

Chapters 53 - Gifts of the Holy Spirit (Specific Gifts) (Second Discussion)

1. Introduction.
 - A. We are in Chapter 53 - Gifts of the Holy Spirit - Specific Gifts.
 - B. This is a continuation of our last discussion, in March. Focus by Grudem is on gifts that are not understood as well.
 - C. This week we will look at the gifts of healing, tongues and interpretation, words of wisdom and words of knowledge, and distinguishing between spirits and spiritual warfare.

2. Healing.
 - A. Questions.
 - (1). **Where did sickness come from?**
 - a. Physical sickness came as a result of the fall. The eventuality of sickness is that it leads to and ends with physical death.
 - (2). **Does God ever make people sick?**
 - a. **Numbers 12** - Miriam and Aaron speak against Moses and her skin has a form of leprosy, it is white as snow.
 - b. **2 Kings 5** - Gehazi gets greedy with Naaman, the commander of Aram's army. After Naaman is healed from leprosy, Gehazi tries to get some money and garments. He receives Naaman's leprosy.
 - c. **2 Chronicles 26** - Uzziah wants to burn incense in the temple and rages at the priests when they say no. Leprosy breaks out on his forehead - **verse 20 When Azariah the chief priest and all the other priests looked at him, they saw that he had leprosy on his forehead, so they hurried him out. Indeed, he himself was eager to leave, because the LORD had afflicted him.**
 - d. **Deuteronomy 28:21-22** **The LORD will plague you with diseases until he has destroyed you from the land you are entering to possess. ²² The LORD will strike you with wasting disease, with fever and inflammation, with scorching heat and drought, with blight and mildew, which will plague you until you perish.** These are part of the blessings and curses given to the Israelites before Moses dies.
 - (3). **Does Satan ever make people sick?**
 - a. **John 10:10** **The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.**
 - b. Can you think of any scriptural reference to Satan that involved him in doing any good?

- [1]. **Genesis 3** - serpent used of Satan - looking for man's downfall into sin.
 - [2]. **1 Chronicles 21:1** - Satan against Israel, incites David to take a census.
 - [3]. **Job 2:7** He afflicts Job with boils.
 - [4]. Jesus casts out demons who are afflicting people.
- (4). **Do people ever make other people sick?**
- a. Situations like the marathon bombing in Boston.
 - b. Germ-carrying children or adults.
 - c. Chemical weapons.
 - d. We do it to ourselves - overeat, take drugs and other things, or try to hurt ourselves.
- (5). **Does our environment make us sick?**
- a. We can fall off cliffs; have avalanches come down on us.
 - b. There are nasty creatures, spiders, snakes, insects, and mosquitoes. There are creatures that would like to eat us: alligators, lions, sharks, etc.
 - c. There is poison ivy; cactus and rose bushes can hurt if you grab them.
 - d. We have all sorts of germs, bacteria, and viruses.
 - e. **Where do depression and mental illness fall?**
- (6). Spectrum of sickness and health is between Satan trying to afflict and destroy us in any way possible to **Revelation 21:4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.**
- B. Back to Grudem - healing is considered a foretaste of the future or a down payment. It starts with Jesus: **Isaiah 53:4-5 Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.** This verse is used in two different contexts.
- (1). **1 Peter 2:24** this is used for our salvation - spiritual healing.
 - (2). **Matthew 8:16-17** is used for our physical healing.
 - (3). So healing extends from our redemption in Christ. Healing shows that God's kingdom has come: **Matthew 12:27 But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.**
 - (4). **Luke 9:1-2 When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, ² and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.**
- C. **What is the difference between taking medicine and healing?**
- (1). Example is given of Asa who refuses to seek God for healing but sought help from physicians (**2 Chronicles 16:12-13**).

- (2). This was a reflection of his earlier depending on the king of Aram to help him against Israel instead of relying on God as he had done in the past (**2 Chronicles 16:7**).
 - (3). Example, my endocrinology appointment - they are trying to produce healing, but if I don't want the medicine. **They could give insulin, but what if I currently don't take the medicine they give me?**
 - D. What is the common method for healing in the New Testament? It is the laying on of hands - **Luke 4:40 At sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them.**
 - E. **What part does faith play in healing?**
 - (1). It could be the faith of the person coming or the faith of those bringing the sick person. Jesus spoke to a number of those in the Gospels - your faith has made you well, or let it be according to your faith.
 - F. **Why don't people get healed?**
 - (1). It could be the lack of belief.
 - (2). It could be because of God's purpose in our sanctification. How many have ever asked God to remove a sin, but they still have to struggle with it? **Where is our healing in the spectrum from our salvation to glorification? When is healing a part of revealing the kingdom of God to those who do not believe?**
 - (3). Reference to Paul's thorn in the flesh (page 1068) **2 Corinthians 12** - I would say that Paul did get an answer; he didn't just assume that God's answer was no. Are we willing to pursue the answer to the point God can answer "No?"
 - G. **So which person has the gift of healing that you know about?** It is interesting that sometimes we bend over backwards to make sure that not everyone speaks in tongues, but we don't ask if anyone has the gift of healing.
 - H. This is also where Grudem says our first assumption should be to pray as if God is pleased to heal a person, because that is God's revealed will. Some differences in practice: Peter in **Acts 9:34 Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and take care of your mat. Acts 9:40** Peter got down on his knees and prayed first.
 - I. Grudem says: if we pray out of compassion, "God will sometimes and perhaps often - grant answers to our prayers" (page 1066). **So does God seldom heal today or does God often heal today?** Grudem: "We can tell people that God frequently heals today (**if we believe that is true**)."
Do we get answers to prayer or do we just ask God for things?
3. Tongues and Interpretation.
- A. Questions.
 - (1). **What is the purpose of language?** It is how we communicate between people. We might say it is similar to how a number of other creatures communicate to some level also.

- (2). **Does God understand our languages?** Yes, he was the one who created all of them. We see that God has communicated to a number of people not only in Scripture but throughout the centuries.
 - (3). We know that God understands our thoughts - we don't limit God to only understanding those who speak King James English.
 - (4). Because of mankind's attempt to rebel against God using one language, we read about the disruption of language back in **Genesis 11:9 That is why it was called Babel--because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.**
 - (5). **Revelation 7:9** says that there will be a great multitude from every tribe, nation, people and language. **Verse 10** says: **And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."** We expect that we will understand language together. Like we had a spectrum of healing, we now see a spectrum of language, from confusion and Babel to being able to speak and understand together in the new Jerusalem and for eternity.
 - (6). So at this time, we see language is used to communicate with each other and also to communicate with God.
- B. Now into the redemptive timeline of language, we can look at tongues and interpretation.
- (1). Grudem speaks of tongues/languages as unique to the New Covenant age - page 1069.
- C. Grudem's definition: "Speaking in tongues is prayer or praise spoken in syllables not understood by the speaker" (page 1070).
- D. **What are the two different types of tongues?**
- (1). There is a use of tongues and interpretation in a church setting - communicating between God and the local body. It requires interpretation because the purpose is to edify the body. (Edify is to instruct or improve someone.)
 - a. **1 Corinthians 14:27-28 If anyone speaks in a tongue, two--or at the most three--should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. ²⁸ If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and to God.**
 - b. Why is this direction given? Purpose of meeting is to glorify God together and build of the body. If one comes in who cannot understand, he will think that the group is out of their mind (**1 Cor. 14:23**). That is why Paul emphasizes prophecy in that situation, so that the unbeliever can understand.
 - c. **What should someone do if they speak in tongues in the church?** They should expect to interpret.
 - (2). Second use is that speaking in tongues is that which is used in a private setting in a form of prayer to God. **1 Corinthians 14:4 says**

that he who speaks in a tongue, edifies himself. 1 Corinthians 14:15 Paul says he will pray and sing with both his spirit and his mind. **Does this imply everyone should speak in tongues?**

- a. Back to our previous discussion of communication with languages, I would consider these verses: **1 Corinthians 2:10-13** these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. ¹¹ For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. ¹³ This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. God, by his Spirit, enables us to communicate with him
- b. We communicate with God with whatever we have been given. We all have the Holy Spirit inside of us; we all seek to communicate with God some framework of language.
- c. We can ask God as with any other gift of the Spirit. Grudem points out that "it would not be surprising if the Holy Spirit gave a very widespread distribution of this gift" (page 1077).
- d. We remember that **1 Corinthians 13:8** **But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.** One day there will be no need for multiple languages.

E. Other Questions.

- (1). **Is speaking in tongues always done in known languages? Why would it have to be? If at the Tower of Babel, God can initiate what will become 6,500 to 7,300 spoken languages, what is one more?**
- (2). **Do people who speak in tongues control their speaking?** Grudem speaks of being ecstatic - for those who think they lose control when they speak in tongues. Paul gives instructions for the church to have two or three speak and then to have someone interpret (**1 Cor. 14:27**).
- (3). **Is there a concern for a demonic counterpart?** No, Paul does not address that as a problem. They had enough other problems to discuss. Do we know of speaking in tongues in other religions? Yes.
- (4). **Is having the Holy Spirit interceding in Romans 8:26-27 the same as speaking in tongues?** This would have to go back to the answer of everyone not necessarily speaking in tongues. The Holy Spirit is doing something with us as we pray to God.

4. Word of Wisdom and Word of Knowledge.
 - A. **1 Cor. 12:8 To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit,**
 - B. These two gifts are not mentioned anywhere else in Scripture, page 1080.
 - C. There are two perspectives:
 - (1). These two gifts involve either some special revelation from God or they are ordinary things. Wisdom is being able to speak a wise word in different situations and knowledge is able to speak with knowledge about a situation. Both are acquired through life's experiences.
 - a. Example of wisdom was Solomon's resolving the situation about two women stating that each was the mother of the child (**1 Kings 3:25**).
 - (2). Grudem's thought: In the list of gifts in **1 Corinthians 12:8-10** the rest of the gifts are considered miraculous, but that doesn't require the Word of wisdom and Word of knowledge to be miraculous. What charismatic circles call word of wisdom and word of knowledge are really prophecy? Grudem's earlier definition of prophecy was: "telling something that God has spontaneously brought to mind" (page 1050). Given the broad definition, one could easily agree with what he describes as words of wisdom and words of understanding. It becomes more of a semantics issue to argue against this definition.

5. Distinguishing Between Spirits and Spiritual Warfare.
 - A. Distinguishing between spirits is only mentioned once but it ties to a number of other similar passages about spiritual warfare between Christians and demonic spirits (page 1082).
 - B. Grudem's definition - Distinguishing between spirits is a special ability to recognize the influence of the Holy Spirit or of demonic spirits in a person.
 - (1). We see an immediate contrast at Jesus' baptism and the Holy Spirit coming on him, then leading him into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil (**Matt. 4:1**).
 - (2). We see this in Jesus' ministry when he casts out demons and addresses them directly. Example: Jesus casts out a deaf and mute spirit out of a boy in **Mark 9**. What is interesting is that the boy's father recognizes that a spirit possesses his son, but that he and his son are helpless.
 - (3). Peter speaks to Cornelius and the other Gentiles in **Acts 10:38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.**

- (4). Jesus even sees the influence of Satan with Peter in Matthew 16 after Peter says that Jesus will not suffer, be killed and raised to life - **Matthew 16:21** Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."
 - (5). Satan enters into Judas at the last supper prior to his betrayal of Jesus.
 - B. Grudem says that this gift is probably also stronger than that which was possessed by those in the Old Testament. Job shows the example of Satan was roaming around the earth. **1 Peter 5:8** speaks of him being like a roaring lion on the prowl, seeking whom he could devour.
 - (1). **How does Grudem describe demonic activity in the Old Testament?** It is seen mostly in the attacks against Israel by other pagan nations. It is also seen by attacks against Israel to worship other gods. Balaam advises Moab and the Midianites to seduce Israel by sexual immorality leading to the worship of the Baal of Peor (**Numbers 25:1-3**). We also see this with Solomon in **1 Kings 11:3-4** where **He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray. ⁴ As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been.**
 - C. Example in **Acts 16:16-18** A slave girl had a spirit by which she predicted the future. What did Paul do? In verse 18, Paul says to the spirit, **in the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her.**
 - D. We can see the presence of demonic influence in people's lives by the destruction around them and also the destructive influence in the church. An example of this in the church is in **Revelation 2:18-29** to the church in Thyatira - the woman Jezebel who called herself a prophet and led people astray in sexual immorality and eating food sacrificed to idols.
 - E. Are we able to distinguish spirits?
 - F. Although spiritual warfare was discussed more extensively in chapter 20 on Satan and demons, do we engage in spiritual warfare to see people set free from Satan?
 - G. Do we see this gift on distinguishing spirits active in the church? Do we see this gift more active in other locations, example third world countries?
6. Conclusion - **do we see all of the gifts of the Holy Spirit used in the church? Do we also see that combinations of these gifts might be used in specific instances?**