



The

HOLY SPIRIT

THE PROMISE, POWER & PRESENCE OF GOD

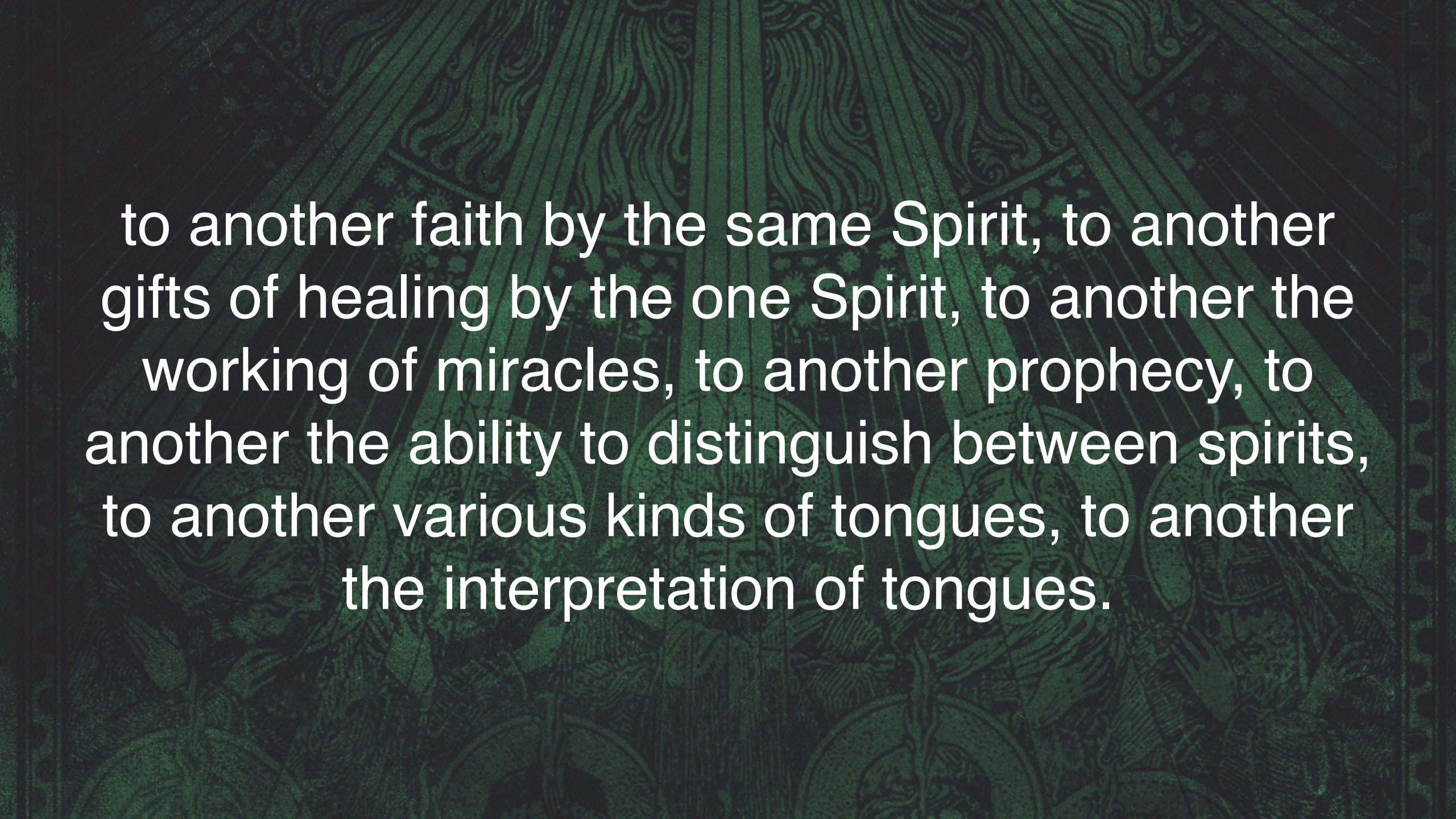


**QUESTIONS FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT
TEACHING SERIES?**

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Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit,



to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.



All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as He wills.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11



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WHAT ARE SPIRITUAL GIFTS, AND WHY DOES GOD GIVE THEM?

“A spiritual gift is an ability supernaturally given to an individual by the Holy Spirit so that the recipient may utilize that ability to minister beyond his normal human capacity.”

-Thomas R. Edgar

God gives a diversity of spiritual gifts by the Holy Spirit to all who follow Jesus. These gifts are to be stewarded for His glory and “for the common good.” God distributes these gifts as He wills, and not everyone gets the same gifts. (1 Cor. 12)

WHEN DOES GOD GIVE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

From RBC's doctrinal statement:

The Spirit regenerates.

We believe that the Holy Spirit regenerates people and **at the moment of conversion**, seals, baptizes, and indwells all believing sinners. We believe that He sovereignly gives to all believers spiritual gifts for service. (1 Corinthians 6:19; Ephesians 1:13; Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 4:10)

WHEN DOES GOD GIVE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

Believers already have “every spiritual blessing” in Christ, are “complete in Him” and His divine power has already given us “all things that pertain to life and godliness.” (Ephesians 1:3, Colossians 2:9-10, 2 Peter 1:3)

Spiritual gifts are not so much secret abilities to be gained or discovered, but ministry assignments to be stewarded.

WHAT EXACTLY ARE THE GIFTS?

EDIFYING **(SERVICE)** **GIFTS**

Romans 12:6-8

Prophecy, Service, Teaching, Exhortation, Giving, Leading, Mercy

1 Corinthians 12

Wisdom, Knowledge, Faith, Healing, Miracles, Prophecy, Distinguishing Between Spirits, Various Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues, Helping, Administrating, Apostle, Prophet, Teacher

Ephesians 4:11

Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Shepherds, Teachers

1 Peter 4:10-11

Speaking, Serving

SIGN **(MIRACULOUS)** **GIFTS**

PRIMARY VIEWS ON SIGN GIFTS

Cessationist View

No miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit today; purposed by God only for a season as the early church was being established and the canon of Scripture completed.

(1 Corinthians 13:8-12, 2 Corinthians 12:12, Hebrews 1:1-2, 2:3-4)

PRIMARY VIEWS ON SIGN GIFTS

Continuationist View

All the New Testament sign gifts are for today; Christians should seek baptism/second filling in the Holy Spirit to experience additional empowerment in the Christian life; normative for believers to speak in tongues.

(1 Corinthians 14:39, John 14:12, Acts 2:17-18, Ephesians 4:11-16)

A THIRD VIEW ON SIGN GIFTS

“Open But Cautious” View

Not fully persuaded by either position. “Continuationist with a seatbelt” and several caveats. (1 Thess. 5:21, 1 John 4:1)

“They are open to the possibility of miraculous gifts today, but they are concerned about the possibility of abuses that they have seen in groups that practice these gifts. ...They see many modern examples as not conforming to scriptural guidelines; some also are concerned that it often leads to divisiveness and negative results in churches today. They think churches should emphasize evangelism, Bible study, and faithful obedience as keys to personal and church growth, rather than miraculous gifts.” - Wayne Grudem

SOME THINGS THAT ARE CLEAR, WHATEVER YOUR VIEW OF SIGN GIFTS

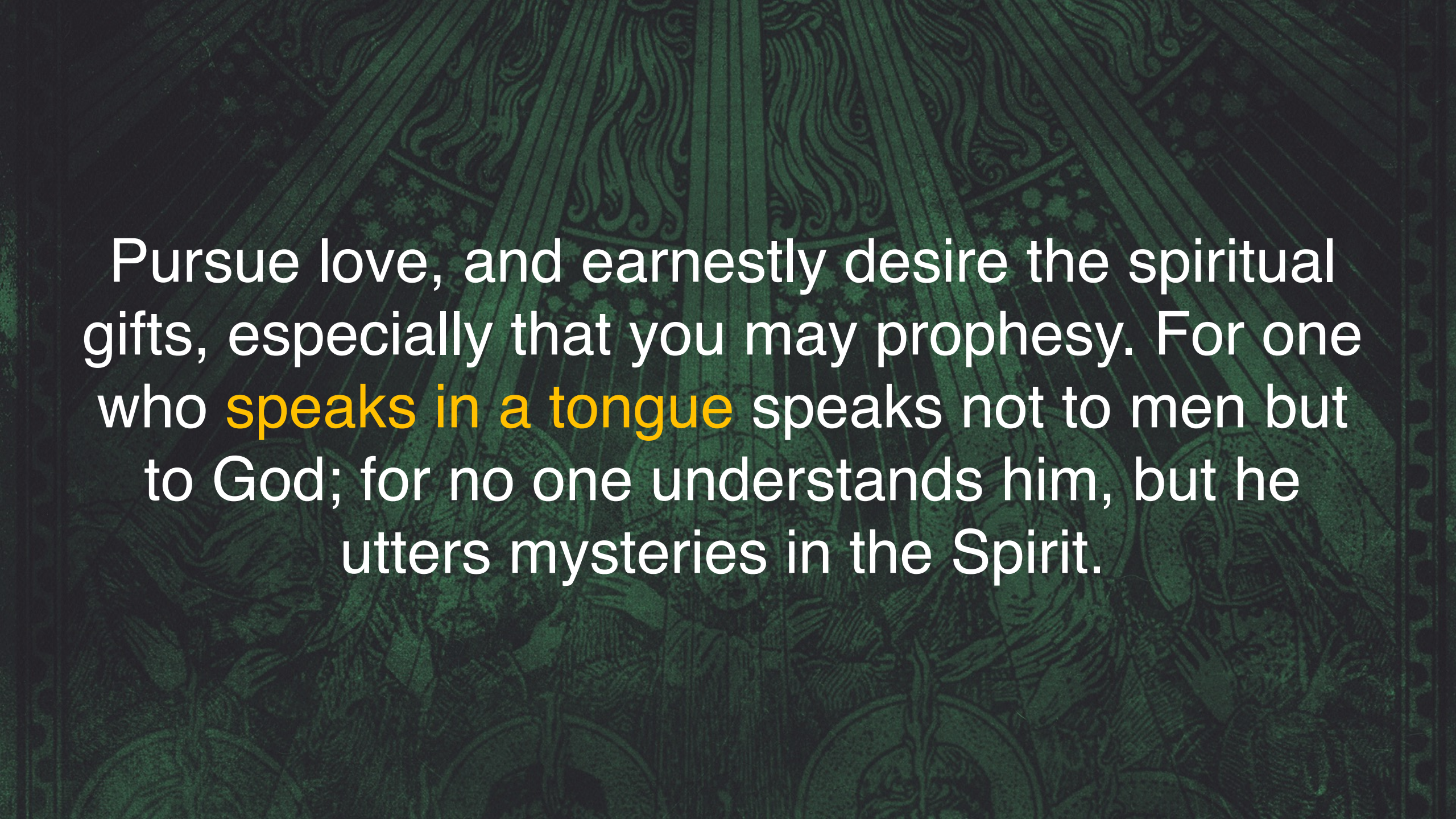
- The Holy Spirit is free to **dispense or withhold** miraculous gifts according to His good will and pleasure.
- The Holy Spirit **never** undermines or departs from the Scriptures.
- Signs/miracles are **pointers**, not the **point**.
- No miraculous sign is of godly origin if it does not point **clearly and directly** to the person and work of Jesus Christ in the ways that Scripture prescribes.

CONSIDERATIONS & COMPLICATIONS

- Bible does not define “spiritual gifts,” delineate “sign gifts” or give a standard list
- Most of the gifts themselves are only mentioned by name and not defined
- Lens of our own influences & experiences

CONSIDERATIONS & COMPLICATIONS

- Misinterpretation, misunderstanding historically lead to misuse, abuse, division
- Sign/miraculous gifts in particular can be counterfeited (Matthew 24:24, 2 Thess. 2:9)
- We can elevate the gifts above the Giver (Matt. 12:38-29, Mark 8:11-12, Luke 11:16, 29, John 4:48, 1 Cor. 1:22-23)



Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. For one who **speaks in a tongue** speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit.

On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation. The one who **speaks in a tongue** builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. Now I want you all to **speak in tongues**, but even more to prophesy.

The one who prophesies is greater than the one who **speaks in tongues**, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.

Now, brothers, if I come to you **speaking in tongues**, how will I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching?

1 Corinthians 14:1-5

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to **speak in other tongues** as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:1-4

Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because **each one was hearing them speak in his own language**. And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us **in his own native language**?”

Acts 2:5-8



There are doubtless many different **languages**
in the world, and none is without meaning...

1 Corinthians 14:10

The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself... (1 Cor. 14:4)

So with yourselves, if with your tongue you utter speech that is not intelligible, how will anyone know what is said? For you will be speaking into the air. (1 Cor. 14:9)

My brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. But all things should be done decently and in order. (1 Cor. 14:39-40)

Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret. (v. 13)

If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret. But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God. (v. 27-28)

SPEAKING IN TONGUES

ACCORDING 1 CORINTHIANS 14:

- **Heart languages**, not “heavenly languages” (v.10,21,Acts 2)
- Without interpretation/explanation, **benefit is limited** to building up the **individual** before God (v.2,4,6,9,11)
- Must be **interpreted** if the **whole church** is to learn and be built up (v.5,13,26,27)
- No interpretation = no benefit to **believers**, confusing & alienating to **outsiders** (v.2, 9,11,16,17,23, 28)
- **Encouraged**, but should stay **within bounds** of decency & order (v.5,18,19,26,27,39,40)

NEW TESTAMENT PROPHET/PROPHECY ACCORDING 1 CORINTHIANS 14:

- “**Speaks** to people for their **upbuilding** and **encouragement** and **consolation**” (v.3)
- “**Builds up** the church” (v.4-5) *Greek: oikodomeō - promote growth in Christian wisdom, affection, grace, holiness*
- Brings **conviction** and **accountability** resulting in the worship of God & recognition of His presence in the church (v.24-25)
- Speaks “so that all may **learn** and all be **encouraged**” (v.31)
- Held **accountable** by other prophets (v.32)
- Tethered to the **Word of God** (v.37)



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1 CORINTHIANS 14 – “Tongues”

→ PRESCRIPTIVE

CONSIDERATIONS & COMPLICATIONS

“SPEAKING IN TONGUES”

ACTS 2 - “Tongues”

DESCRIPTIVE

1 CORINTHIANS 14 – “Tongues”

PRESCRIPTIVE



CONSIDERATIONS & COMPLICATIONS

“SPEAKING IN TONGUES”

MODERN PENTECOSTAL/CHARISMATIC
EXAMPLES OR EXPERIENCE – “Tongues”

SUBJECTIVE

ACTS 2 - “Tongues”

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