



Empowering People to Change the World

Power & Gifts of the Holy Spirit:

The Gifts of Power: Faith, Healings, and Miracles

Josh Floyd

The Gifts of Power: Faith, Healings, and Miracles (1 Corinthians 12:9-10)

I. *The Church Was Meant to Be Empowered*

- Jesus gave the Great Commission, commanding His disciples to go into all the world and make disciples of all nations. However, before they were to carry out that mission, He gave another instruction:

“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city until you are endued with power from on high.” (Luke 24:49)

And again, referring to this Promise of the Father:

“...He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; 5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” ... 8 ...you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:4-5, 8)

Jesus never intended for His disciples to complete the great commission through human strength alone. He knew it would require divine empowerment through the Holy Spirit and His gifts.

- Spiritual gifts are not ornaments on the lives of a few special people. They are the God-given equipment that enables the Church to accomplish her mission. The Greek word for gifts is *charismata*, which comes from the root word *charis*, meaning grace. Grace is God’s unmerited favor and enabling power to do what was previously impossible in our lives – overcome sin and Satan.
- Today, I will be speaking on the Gifts of Power – faith, the gifts of healings, and the working of miracles. As I do, I believe that signs and wonders confirm the preaching of the Word. When Peter preached the gospel to the first group of Gentiles in the house of Cornelius, the Holy Spirit fell while he was still speaking. These Gentiles had not been led in a prayer or an altar call; the preaching about the forgiveness of sin for those who believe in the name of Jesus increased their faith and spiritual hunger to the degree that they were saved and clothed in power all at once and all at the same time (**Acts 10:43**). I want to increase your faith and expectation for God to do something similar today.
 - a) **Revelation 19:11** says that the testimony of Christ is the Spirit of Prophecy. What that means to me is that any testimony you hear about what Christ has done for someone, you can expect Him to do something similar for you. After all, **Romans 2:11** says that He is not a respecter of persons.

- b) I have seen God heal hundreds (maybe thousands) of people this way. While someone is preaching on healing, people are given faith for healing and receive it before anyone prays, and often without realizing until they are asked to check their body for pain and problems. I expect God to do the same thing today. As I give biblical instruction about these spiritual gifts, I expect the Holy Spirit to begin distributing them across this room in response to your faith and spiritual hunger. I would encourage you to begin monitoring your body now in anticipation of what God wants to do. If at any point while I'm preaching, you feel the presence of God on your body, I want you to raise a hand so that I can bless you.
- I think that another reason this happens is because angels partner with the Word of God (Psalm 103:20; Hebrews 1:14). And so, Lord, I receive and activate your angelic ministry in this room right now.

II. Power Demonstrated by Christ and His Church

***“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.”
(John 14:12)***

- A. Jesus demonstrated what it looks like to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit and expected believers (not just apostles) to do the same. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus healed the sick and cast out demons, and these gifts of power served as signs confirming His identity as the Messiah. When John the Baptist questioned whether Jesus was truly the One, Jesus pointed to the evidence of power at work: the blind received sight, the lame walked, the deaf heard, and the dead were raised (**Luke 7:18–23; Isaiah 35:5–6**). Beyond healing, Jesus also worked miracles that demonstrated God's power over nature and death, such as calming storms (**Mark 4:35–41**), walking on water (**Matthew 14:22–33**), multiplying food (**Matthew 14:13–21; Matthew 15:32–39**), and raising the dead (**Mark 5:35–43; Luke 7:11–17; John 11:38–44**). Jesus lived and ministered in the power of the Holy Spirit so that His disciples would understand how to continue His mission after His ascension (**John 14:12; Mark 16:17-18**).
- B. After Pentecost, this same pattern of power became evident in the life of the Church. As believers began to live in this new life of the Spirit, miraculous works of power became a regular part of their experience. Awe came upon the people, and many wonders and signs were performed among them (**Acts 2:43**).
- C. In Acts 3, Peter healed the lame man at the temple gate (**Acts 3:1–10**). Through revelation (possibly a word of knowledge), Peter's faith was quickened so that he knew God intended to heal the man in that moment. The gift of faith brought a

strong conviction of what God wanted to do. In Acts 4, the believers prayed for boldness and asked God to stretch out His hand to heal and perform signs and wonders (**Acts 4:29–30**). God answered by filling them again with the Holy Spirit and empowering them to speak the word with boldness (**Acts 4:31**).

- D. This power was not limited to the apostles. Stephen, who was full of grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people (**Acts 6:8**). Philip carried out an evangelistic ministry in Samaria marked by healings and deliverance (**Acts 8:5–8**). As believers were scattered through persecution, they continued preaching the word, and the hand of the Lord was with them (**Acts 8:1–4; Acts 11:19–21**).
- E. Paul’s ministry followed the same pattern. He described his work as being accomplished not merely through words, but through the power of signs and wonders and by the power of the Spirit of God.

“For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power.” (1 Corinthians 4:20)

“For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God.” (Romans 15:18–19)

Paul wanted to be clear that preaching the gospel without demonstrations of power was incomplete. This power was not from him, but from the energetic power of the Holy Spirit working within him. Signs and wonders were the continual affirmation of Paul’s preaching.

“For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.” (Colossians 1:29)

III. The Gifts of Power – Faith, Healing, Miracles

In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul lists what are commonly referred to as **The Power Gifts: the gift of faith, the gifts of healings, and the working of miracles. Casting out of demons, which Jesus said would accompany those who believe in Him, can also be categorized with these gifts (Mark 16:17). These gifts demonstrate God’s power over disease, demons, death, and every destructive force.**

IV. The Gift of Faith (πίστις – pistis)

- A. The gift of faith is distinct from saving faith. Saving faith is the trust by which we come to Christ. The gift of faith is a situational Spirit-given confidence that God

intends to act in a specific moment. It is less about trying to believe something and more about suddenly knowing without a shadow of a doubt what God wants to do. In contrast to the normal faith that feels like a risk (John Wimber), the gift of faith doesn't feel risky. It feels like being arrested by God's belief, where you know that you know He is about to do something

- B. When Jesus cursed the fig tree, and it immediately withered, He used the moment to teach His disciples that faith without doubt can move mountains. **(also Matthew 21:18–22)**

“So Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Have faith in God. 23 For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. 24 Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.”
(Mark 11:20–24)

- C. Jesus' language in Mark 11 suggests this kind of faith originates with God Himself. *“Have faith in God,”* literally translates to, “have the faith of God.” Or “Have God's faith”. This mountain-moving faith is also referenced by Paul in the next chapter, *“faith, so that I could remove mountains”* (**1 Corinthians 13:2**).
- D. Often this gift of faith is connected to a word of knowledge. God reveals something about the present moment, and certainty follows. Faith, in this sense, is received rather than produced. (Word of knowledge testimonies)

V. *The Gifts of Healings* (χαρίσματα ἰαμάτων – *charismata iamatōn*)

- A. “Gifts of healings,” plural, reminds us that healing restoration takes many forms. Scripture does not limit healing to physical recovery alone. It includes emotional, relational, and spiritual wholeness as well. Wherever something broken is made whole, the kingdom of God is being expressed.
- B. The gift of healing is the result of the life that Jesus came to give (**John 10:10; Romans 8:11**) and an express promise of the work of the cross (**1 Peter 2:24**).
- C. Throughout scripture, we see a frequent pairing of the forgiveness of sin and the healing of disease (Psalm 103). The forgiveness of sin is represented in communion by the spilled blood of Christ, while the healing of brokenness is represented by His broken body. When Jesus heals the paralytic lowered through the roof, He does it as a confirming sign of the forgiveness of His sin.

“For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise and walk’? 6 But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to

forgive sins”—then He said to the paralytic, “Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” 7 And he arose and departed to his house.” (Matthew 9:5-7)

D. Healing is a sign of what the gospel accomplishes. It shows what the Kingdom of God looks like. When Jesus sent out the disciples, He told them to preach the kingdom and heal the sick (**Luke 9:1-6**). The message and the demonstration of the Kingdom of God are inseparable.

VI. The Working of Miracles (ἐνεργήματα δυνάμεων – *energemata dynamēōn*)

- A. The New Testament word often translated as miracle is *dunamis*, which means power or a mighty deed. It's where we get the word dynamite from. The phrase Paul uses for the working of miracles is *energemata dynamēōn*, meaning “workings of powers.” These words describe God’s power actively at work. *Energes* is often translated “working” or “at work,” but refers to power that is at work through someone.
- B. While healing restores what is damaged, miracles often go *beyond* restoration. They describe moments when God intervenes in ways that suspend natural laws. In the healing ministry, “creative miracles” often refer to a healing that required a missing part to be restored or an existing part to vanish.
- C. Other miracles include the multiplication of food, teleportation from one place to another, water turning into wine, great catches of fish, etc.
- D. My friend Miguel prayed for a young man for 45 minutes who had a metal plate and 8-9 screws holding his collar bone together. The man came back the next day to testify because he could not find the screws or metal plate when he woke up the next day, and now had no pain and full mobility.
- E. I was leading a miracle service in Pueblo while in college. The drummer came in on crutches and was in visible pain while hobbling to the drumset the day after he blew out his knee in a football game. After worship, he got up and walked off the stage. I called out to him and pointed to his crutches, at which point he realized he had been sovereignly healed during worship.
- F. In this church, we often see people healed during worship before anyone prays for them. A woman came to me after the first service about a year ago. She had woken up that morning with extreme back pain and swelling in her hands. She was going to go to the hospital, but felt a nudge from the Lord to attend the first service. She said that during worship, I invited the room to raise their hands. As she did, all the pain left her body as waves of love washed over her. She said this while showing me how she could take her rings off and put them on.

VII. *Living a life of Miracles*

- A. The book of Acts shows that these gifts of power were not limited to the Twelve apostles. Believers like Stephen, Philip, and Ananias – ordinary members of the community – also ministered with power. Signs follow believers, not leaders or super Christians. We need all of you to operate in the gifts. For a great harvest of souls to happen, we need the entire body to preach the gospel and perform miracles. What we sometimes call revival may simply resemble what used to be ordinary Christian life.
- B. Some principles to living a life of miracles:
- Be continually filled with the Holy Spirit and abide in Jesus. Stay spiritually hungry for more.
 - Have God's heart for the lost. The primary purpose of the power gifts is to confirm the Gospel. They work better outside the church than inside.
 - Faith grows by taking risks ("Faith is spelled R-I-S-K" – John Wimber) and through radical obedience to God's subtle promptings.
 - Discover your authority and identity in Christ, removing mental obstacles (like unworthiness).
 - Learn from others who have developed these gifts and seek out testimonies to stir your faith.

VIII. *Invite Holy Spirit*

- A. I want everyone who needs healing to stand. Before we pray, check to see if God has already performed a miracle. Wave both hands over your head if you are 80% or more healed. Give glory to God! Please come to the stage after worship during ministry time to have your testimony recorded by one of our team members.
- B. Now you can all be seated. I am going to now ask the Holy Spirit to come with a fresh baptism of power and love and to activate the gifts in your life. As I do, you may experience various manifestations of His power and love. You may begin to laugh. You may begin to weep. You may feel an extreme weightiness on your body that makes it hard to move. You may feel extreme heat or fire. You may feel electricity. You may begin to shake or tremble uncontrollably. As these things happen to you, I want you to stand so that I can bless what the Father is doing and ask Him to do more. The early Church Fathers described this as the "sober intoxication"[1] of the Spirit.

Pray

C. Those who are standing and experiencing the power of God, please come to the front now so that we can bless what God is doing.

Worship

[1] (The manifestation of the Holy Spirit is an overwhelming experience of God's power and love, likened to a "sober intoxication." This concept, supported by scripture (Acts 2:13) and Church Fathers, describes a spiritual "drunkenness" that brings new understanding and exuberant joy. The prophecy of "new wine" in Amos 9:13 symbolizes this abundance of divine life poured out by the Messiah, fulfilled at Pentecost.)