

Preface: Introduction to Miracles

We have been discussing the general topic of “walking by the spirit” when I have had the privilege of teaching on these Sunday morning meetings. We have been reading God’s Word to learn about the manifestations of God’s gift of holy spirit. This morning, before we start in on the Introduction to Miracles, there is something I thought it would be beneficial to get into the record and into the teaching notes for the website.

The only place in the Word of God where is a listing of the manifestations of the spirit is in I Corinthians 12:8 – 10. This listing makes the point that each of the manifestations has its own unique profit. This listing does not tell us what the manifestations are by definition. It does not even tell us in this passage what the profit to each manifestation is: just that each one has a profit all its own. The definitions of the manifestations and the profit to each can be seen by reading and working through many other scripture passages where those manifestations may be mentioned or exhibited.

For most people, the initial manifestation that they are aware of and/or utilize in their lives is speaking in tongues. The use of this manifestation is primarily for the private life of the believer. There are many scriptures that can be read to show the benefits (profit) of this manifestation to the individual believer. There are no restrictions placed by the Word of God on when this manifestation can be utilized since we can always speak silently to ourselves. The only stipulation made by the Word of God is that when a believer publicly speaks in tongues in a gathering of people, it must be accompanied by the manifestation of interpretation of tongues in order that there can be benefit and profit to all that are gathered.

For the manifestation of interpretation of tongues and prophecy, the written Word lays out specifically when and how these manifestations are to be used most beneficially. This can be found most particularly in I Corinthians 14. While this has not been a passage that we have addressed on these Sunday mornings, this chapter does spell out the particulars on the use of these manifestations and the profit that comes from their proper utilization.

There is no such passage detailing the use of the revelation manifestations (word of knowledge, word of wisdom and discerning of spirits). We are aware from I Corinthians 12:8 – 10 that each of these three has its own unique and specific profit. But there is no section of scripture that tells us how to utilize them because the giving of revelation, the giving of information and instructions, is God's prerogative. There is nothing that a believer can do to make God give them revelation.

As a believer walks and lives for God, there may be certain circumstances and situations where God gives you additional information about that situation that you could not have known by your five senses. This information and instruction will be specific to that situation. This information will get you to the root causes of the situation or give you information that you simply could not have known.

If there are instructions to carry out, this can bring you to the next grouping of manifestations, the impartation or power manifestations. These are the manifestation of believing, working of miracles and gifts of healing. These manifestations will bring about God's solution to that specific situation. It is worth noting that the power manifestations are subsequent to the revelation manifestations. In other words, in the

absence of revelation, there will not be the manifestation of believing, working of miracles or gifts of healing.

As we look again at the listing of the nine manifestations of the spirit in I Corinthians 12:8 – 10, we see that each manifestation has its own profit. With speaking in tongues that profit, among other things, edifies us as individual believers. With interpretation of tongues and prophecy, a believer can begin to edify others in the church, bringing profit to them. As we walk and live for God, the informational manifestations get us to the root causes of specific situations and the impartation manifestations allow us to use that information to bring deliverance to God's people.