, so the office of Pastor is referenced here.***

***Doesn't the scripture say that tongues and gifts will cease?***

1 Corinthians 13:8-10

8 Charity never faileth: but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail; whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall vanish away. 9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. <sup>39</sup>

***Has knowledge ceased? Do we know everything perfectly as we will in heaven? Have prophecies ceased? No. We are still awaiting the prophetic fulfillment of the second Coming, the great catching up, the great tribulation, salvation for the Jewish people. So these gifts have not yet ceased, but will cease when we see Him face to face, for then we will know as we are known and there will be no need for the "in-part" gifts.***

***Didn't I receive the Holy Spirit when I was saved?***

Romans 8:14-17

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: 17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together. <sup>40</sup>

Romans 8:9

9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. **Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.**

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<sup>37</sup>*The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.*

<sup>38</sup>*The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.*

<sup>39</sup>*The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.*

<sup>40</sup>*The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.*

***Think for a moment of a drinking glass containing water. The glass has water, it may even be filled with water. Yet, I may submerge or immerse that glass full of water in a pool of water, and now instead of the water being in the glass, the glass is in the water.***

***Let's say it like this. You are born-again. You have received the Spirit of Adoption whereby you cry "Abba Father, or Daddy, God." You have Him. But the question is, "Does He Have You?"***

***When you receive the Baptism or Immersion with the Holy Spirit, He has you.***

Acts 8:5-7

5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. 6 And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. 7 For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed *with them*: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. <sup>42</sup>

Acts 8:12

12 But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. <sup>43</sup>

Acts 8:14-17

14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: 15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: 16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) 17 Then laid they *their* hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. <sup>44</sup>

***These people were born again, and had followed the Lord in water baptism. Then Peter and John came and these received this wonderful Baptism of the Holy Spirit. This is a separate experience from their salvation. It had nothing to do with their salvation whatsoever.***

***What is the evidence of receiving the Baptism with the Holy Spirit? I believe the real and best evidence is: "Ye shall receive power and ye shall be witnesses..." (Acts 1:8).***

***There are 5 instances of people receiving the Baptism with the Holy Spirit in which we can see what happened.***

***Acts 2 – the 120 on the day of Pentecost - spoke with tongues***

Acts 2:1-4

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

<sup>41</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

<sup>42</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

<sup>43</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

<sup>44</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

**Acts 8 - the Samaritan Believers - no tongues**

Acts 8:14-19

14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: 15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: 16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) 17 Then laid they *their* hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. 18 And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, 19 Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. <sup>46</sup>

**Acts 9 - Saul of Tarsus – no tongues here but compare 1 Cor 14:18**

Acts 9:17

17 And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, *even* Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. <sup>47</sup>

1 Corinthians 14:18

18 I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all: <sup>48</sup>

**Acts 10 - Household of Cornelius - tongues**

Acts 10:44-46

44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. 45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, <sup>49</sup>

**Acts 19 - The Ephesian Believers - tongues**

Acts 19:1-7

And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, 2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. 3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. 4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. 5 When they heard *this*, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid *his* hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. <sup>7</sup> And all the men were about twelve.

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<sup>45</sup>*The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.*

<sup>46</sup>*The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.*

<sup>47</sup>*The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.*

<sup>48</sup>*The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.*

<sup>49</sup>*The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.*

<sup>50</sup>*The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.*

***In 4 of the 5 instances we can see the recipients spoke with tongues. In the Samaritan case, something extraordinary happened, so much so, that a sorcerer who had seen healings and miracles (Acts 8:13 Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.)<sup>51</sup> Now offered money for the power to administer the Baptism of the Holy Spirit – so something extraordinary happened here. Could it have been the speaking with tongues?***

***Now let me say something of which the scriptures hint. I must tell you some Bible teachers differ in their understanding and opinions and interpretations, but to me the evidence from the scripture is clear – there are two kinds of tongues.***

***The Gift of Tongues – God speaking to man through tongues and interpretation.***

***The Prayer Language or Praying in Tongues – Man Speaking to God.***

***The Gift of Tongues whereby God speaks a message to a church or a congregation or a people and requires the gift of interpretation is a gift not everyone has (“Do all speak with tongues?” (I Cor 12:30) I Cor 14:5 tells us these two gifts (tongues and interpretation of tongues) when used together are equivalent to prophecy.***

***Praying in Tongues, or “praying in the Spirit” as The Apostle Paul states it is a manifestation of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit – and all spirit-baptized believers may have this manifestation of praying in tongues.***

1 Corinthians 14:23

23 If therefore the **whole church** be come together into one place, and **all** speak with tongues, and there come in *those that are* unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?<sup>52</sup>

***Speaking or giving out a message in tongues to the church - The Gift of Tongues, requires an interpretation***

1 Corinthians 14:13

13 Wherefore let him that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue pray that he may interpret.<sup>53</sup>

***This “praying in tongues” does not require interpretation.***

1 Corinthians 14:28

28 But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.<sup>54</sup>

***You might “pray in tongues” or “pray in the spirit” your whole Christian Life and never have “The Gift of Tongues” whereby you stand in the congregation and speak out a message to the church which requires interpretation.***

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<sup>51</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

<sup>52</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

<sup>53</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

<sup>54</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

***What would the interpretation be if given of “If I pray in an unknown tongue” (I Cor 14:14)? Remember the day of Pentecost in Acts 2 where the thousands were gathered in Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost from many nations? Acts 2:5-11***

5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. 6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. 7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? 8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? 9 Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, 10 Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretes and Arabians, **we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.**<sup>55</sup>

***Now look at the Household of Cornelius***

Acts 10:46

46 For they heard them speak with tongues, **and magnify God.** Then answered Peter,<sup>56</sup>

***They were praising and magnifying God in Tongues.***

Romans 8:26-27 ***Tells us what takes place when we pray in tongues...***

26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what *is* the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of God.*<sup>57</sup>

***However, since most Spirit-Baptized believers are familiar with yielding to the Holy Spirit to “PRAY” in tongues, it is quite simple for the individual to yield to the GIFT OF TONGUES and speak a word. I think this is why we see this gift most often, and why it is listed as the “least” of the gifts – or perhaps the most common of the gifts.***

***The question is always, “Must I speak with tongues to receive the Baptism with the Holy Spirit?” The best answer is: “You do not have to speak in tongues – you “get to” speak in tongues!” I have lived long enough to see men and women obviously manifesting certain gifts and real POWER of the Spirit in their lives – who have never spoken with tongues. I’ve seen others who spoke with tongues and to be frank – lived like hellions. Power to be a witness is the greatest “evidence” of the Holy Spirit’s residence in a life.***

***Now let’s look at the gifts of the Holy Spirit examining each gift.***

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

**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

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<sup>55</sup>*The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.*

<sup>56</sup>*The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.*

<sup>57</sup>*The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.*

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.

*Please note that there are differences within the same gift. The gifts may be administered differently, and may operate differently. If you go into one of R. W. Schambach's meetings then go into one of Benny Hinn's meetings you would probably think you are seeing VERY different gifts at work - yet you are seeing healing, one probably ministered through the laying on of hands in Schambach's meetings, and the other ministered through another gift, The Word of Knowledge in Benny Hinn's meetings. The same gifts of healings, but different administrations and different operations. The same gifts, the same Holy Spirit. I might add, the operation of the Holy Spirit in any of our lives is "flavored" to some degree by our personality. That is why character and integrity are so vitally important.*

*Note also that twice we are told these gifts are "worked" or operated by the Holy Spirit. I cannot cause the gifts to work at my will (we will discuss this further under the Gifts of Healings). For now, think of a water faucet. I have one in my kitchen. I had nothing to do with digging the well, nor with laying the plumbing. The water is there under pressure because of someone else's purpose and supply. I may turn the tap and water flows. I may shut off the tap and the water stops. 1 Corinthians 14:32 says, "And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets."<sup>59</sup> But I had nothing whatsoever to do with the supply. The Holy Spirit may nudge or as King Jim puts it give "unction" and I may "turn on the tap" in other words "yield to His prompting" and allow the gift to flow out by my action. However if the Holy Spirit does not prompt me (no water is present in the waterline), I may turn the tap all day long and nothing will come out.*

### *The Gifts:*

#### *The Word of Wisdom*

*This brings the mind and will and purpose of God into the "NOW" for a specific situation. It is not all wisdom, or Godly wisdom which any believer may have from the Word of God (Prov 2:6), nor is it Wisdom such as Solomon had. It is a supernatural revelation of "what will be".*

Acts 9:10-12

10 And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, **Ananias**. And he said, Behold, I *am here*, Lord. 11 And the Lord *said* unto him, **Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called**

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<sup>58</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

<sup>59</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

**Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth, 12 And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight. <sup>60</sup>**

*Notice this gift is here administered through a vision. Ananias is told what to do – this is mixed with a Word of Knowledge for he is told supernaturally of where Saul of Tarsus is staying.*

### ***Agabus to Paul***

Acts 21:10-12

10 And as we tarried *there* many days, there came down from Judaea a certain prophet, named Agabus. 11 And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver *him* into the hands of the Gentiles. 12 And when we heard these things, both we, and they of that place, besought him not to go up to Jerusalem. <sup>61</sup>

*Notice here that Agabus is very wise in his dealings. The Holy Spirit tells “what will be.” At no time is Agabus telling Paul what to do, just what will happen.*

*No one but Jesus has the right to tell you “WHAT TO DO”, only Jesus died for you so you might enter boldly into the throneroom and ask whatever you need (Heb 4:16). In seeking a Word from God through a pastor, evangelist, prophet, man or woman of God, never never never allow that person to take the place Jesus died for, so that you might boldly enter the throneroom and cry, “Abba, Father” (Rom 8:15). (Should a recognized Prophet of God or ministry give me direct instruction, I would still take that Word of the Lord directly to the throne and “hear for myself” from my heavenly Father.)*

### ***The Word of Knowledge***

*Supernatural knowledge of past, current, or in some cases future events, given so people will know God knows*

### ***John 4:15-19 - Jesus with the Woman at the Well***

15 The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw. 16 Jesus saith unto her, **Go, call thy husband, and come hither.** 17 The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, **Thou hast well said, I have no husband: 18 For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.** 19 The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet. <sup>62</sup>

### ***Acts 14:8-10 - Paul at Lystra***

8 And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked: 9 The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, **and perceiving that he had faith to be healed,** 10 Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked. <sup>63</sup>

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<sup>60</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

<sup>61</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

<sup>62</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

<sup>63</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

***The supernatural revelation of knowledge of her husbands, causes this woman to believe. She later goes to her village and tells the people, "Come see a man who told me all I ever did..."***

***Paul ministers to this lad through the Word of Knowledge, and the man exercises his faith by "leaping" up and walking.***

### ***The Gift of Faith***

*A gift to receive miracles usually for others*

***Paul, Luke and Trophimus, and perhaps John Mark on the ship in the storm***

Acts 27:18-44

18 And we being exceedingly tossed with a tempest, the next *day* they lightened the ship; 19 And the third *day* we cast out with our own hands the tackling of the ship. 20 And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on *us*, all hope that we should be saved was then taken away.

21 But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss. 22 And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of *any man's* life among you, but of the ship. 23 For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, 24 Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee. 25 Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me. 26 Howbeit we must be cast upon a certain island. 27 But when the fourteenth night was come, as we were driven up and down in Adria, about midnight the shipmen deemed that they drew near to some country; 28 And sounded, and found *it* twenty fathoms: and when they had gone a little further, they sounded again, and found *it* fifteen fathoms. 29 Then fearing lest we should have fallen upon rocks, they cast four anchors out of the stern, and wished for the day. 30 And as the shipmen were about to flee out of the ship, when they had let down the boat into the sea, under colour as though they would have cast anchors out of the foreship, 31 Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved. 32 Then the soldiers cut off the ropes of the boat, and let her fall off. 33 And while the day was coming on, Paul besought *them* all to take meat, saying, This day is the fourteenth day that ye have tarried and continued fasting, having taken nothing. 34 Wherefore I pray you to take *some* meat: for this is for your health: for there shall not an hair fall from the head of any of you. 35 And when he had thus spoken, he took bread, and gave thanks to God in presence of them all: and when he had broken *it*, he began to eat. 36 Then were they all of good cheer, and they also took *some* meat. 37 And we were in all in the ship two hundred threescore and sixteen souls. 38 And when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship, and cast out the wheat into the sea. 39 And when it was day, they knew not the land: but they discovered a certain creek with a shore, into the which they were minded, if it were possible, to thrust in the ship. 40 And when they had taken up the anchors, they committed *themselves* unto the sea, and loosed the rudder bands, and hoised up the mainsail to the wind, and made toward shore. 41 And falling into a place where two seas met, they ran the ship aground; and the forepart stuck fast, and remained unmoveable, but the hinder part was broken with the violence of the waves. 42 And the soldiers' counsel was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim out, and escape. 43 But the centurion, willing to save Paul, kept them from *their* purpose; and commanded that they which could swim should cast *themselves* first into the sea, and get to land: 44 And the rest, some on

boards, and some on *broken pieces* of the ship. And so it came to pass, that they escaped all safe to land.

***Paul received a Word of Knowledge and a Word of Wisdom about the safety of those who stayed with the ship. Paul received a miracle for these 286 people on the ship.***

***However, read a little further and you will find that God did not warn him about the viper in the sticks about to come as he built a fire – yet God told Paul to go to Rome and speak before Cesar (Acts 23:11 “And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, **Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.**”)<sup>65</sup> It is evident, Paul shook off the serpent and went forth on faith in the Word spoken to go to Rome.***

### ***The Gifts of Healing***

*Supernatural power to heal the sick. Sometimes operates through the Laying on of hands, occasionally through one of the other gifts such as Word of Knowledge or Prophecy.*

***The discussion here is only of the “gifts of healing.” There are many ways in the Word of God to receive healing, the prayer of faith by the elders of the church (James 5:14-15), the prayer of agreement (Matt 18:19-20), the laying on of hands by believers (Mark 16:17-18), “raw” faith in the Word of God, the taking of communion or the Lord’s table (Isa 53:3-5) with the realization that healing is in the atonement, etc. Personally I feel the Word of God teaches, “It is the Will of God to both heal and save.” There are many scriptures we could give. However the question remains, “If you have the gift of healing then why are not all healed?” There are some things we might look in to that deal with specific cases. However the late Miss Kathryn Kuhlman (who’s services were attended by Doctors from UCLA and John Hopkins hospitals because of the medically documented miracles of healing) said it best, “I do not know and I am afraid of those who claim they do know. Only God knows and who can fathom the mind of God?”***

Acts 3:1-11

Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, *being* the ninth *hour*. 2 And a certain man lame from his mother’s womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple; 3 Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. 4 And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. 5 And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. 6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. 7 And he took him by the right hand, and lifted *him* up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. 8 And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God. 9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God: 10 And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him. 11 And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon’s, greatly wondering.

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<sup>64</sup>*The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.*

<sup>65</sup>*The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.*

***The question is often asked, “If you can heal the sick, then why don’t you heal everyone at the hospital?”***

***Remember something. These are Gifts of the Spirit – they do not belong to me or to you, even if that gift operates in a life. I Cor 12:6 tells us, “But it is the same God which worketh all in all.” I Cor 12:11 tells us, “But all these worketh that one and the selfsame spirit.” The Holy Spirit operates the gift at His will not at my will or your will.***

John 8:28

28 Then said Jesus unto them, **When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.**<sup>67</sup>

***Remember the man at the Gate Beautiful in Acts Chapter 3. Acts 2:2 tells us he was laid daily at the gate. Acts 4:22 tells us he was above 40 years of age. Acts 3:10 tells us everybody knew him as the one who begged at the Temple Gate. In Matthew 21:7-12 Jesus rode in triumph into Jerusalem while the crowd cried, “Hosanna!”. He would have come through that Gate. Why didn’t Jesus heal that man? Only God knows. Peter and John went past that man daily for perhaps weeks going to prayer in the Temple (Acts 2:46). Why didn’t Peter reach out to the man with healing before? The Holy Spirit did not move upon him until THIS day. In John chapter 5 we are told about a lame man, probably paralyzed who was laid at the pool of Bethesda on one of the 5 porches.***

John 5:2-3

2 Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches. 3 In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water.<sup>68</sup>

***Out of this “great multitude” of sick and infirm, Jesus who said, “I only do what I see the Father do, and Speak what I hear the Father speak,” healed ONE and only ONE man. Why? Only God knows and who can fathom the mind of God.***

Philippians 2:25-30

25 Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants. 26 For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick. 27 For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. 28 I sent him therefore the more carefully, that, when ye see him again, ye may rejoice, and that I may be the less sorrowful. 29 Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation: 30 Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.

<sup>66</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

<sup>67</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

<sup>68</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

2 Timothy 4:20

20 Erastus abode at Corinth: but Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick.<sup>70</sup>

*Paul the Apostle healed the sick, so why not simply lay hands on these two beloved companions if he could operate the gift at his own will?*

*The Word of God is never specific as to why this “gift” is plural “gifts”. Therefore I may only speculate. Having been in many healing services with many thousands of people. It seems there may be different gifts for different diseases. By that I mean I have seen a “wave” or “move” or the “gift of healing for cancer” in operation and many cancers are healed, then there is a move of “bone” healings, or “stomach healings” or this or that disease. While that “gift” is in operation, all who will take by faith their healing may be healed of that disease. Some ministries have great success in one area of healing the sick, such as cancer, or bone, or tumors, etc. So it seems there may be different gifts for different diseases.*

*What of those who are not healed? Here is a portion of a message delivered at the funeral of a wonderful Spirit-filled Christian lady – who lost her battle with cancer.*

*Over these last 32 years I’ve had occasion to work with many of the Great Healing and Miracle Ministries of our day, Kathryn Kuhlman’s staff, R. W. Schambach, Jerry B. Walker, Benny Hinn, Charles and Frances Hunter, T. L. Osborn ... and on the list goes.*

*In my early days, I could have given you all the answers. I was sure that if you had yourself in a certain spiritual place and did and said all the right things, God had to heal you . . .*

*One day, my theology came tumbling down when a man walked into an auditorium and was instantly healed of nerve deafness. Although I talked with him repeatedly, he never acknowledged Jesus. On the other hand, I’ve seen great saints – pray only to suffer and die.*

*I’ve watched this thing very carefully over these 32 years in ministry. Now I’m not so sure that we are in a position to demand anything from a Sovereign God. I know I don’t have all the answers. And to be quite frank, I’m afraid of those who do claim to have all the answers.*

*16 Times Righteous Job asks the question, “WHY?” Though God speaks and reveals many things to Job – “WHY?” is never directly answered. And I don’t believe it’s a sin to ask, “WHY?” On the cross, Jesus himself looked up toward heaven and cried out, “My God, My God, WHY? . . .” (Matt 27:46)*

*No, I don’t have all the answers today – but I want you to know and understand some of the great truths I have gleaned from the Word of God.*

Psalm 116:15

15 Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

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<sup>69</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

<sup>70</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

*Sometimes we question God's love.*

**Romans 8:35b, NLT** “Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or are hungry or cold or in danger or threatened with death? <sup>36</sup> (Even the Scriptures say, “For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.”) <sup>37</sup>

**No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.**

<sup>38</sup> And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from his love. Death can't, and life can't. The angels can't, and the demons can't. Our fears for today, our worries about tomorrow, and even the powers of hell can't keep God's love away. <sup>39</sup> Whether we are high above the sky or in the deepest ocean, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

*Like Gideon of old, my mind asks the question, “Where is the God of Miracles?”*

There was a man who did more miracles than anyone except Christ.

2 Kings 13:14-21 KJV

14 Now Elisha was fallen sick of his sickness whereof he died. And Joash the king of Israel came down unto him, and wept over his face, and said, O my father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. 15 And Elisha said unto him, Take bow and arrows. And he took unto him bow and arrows. 16 And he said to the king of Israel, Put thine hand upon the bow. And he put his hand *upon it*: and Elisha put his hands upon the king's hands. 17 And he said, Open the window eastward. And he opened *it*. Then Elisha said, Shoot. And he shot. And he said, The arrow of the LORD'S deliverance, and the arrow of deliverance from Syria: for thou shalt smite the Syrians in Aphek, till thou have consumed *them*. 18 And he said, Take the arrows. And he took *them*. And he said unto the king of Israel, Smite upon the ground. And he smote thrice, and stayed. 19 And the man of God was wroth with him, and said, Thou shouldest have smitten five or six times; then hadst thou smitten Syria till thou hadst consumed *it*: whereas now thou shalt smite Syria *but* thrice.

20 And Elisha died, and they buried him. And the bands of the Moabites invaded the land at the coming in of the year. 21 And it came to pass, as they were burying a man, that, behold, they spied a band *of men*; and they cast the man into the sepulchre of Elisha: and when the man was let down, and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived, and stood up on his feet.

*The account of Elisha sickness, death and the resurrection of a man who touched his bones fascinates me. This paradox of the Power of God in a “perishable container” (us) again forces the conclusion, “Only God knows, and who can fathom the mind of God!”*

*These scriptures give praise and accreditation for suffering persecutions and hardships – unmentionable by today's standards . . .*

2 Thessalonians 1:4-5

4 We proudly tell God's other churches about your endurance and faithfulness in all the persecutions and hardships you are suffering. . . For he will make you worthy of his Kingdom, for which you are suffering,

2 Corinthians 1:4

4 He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When others are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.

2 Corinthians 4:7-5:1

7 But this precious treasure—this light and power that now shine within us—is held in perishable containers, that is, in our weak bodies. So everyone can see that our glorious power is from God and is not our own.

8 We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed and broken. We are perplexed, but we don't give up and quit. 9 We are hunted down, but God never abandons us. We get knocked down, but we get up again and keep going. 10 Through suffering, these bodies of ours constantly share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies.

11 Yes, we live under constant danger of death because we serve Jesus, so that the life of Jesus will be obvious in our dying bodies. 12 So we live in the face of death, but it has resulted in eternal life for you.

13 But we continue to preach because we have the same kind of faith the psalmist had when he said, "I believed in God, and so I speak." 14 We know that the same God who raised our Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus and present us to himself along with you. 15 All of these things are for your benefit. And as God's grace brings more and more people to Christ, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory.

16 That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. 17 For our present troubles are quite small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us an immeasurably great glory that will last forever! 18 So we don't look at the troubles we can see right now; rather, we look forward to what we have not yet seen. For the troubles we see will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever.

5:1 For we know that when this earthly tent we live in is taken down—when we die and leave these bodies—we will have a home in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself and not by human hands.

***Some years ago I had the privilege of hearing the late Rev. E. V. Hill. He asked a congregation of ministers, "Did you suffer before you were born? -- No, then do you plan to suffer when you go to heaven?" The dumbfounded looks on our faces made him smile as he continued, "Then when are you going to get your suffering in? The Word says, if we suffer [with him], we shall also reign with him!" 2 Tim 2:11 KJV***

### ***The Working of Miracles***

*This is literally the act of changing or at least overcoming the natural laws of the universe and time and space.*

### ***Ananias and Sapphira lie to the Holy Ghost***

Acts 5:1-11

But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, 2 And kept back *part* of the price, his wife also being privy *to it*, and brought a certain part, and laid *it* at the apostles' feet. 3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back *part* of the price of the land? 4 Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. 5 And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. 6 And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried *him* out, and buried *him*. 7 And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. 8 And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. 9 Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband *are* at the door, and shall carry thee out. 10 Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying *her* forth, buried *her* by her husband. 11 And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.

### ***Paul blinds Elymas the Sorcerer***

Acts 13:6-12

6 And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name *was* Barjesus: 7 Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God. 8 But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith. 9 Then Saul, (who also *is called* Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, 10 And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, *thou* child of the devil, *thou* enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? 11 And now, behold, the hand of the Lord *is* upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand. 12 Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.<sup>72</sup>

***(Remember Paul was blinded for a few days when he received the Lord – so I think the idea here was the power of God unto redemption and not to judgment.)***

### ***The Gift of Prophecy***

*This gift does not predict the future by scriptural definition. It comforts, exhorts, and edifies. It may teach, and we may learn. All spirit-filled believers may have this gift.*

1 Corinthians 14:3

3 But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men *to* edification, and exhortation, and comfort.<sup>73</sup>

1 Corinthians 14:31

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<sup>71</sup>*The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.*

<sup>72</sup>*The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.*

<sup>73</sup>*The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.*

31 For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted. <sup>74</sup>  
1 Corinthians 14:24-25

24 But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or *one* unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all: 25 And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on *his* face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.

***Having the Gift of Prophecy does not make you a Prophet. A Prophet may prophesy, but a Prophet is a calling or an office which entails much more than the Gift of Prophecy. To the casual observer someone giving a prophecy in a congregation and a Prophet speaking out The Word of The Lord may appear exactly the same, yet there is a vast difference.***

***The New Testament Prophet speaks things that affect nations, that affect the church.***

Acts 11:27-30

27 And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch. 28 And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar. 29 Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea: 30 Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

***This literally does tell the future and gave the church remedy for what should be done. This is much more than to comfort, edify, and exhort. Prophets spoke by the Holy Ghost and sent forth Paul and Barnabas, this gives definite direction to lives and is much more than to comfort, edify, and exhort.***

Acts 13:1-3

Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. 3 And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid *their* hands on them, they sent *them* away.

***Evidently many believers sensed through the Spirit that Paul would face danger in Jerusalem***

Acts 20:22-23

22 And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there: 23 Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me. <sup>78</sup>

Acts 21:4

4 And finding disciples, we tarried there seven days: who said to Paul through the Spirit, that he

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<sup>74</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

<sup>75</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

<sup>76</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

<sup>77</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

<sup>78</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

should not go up to Jerusalem.<sup>79</sup>

***These receive (as best I can discern) a “Word of Knowledge” that danger lies ahead for Paul. With that knowledge what is the human thing to do for a loved one? Tell them, “Don’t GO!”***

***Yet the office or calling of Prophet comes on the scene. Agabus tells Paul “WHAT WILL BE” not what to do.***

Acts 21:10-13

10 And as we tarried *there* many days, there came down from Judaea a certain prophet, named Agabus. 11 And when he was come unto us, he took Paul’s girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver *him* into the hands of the Gentiles. 12 And when we heard these things, both we, and they of that place, besought him not to go up to Jerusalem. 13 Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.<sup>80</sup>

***The question remains, Was it the will of God for Paul to go to Jerusalem?***

Acts 23:11

11 And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, **Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.**

***Had Paul listened to the warnings given by the believers he would have been out of the will of God. Yet their advice seems practical - if danger is ahead, don’t go. Paul had already heard from God methinks of what to do, he had an urging to go that is evident. Agabus simply warned Paul of what would happen. Nowhere does Agabus tell Paul what to do. That is GREAT wisdom manifest in the Office of Prophet.***

As so many believers today feel a valid call to “step in” to ministry and allow the Spirit of God to work through them – an understanding of the practical actions of The Gift of Prophecy and The Ministry Gift or "Office" of Prophet is absolutely vital.

**Rather than titles - true ministry gifts or offices present themselves as "facts" in lives as God works.**

Mike Bickle, senior pastor of Metro Christian Fellowship of Kansas City, offers a very helpful model to understand the continuum from simple (ordinary) prophecy to the office of prophet:

- I Simple prophecy
- II prophetic giftedness
- III prophetic ministry
- IV Prophetic Office

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<sup>79</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

<sup>80</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

<sup>81</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

I) **Simple prophecy** - any believer speaking something God has brought to mind.  
1 Corinthians 14:31

31 For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted.

II) **Prophetic giftedness** - believers who receive dreams, visions, impressions and share such revelation without necessarily having sharp clarity in understanding it all. There are potentially a lot of people in this category.  
Acts 20:22-23

22 And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there: 23 Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me. <sup>82</sup>, Acts 21:4

4 And finding disciples, we tarried there seven days: who said to Paul through the Spirit, that he should not go up to Jerusalem. <sup>83</sup> (As we have already seen, it was indeed the will of God for Paul to go to Jerusalem. Most likely, these were sensing the danger, and did the obvious – recommended he not make the trip.)

III) **Prophetic ministry** - believers who have been recognized and commissioned for regular ministry in the local church setting. Revelation is discerned, interpreted and applied. There are much fewer in this position.  
Acts 8:26

26 And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. <sup>84</sup>

IV) **Prophetic Office** - Believers whose ministry is followed by signs and wonders, are judged to speak accurate words from God and whose credibility has been clearly established by their track record. There are very few people in this category.  
Acts 11:28

28 And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar. <sup>85</sup>  
Acts 21:10-14

10 And as we tarried *there* many days, there came down from Judaea a certain prophet, named Agabus. 11 And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver *him* into the hands of the Gentiles. 12 And when we heard these things, both we, and they of that place, besought him not to go up to Jerusalem. 13 Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound

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<sup>82</sup>*The King James Version*, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

<sup>83</sup>*The King James Version*, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

<sup>84</sup>*The King James Version*, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

<sup>85</sup>*The King James Version*, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus. 14 And when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, The will of the Lord be done.

Acts 13:6-12

6 And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name *was* Barjesus: 7 Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God. 8 But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith. 9 Then Saul, (who also *is called* Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, 10 And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, *thou* child of the devil, *thou* enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? 11 And now, behold, the hand of the Lord *is* upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand. 12 Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord. <sup>87</sup>

Other Scriptures regarding Prophets in the New Testament:

Acts 13:1-2

Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. <sup>88</sup>

Acts 15:32

32 And Judas and Silas, being prophets also themselves, exhorted the brethren with many words, and confirmed *them*. <sup>89</sup>

### ***Discerning of Spirits***

*This gift enables the believer to see or sense into the Spiritual things. To discern whether something is of God or the devil. This gift may “see” demons, but it will also “see” angels. And it is not through the senses of sight and feel. Someone with the gift could be blind, and yet sense these things. I could close my eyes and sense these things while that gift is operating.*

### ***The girl with the spirit of divination***

Acts 16:16-18

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<sup>86</sup>*The King James Version*, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

<sup>87</sup>*The King James Version*, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

<sup>88</sup>*The King James Version*, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

<sup>89</sup>*The King James Version*, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

16 And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: 17 The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. 18 And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.<sup>90</sup>

***Peter in prison released by an Angel***

Acts 12:5-11

5 Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him. 6 And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison. 7 And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon *him*, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from *his* hands. 8 And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me. 9 And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision. 10 When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him. 11 And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and *from* all the expectation of the people of the Jews.<sup>91</sup>

***In these instances, spiritual eyes and understanding were opened to see or sense both Angels and demons. Please understand this is not “the gift of suspicion” for many people who claim discernment want to see evil and demons constantly. True discerning of Spirits will also see or sense the work of God as well as the work of the devil. I believe the Word of God teaches some things are directly from God. Some things are directly from the devil. Some things are of my own making. If I stump my toe, it is probably because I tripped over my own big feet, or failed to watch where I was going. It is likely not the devil harassing me. Some time ago a friend of mine, Dorothy and her friend were driving in her friend’s auto to a meeting. Suddenly a tire went flat. The friend began to rebuke the devil for the flat. Dorothy said, “The devil is not the cause. Your tire was worn out! You need to buy a new one!” That is sound advice, good old-fashioned common sense.***

***As much is made of deliverance today – curses – witchcraft – I would like delve a little further. As someone recently sent me pages and pages on Curses and Blessings: Here is a portion of my reply:***

You have certainly done some research here and there is no doubt Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, Gal 3:13. I can only assume you have heard me disparage this kind of thinking and desire to convince me of this “revelation.”

The Iniquity of the Father’s do indeed come down to the 3 & 4 generation under the law, but

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<sup>90</sup>The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

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believers are no longer under the law but under grace: “For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.” Romans 10:4

Even under the law – God changed his requirements for Israel in the Scripture you quote of Ezek 18:2. If you will read down through about verse 24 – you will find – even under the law that God will now award blessing or judgment based upon personal righteousness – now what the Father (s) have done. Just as we see today – children wanted to blame their parents for their own sin and its consequences.

Ezek 18:2, What mean ye, that ye use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying, The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge? <sup>3</sup>As I live, saith the Lord GOD, ye shall not have occasion any more to use this proverb in Israel

...(20) The soul that sinneth, it shall die. **The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.**

Certainly none of us want to “give place to the devil” by conscious – deliberate sin, but to place the burden of being free from “curses” upon you and me places us “under the law.”

My righteousness, your righteousness is as “filthy rags” – so we trust in Jesus to bear the curse for us on the tree. It is a dangerous thing to begin “closing every door” and expecting freedom to be on the basis of personal works – the devil is a legalist and he will always find something more either done or undone.

Galatians 3:10

10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

When a person is Born Again – He has a new Father, God -- -- he has a new bloodline from heaven as an heir and a joint-heir with Christ, he is a new creation OLD THINGS HAVE PASSED AWAY – ALL THINGS have been made new. The “cursed” line stops here. Accept what God has done. (2 Cor 5:17)

Although you and others have gathered scriptures from here and there and put them end-to-end to create this teaching – (I went through all this in the 1970’s) – where did Paul or Peter, Barnabas, Silas, John Mark, Jude, James – break curses -- or teach others to break curses when people exhibited mental and emotional problems? (Or blame and break such curses for chronic sickness, barrenness, marriage problems, over people with financial reverses, over accident prone people, or suicidal individuals?)

Nowhere in the New Covenant am I aware of any teaching such as this popular idea of Curses – Spiritual Witchcraft (Christian’s praying “wrong” prayers, or speaking “wrong” words – and thus cursing others), etc.

Experience has been that most people want to blame someone else for their troubles – and so

these teachings are very convenient. These curses give room for the consequences of my mistakes to be blamed on my Father(s) or some vague individual working witchcraft against me.

Either the blood of Jesus is effective – or it isn't. The Galatians church was influenced by those who wanted Jesus – plus the righteousness that comes from living the law. Paul states – living under and by the law puts us back under the curses – and we must obey the whole law – we can't pick and choose which ones are convenient. The choice is live under the law and deal with curses – or live under grace where Jesus bore the curse. I can't have it both ways. The Gospel is: Jesus plus nothing!

Today most believers are not dealing with curses – more with consequences of their actions in daily living to which the Word teaches – put on and act in the Character of Christ – put off the old man – put on the new man and new nature.

My Father-in-law is always taking “the effectual working of His power” (Eph 3:7) adding a dash of *Don Quixote* and turning it into a verse in his imaginary book of Hezekiah 4:37, “The proof is in the pudding!” Miguel de Cervantes may have been the author in this case – but his statement is true. The Gospel is effective – it works, it changes lives.

The final test, as Cervantes said, is to “eat the pudding.” Break the curses – speak the Word to counter the damage wrought by the curse – and let's see the results.

In Scripture, when real demons were cast out the results were immediate and definite and observable. There should be immediate reversals in finances, health, in emotional and mental stability, etc.

I'll be interested to know if you have better results than my attempts all through the 1970's with those who pioneered these teachings in that day.

***In my early days, I often dealt with teens & college age individuals who had dabbled in the occult and many who were addicted to drugs – both prescribed and illegal. I read every book on the subject of deliverance (having once been in the occult myself).***

***I tried all the methods – talking with the demons – casting them out one-by-one – etc., just short of the gyrations in THE EXORCIST I'm sure. If as we mentioned earlier, Cervantes is correct, “The proof of the pudding is in the eating,” – I was producing very poor results and exhausting myself and other participants in the process.***

***Looking into scripture – as with Curses – I couldn't find examples of all the regiments of having to know the names of demons, speaking with demons, etc., Jesus and his disciples simply cast them out – the disciples, “In the name of Jesus, Come Out!” Experience has shown they knew what they were doing. My best results have been in following the examples set by the disciples (and not that set by myriad books on the subject of Demons and Deliverance littering the shelves of our Christian Bookstores).***

***Certainly some individuals' long involvement in the occult and certain other forms of extreme sin***

*can bring demonic possession and the devil try to hold his ground in those lives. Powerful as Satan may be – he is a created being now subject to the Name of Jesus and the Power of the Gospel and the sacrificial blood of the Savior!*

*Habits set by years of living according to the carnal nature have proved to be much more difficult to deal with. An individual's choices – his will to tread down well worn paths of wrong – rather than to make the hard choice of bending his behavior to the Word of God – therein lays the problem. The devil has proved rather easier to deal with than my flesh. – And I'm sure you agree.*

### *Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues*

*We have already discussed Tongues and Interpretation. I will say that Interpretation is just that, it is not a literal translation in experience. I was in a meeting, a convention in Dallas, Texas of the FGBMFI at the Statler-Hilton Hotel with several thousand in the audience. A woman gave a message in tongues. Someone gave the interpretation. A man went running to the stage to say, "That person gave the interpretation, but that is my language and my dialect. Let me give you the LITERAL TRANSLATION."*

*I don't speak Spanish. I can order certain things at dinner, but that's about it. I do know some of the Bible in Spanish when I hear it. Over the years I have worked with many interpreters (in natural speaking -- not the gift of tongues here). I have people who "Interpret" what I say. They give the idea or thought in different words. But, I have a woman I work with, her name is Dolores. She translates my message word for word.*

*The Gift of Interpretation of Tongues is just that – it is not a literal word by word translation.*

*In Summary let me give you some pointers I have learned by being with some of the top ministries in our nation who move in Gifts of the Spirit.*

*"If you can't leave someone better than you found them, leave them alone." - Aquilla Wilkins Nash*

*"God gives the Gift. It's up to you to learn wisdom in ministering the gift." - Aquilla Wilkins Nash*

*Aquilla tells a story of the first time she laid hands on the sick. It was in a little church in Oklahoma City. In a revival, night after night, she had seen miracles and the power of the Holy Spirit manifested. She had received the Baptism with the Holy Spirit. One night in a quiet time in the service the spirit of the Lord spoke to her, "Go lay hands on that woman in a wheelchair and pray for her healing." Aquilla thought, "Why me? No. God would use the pastor or the evangelist." The next night the same still small voice spoke to go and pray for this ailing woman. Again Aquilla thought of reasons as to not go. The third night. The same thing. Only now, as Aquilla began to argue with that still small voice the evangelist broke the silence with a Word of the Lord, "Yea, thus saith God. I have spoken to you once! I have spoken to you twice! NOW OBEY ME says God!" With great fear and trembling, Aquilla*

*made her way to the woman in the wheelchair. She laid her hands on the woman's head and said, "Be healed in the Name of Jesus." Nothing happened. Again, "Be healed in Jesus' Name!" Still nothing happened. The third time, "In the NAME OF JESUS, BE HEALED!" Again, nothing. Embarrassed, Aquilla noticed an "Exit" and went through it. She would never have gone back except her purse with the keys to her automobile were in the building. So she waited outside until everyone but the Pastor and the Evangelist left. She snuck back in and with great stealth picked up her purse and headed out the door never to return .... "Aquilla" called the pastor. "OH NO!" she thought. But rather than a reprimand, the pastor had great wisdom. He told her of God's desire to use her and of certain of the gifts which would flow in her life regularly, then he said, "Aquilla's job is to obey God and you did that tonight. Whether or not the woman is healed is between that woman and God. It's not your responsibility. Your job is to obey God whether it makes Aquilla look good or whether it makes Aquilla look bad."*

*That is a great lesson.*

*Another great lady of God, friends who have a web-site [www.bible.com](http://www.bible.com), Betty Miller told me once, "If God gets the glory for the successes, he also gets the responsibility for your failures."*

*Last year driving to a packed and overflowing 4000 seat church in Cape Town, S. Africa, so packed we were having difficulty getting through the mass of automobiles to get near the building, Dr. Jerry B. Walker said to me, "Mark I don't want to burst your bubble, but these people did not come to see Jerry B., nor did they come to hear you make beautiful music, they came to see Jesus."*

*Aquilla taught me to be honest with the people. "If you don't know something, tell them you don't know. If you "feel" something but are not sure, tell them just that way."*

*Sitting in the ministry of the late Kathryn Kuhlman, I learned dignity. To present the ministry of Jesus through the Holy Spirit in a way that will lift up and magnify Jesus. The Holy Spirit will magnify and glorify Jesus. Flesh will draw attention to the individual.*

*Finally, remember the purpose of this power, literally the greatest power on earth, the power of the Holy Spirit is not for a spiritual thrill, although it is thrilling. The purpose is for service, to be a witness, a powerful witness. More than 30 years of preaching the Gospel, and I still thrill with excitement at seeing the healing power of God, the slaying power of the Holy Spirit, a Word of Knowledge, and the miraculous. No one loves to experience the power of God more than I, but it is not for the thrill. This power is for SERVICE.*