

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. In Biblical times the Holy Spirit sometimes empowered people with supernatural abilities

- a. Those empowered could do things that looked supernatural (and defied a natural explanation)
- b. The Holy Spirit could empower directly from heaven (Acts 2:1-4; 10:44-47) or through the hands of the apostles (Acts 8:13-19; 19:6; 2 Tim. 1:6)

2. These “signs” and “wonders” were originally given as divine credentials for evangelism

- a. To accompany the preaching of the gospel in unevangelized territories (Mark 16:15-20)
 - 1) Casting out demons
 - 2) Picking up poisonous snakes
 - 3) Drinking deadly poisons
 - 4) Healing the sick
 - 5) Speaking in tongues
- b. To draw a crowd and then confirm the message spoken from God
 - 1) The way Jesus used his miracles (Acts 2:22)
 - 2) The way Peter and John healed a lame man (Acts 3:6-12)
- c. Supernatural gifts like speaking in tongues were “signs for unbelievers” (1 Cor. 14:22)

3. Modern-day “charismatic gifts” are not an exact match with New Testament supernatural gifts

- a. The modern phenomenon is typically used for corporate worship and personal devotion rather than evangelism
- b. The modern phenomenon does not impress observers as being a miraculous activity that defies natural explanation
- c. Experiences of “religious enthusiasm” are not necessarily bad things, but they do not belong in corporate worship if they do not edify others (1 Cor. 14:1-5, 13-15, 27-28)

4. Christians today should give priority to the “greater gifts” of the Spirit

- a. Moral qualities such as faith, hope, and love (1 Cor. 12:31; 13:1-3, 13)
- b. Ministry gifts that build up others (Rom. 12:6-8; 1 Cor. 14:12, 26; 1 Pet. 4:10-11)