
Encounter(ing) God

Holy Spirit

Part 11

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Review

Remember — the Holy Spirit is our Advantage in life. He gifts and empowers us in ways unavailable to unbelievers. What an Advantage!

- **John 16:7**

Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you;

Today — **Spiritual Strengthening Gifts** — Mercy, Healings, Exhortation, Prophecy

MERCY

HEALINGS

EXHORTATION

PROPHECY

Mercy

We are to be merciful with cheerfulness

- **Romans 12:8**

...he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness...

- **mercy** — compassion, heartfelt sorrow for people's brokenness.

Important — we are to be merciful with cheerfulness.

Application — *don't bemoan their situation with them, give them comfort and hope!*

You might have the gift of Mercy if ...

1. you hurt when people are hurt, displaced, or rejected, and want to reach out to them in their suffering, even after others have avoided them or quit on them
 2. you can frequently see how to comfort people and meet their needs
 3. you can readily gain the confidence of those in need
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Healings

- **1 Corinthians 12:9**

... to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit...

**The early church knew God was a healing God,
and they asked for it!**

- **Acts 4:29-30**

“Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.”

Yes — God is a healing, miracle-working God! At their time, He had been 1500 yrs.

- **Exodus 15: 26 — 1,500 BC**

... For I am the Lord who heals you.

- **Psalms 103:2-3 — 1,000 BC**

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases...

- **Isaiah 53:4-5 — 600 BC**

Surely, He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.

- **Matthew 8:14-17**

Now when Jesus had come into Peter's house, He saw his wife's mother lying sick with a fever. So, He touched her hand, and the fever left her. And she arose and served them. When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: “HE HIMSELF TOOK OUR INFIRMITIES AND BORE OUR SICKNESSES.”

- **Hebrews 13:8**

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Three quick things about healing...

a) **Compassion**

Matthew 14:14

And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.

b) **Your Faith**

Matthew 9:28-29

And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, “**Do you believe that I am able to do this?**” They said to Him, “Yes, Lord.” Then He touched their eyes, saying, “According to your faith let it be to you.”

c) **Others' Faith**

Matthew 9:2

Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “**Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.**”

You might have the gift of healing if ...

1. You are naturally drawn to those who are sick either in body, mind, spirit.
2. Sometimes God works through your prayers to bring physical, spiritual, or emotional healing to others.
3. Often you can sense whether a person's problems are physical, spiritual, or emotional in origin.
4. You are aware of God's presence and try to follow His guidance for how to pray in each situation where healing is needed.

Exhortation

- **Romans 12:8**
...he who exhorts, in exhortation...

**Majority of our problems don't come from not *knowing* —
they come from not *doing*.
We need exhortation.**

Application — *exhorted to abound more and more, warn those in church living unruly life, comfort fainthearted, uphold the weak, patient with all, pray for kings and all in authority, thanks for all, contend for faith... and all the more as Christ's return gets nearer.*

Warning — Exhorting doesn't mean condemning/condescending. *It's encouraging!*
You can, we can, we must, come on!

You might have gift of exhortation if...

1. Your belly burns to see people and the church alive and awake.
2. You speak up and people are motivated to storm hell with a water pistol.

Prophecy

Speaking divinely inspired words... foretelling the future, revealing mysteries, and proclaiming gospel truth in such a way that people's hearts encounter the True and Living God.

Genuine prophecy and prophets (*false and self-appointed are out there*)

- **Ephesians 4:11-12**
And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.
 - **Romans 12:6, 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28** and chapter 14
- The **gifts**, including **prophets** and **prophecy** are to **equip** and **edify**, build up the body of Christ, **it's not for self-promotion and arrogance.**

1. **Prophecy is to be greatly desired by every believer...**

- **1 Corinthians 14: 1,5,39**
Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy... I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification... Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy...

**The reason prophecy is to be desired earnestly
is because of what the gift accomplishes in people's lives.**

2. Prophecy foretells future events...

...for wise preparation

- **Act 11:27-30**

And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar. Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. This they also did and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

- Do you see the value of that in today's world? Getting prophetic words from God about future events so we can prepare wisely.

Response — let's ask God to speak to us about future events so we can discern the times, know what to do, and impact the world for Jesus Christ!

3. Prophecy reveals our callings...

- **Act 13:1-3**

Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.

- intimacy with the Holy Spirit and prophecy go hand in hand, as they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, a prophetic word came.
- Barnabas and Saul were separated from the rest, to do what God had called them to do.

- **1 Timothy 1:18**

This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare.

4. Prophecy exhorts, strengthens, teaches and preaches...

- **Act 15:32, 35**

Now Judas and Silas, themselves being prophets also, exhorted and strengthened the brethren with many words. Paul and Barnabas also remained in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.

- prophecy **exhorts** — fires people up, we need that
- prophecy **strengthens** — affirms, emboldens, solidifies
- prophecy **teaches** — we need that, mentioned side by side in **1 Corinthians 12:28**
- prophecy is **preaching** — preaching the truths of scripture with that prophetic edge to them, not just the Word *of* God, a **Now-Word from** God

5. Prophecy gives personal warnings... ...for spiritual preparation...

- **Act 21: 9-11**

Now this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied. And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. When he had come to us, he took Paul's belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'"

- "Paul, be personally warned, more arrest and imprisonments are coming."

**We would do well to heed personal warnings from reputable prophets
who have our best interest in mind – who care for us.**

6. Prophecy builds, fires, and lifts up...

- **1 Corinthians 14:3**

But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.

a) **edifies** – builds you up in your faith, doesn't tear you down, guilt you, shame you, or belittle you.

b) **exhorts** – fires you up, stirs you to know, love, seek and serve God, brings "I'm going for it, I can do this through Christ." It doesn't condemn you for lack of being fired up, or lack of spiritual disciplines.

c) **comforts** – consolation and comfort with a great degree of tenderness, to draw near and speak comfort.

It's been said that all genuine prophecy falls under these three guidelines.

7. Prophecy in church services...

- **1 Corinthians 14:24-25**

But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all. And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you.

- **convinces** – undergoes conviction of lifestyle without condemnation
- **convicts** – scrutinized, investigated by the word of God
- **converts** – falls down, worships God, testifies God is among us

Imagine a church... speaking divinely inspired words that foretell future events, reveal callings in ministry, strengthen, teach, warn, build up, fire up, lift up, convince, convict and convert — all within the guidelines of God's will, ways, and word. No wonder the scripture honors the gift of prophecy so much and encourages us to strongly desire it.

Discussion Questions

1. Why are we to be merciful with cheerfulness?
2. Have you ever attributed someone's not being healed to your lack of faith? What is the fallacy in that belief?
3. Discuss: "A majority of our problems don't come from not knowing, they come from not doing. We need exhortation."
4. Define "prophecy" in biblical terms.
5. What are the *purposes* of the gift of prophecy?
6. Which of these gifts, Mercy, Healings, Exhortation, and Prophecy, do you have? Which do you desire to have?

NOTES