

# 20250831 - POWER GIFTS - HEALING, WORDS OF KNOWLEDGE, WORDS OF WISDOM

## Introduction

- Welcome to the spiritual gifts series, focusing on building a common understanding of spiritual gifts and house rules at Liberty Family Church.
- Today's focus: Three power gifts—healing, words of knowledge, and words of wisdom.
- Biblical reference: 1 Corinthians 12:8-9

### 1 Corinthians 12:8-9 - NRSV

<sup>8</sup> To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,

- **The Need for Healing: Understanding Brokenness**
  - *Why do we need healing today?* We live in a broken world filled with failed dreams, sickness, disease, war, regret, injustice, and suffering expressed physically, emotionally, mentally, sexually, spiritually, relationally, and financially.
  - All connected to relational breakdown. Self, others and ultimately God.
  - The Spirit expresses it through Paul like this:

### Romans 8:18-23 - NRSV

<sup>18</sup> I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup> for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup> and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

- **Root cause:** The Fall in the Garden of Eden (Genesis), where Adam and Eve were shown the way to live in peace with God and were warned of the consequences of disobedience, but we chose rebellion, we chose brokenness anyway. Sin, death, sickness, brokenness and suffering were introduced into creation.
- **Consequential factors:**
  - *Sin is the foundational cause* of brokenness.
  - *Demonic influences* as we see in Job, Jude, Daniel; and demonic suffering and sickness in The Gospels.
  - *Personal sinful choices* that impact ourselves and others (not done in isolation). Not all suffering is due to personal sin; some results from living in a fallen world. Culture says we're fundamentally good, but we learn bad things - as Christians who hold to

the Word of God, we fundamentally reject that. [Psalms 51:5](#) - NRSV <sup>5</sup> Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

- **Human response:** Crying out to God, "Why don't you do something? How can you allow this?" God's response is: I warned you that there are consequences to your choice and He continues to warn us that there are consequences to our choices. If God appeared to the entire human race to remove our free will, we would rebel against him. We value freedom and choice - rightly so - as part of being made in His image.
  - Every day we continue to choose to sin and many of our choices bring darkness, pain and suffering and then we turn around and blame God, but we're doing it.
- **God's Response to Brokenness: The Message of the Good News**
  - God didn't abandon humanity in our sin, but through Jesus' birth, life, teaching/ministry, gifts, death, and resurrection; sin, death, and the demonic are overcome, reversing the eternal consequences. He didn't have to, but His love for us compelled Him. He wants to make all things right - and ultimately all of creation will be healed! Amen!
  - [Isaiah 53:4-5](#) - <sup>4</sup> Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.
  - Covers all aspects of brokenness.
  - Upon meeting God through Jesus: Immediate healing - Relationally. Restoration from death to life moment.
  - Complete and guaranteed healing: In the resurrection and new creation
  - [1 Corinthians 15:42](#) - <sup>42</sup> So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. > [Revelation 21:4](#) - <sup>4</sup> he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."
- **Healing in the Present: Sovereign and Situational**
  - QUESTION: While we wait for the resurrection, does God heal now, or do we just suck it up and endure until resurrection? No!
  - In some cases God heals - and we give Him great glory and praise - in other cases He doesn't heal and our suffering, if allowed to have it's full effect, our joy and spiritual growth can explode and grow the most.
  - In the midst of this we have what is called the spiritual gift of healing.
  - **FIRST:** Confusion and pain around healing:
    - Fake healings in media (e.g., staged events).
    - Some are jaded/skeptical - believe in healing, but really don't expect to see healing today. Even when God heals.
    - The other side are those who say, "God always heals and will heal right now if you just have enough faith." You'll always get healing, it's a promise given to every Christian, by His stripes you are healed.
    - I know many people with tons of faith, but have not been healed. And those promising always healing are wearing glasses - we see the problem, right?

- Extremes: Conservative prayers minimizing expectation (e.g., "if it is perhaps Your will, maybe, you could possibly sometime heal, we don't want to put any pressure on You, Lord. We don't really expect it, Your will be done, Amen.); Our pentecostal friends over-emphasis on faith, if you fast enough and pray enough, blaming lack of faith for non-healing. BOTH ARE WRONG. They do much damage.
- **It's not never. It's not always. It's sovereignly sometimes.**
- Jesus' example:
  - Healed everyone in some cases (Matthew, Mark), but only one in others (John 5).
  - Key: [John 5:18-19](#) - <sup>18</sup> Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise. <sup>19</sup> The Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing; ... always aligned with the Father's will (John 5:19—does only what He sees the Father doing).
    - **All the gifts are properly expressed when pre-aligned to God's will.** Through prayer and sometimes fasting. The Christian life that is continually drawing near to God to see and hear Him will, like Jesus, align the gifts with His will and His work.
    - **In healing, faith makes us whole, but the faith to heal comes by hearing, hearing by drawing near (spiritual gifts) to God to see what He is doing.**
    - Often in conjunction with other gifts: Faith, words of knowledge, but the point is it's not always yes, it's not always no, but God must be sought out and asked.
- **Biblical Example: The Story of Lazarus (John 11)**

**John 11:1 - NRSV**

<sup>1</sup> Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.

**John 11:3 - NRSV**

<sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill."

Mary and Martha expect Jesus to drop everything and rush to Lazarus. He's healing strangers, surely He will come to heal His friend - one that he loves.

**John 11:4-6 - NRSV**

<sup>4</sup> But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." <sup>5</sup> Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup> after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

**John 11:14-15 - NRSV**

<sup>14</sup> Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup> For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

Jesus does not rush.

## John 11:39 - NRSV

<sup>39</sup> Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days."

## John 11:41-45 - NRSV

<sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." <sup>43</sup> When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." <sup>45</sup> Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

- **Pattern:** Jesus thanks the Father (pre-discussed), calls only Lazarus out of the tomb, God gets glory and Jesus is believed in - as the resurrection and the life! Healing in this life is a foretaste of the eternal healing in the life to come.
- **Our willingness to listen matters! For all the gifts.**
- Being SENT to heal speaks of God's sovereign will. If He heals, praise and glory and faith in Him, if not, we ask Him to complete the work of the brokenness and suffering in our lives to bring Him glory and bring holiness and unnatural Christlikeness in us.
- **Types of Healing Ministry in the Church**
  - **Office-Based Healing (Elders—James 5:14-16)**
    - [James 5:14-16](#) - <sup>14</sup> Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup> The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup> Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.
      - Authority tied to eldership role, given by command (disappears when eldership ends).
      - **Sick person calls elders** for prayer and anointing with oil (symbol of Holy Spirit).
      - Sometimes our sickness is connected to our personal decisions around sin - this says take a moment to consider this and acknowledge it if it is the case. Few people ever call the elders. The sick person has to call them.
      - **Practical application:** Normalized post-service prayers.
  - **Gift-Based Healing (1 Corinthians 12)**
    - **Definitions:** Special ability given to some members of the Body of Christ to serve on behalf of God, as He wills, to cure illness/restore health apart from natural means OR The divine enablement for restoring people to wholeness.
    - Experiences if you have the gift:
    - Deep desire to alleviate physical problems; willingness to be used by God.
      - Sense God's power for healing (discernment radar).
      - Strong trust in God's desire to heal; willingness to take risks.

- Not about show/drama; always in Jesus' name for salvation or restoration.
- Physical sensations: Electricity, heat in hands; power leaving (e.g., Jesus in Mark 5—woman touches His clothes, power leaves Him).
- **Role of faith:** Informed trust! Mentioned in conjunction with the sick person, the healer, or sovereignly from God (e.g., "power of the Lord was present for healing"). Faith comes by hearing that God will be bringing healing.
- Use doctors/medication if God doesn't direct otherwise; both are ways God helps.
- **Words of Knowledge**
  - Bobby Clinton wrote that the use of the Greek word *logos* before both wisdom and knowledge suggests that these gifts are situational communications given by the Holy Spirit for the moment. Thus, we're not just talking about people who are knowledgeable about the Bible or God, but we're talking about a word that comes from God as wisdom or knowledge for a specific situation.
  - Functions like prophecy but one-on-one; situational, prompted by Holy Spirit, not on 24/7 and not a switch we can turn on and off. Sovereignly given by God.
  - **Words of Knowledge Definition:** God-given information about someone which is inaccessible to you by any natural means. The information humbles/helps/heals without humiliating/hurting.
  - Examples from Jon Thompson experience:
    - Young man asked for prayer. Jon says no. He insists. Jon says, "If I pray you're going to be undone." He says, "yeah ok." Jon said: You're having an affair, the Lord rebukes you for doing it, go home and repent and see if your marriage can be saved. The man fell on the ground, it humbled him and amazing did lead to repentance and marriage restoration.
    - Youth retreats: Praying over lists, started receiving words (e.g., "suicide" for a student), confirmed when student seeks prayer.
  - Evidences: Sensitivity to Holy Spirit; recognition of God-sourced thoughts; releases God's activity; settles questions or reveals unseen issues (e.g., sickness details before healing).
- **Words of Wisdom**
  - **Definition:** God-given situational message that's accurate and applicable, providing insight/next steps on spiritual journey; practical instructions (e.g., "go here," "read this").
  - Wisdom as applied knowledge; supernatural, situational, like Jesus speaking directly.
  - Example: Lynzi in meetings with Stef and Paul and myself.
  - Evidences: Similar to words of knowledge—Holy Spirit prompting; provides unforeseen way forward; may appear as headlines, verses, or inner voice. Pictures of visions. When linked to healing you may see or feel pain.
- **Parting thoughts:**
  - The spiritual gift of healing is God using someone to heal someone physically or emotionally.

- Words of knowledge and words of wisdom are God-given information or specific calls to action that you would not know about; there's no other way you knew about these things.
- This leads to God's working in someone's life or his lordship growing or where they're supposed to do, Humbling healing helping not humiliating.
- The words are spontaneous situational specific - need to be authenticated just like prophecy needs to be tested.
- **Posture of humility and love is essential.**
  - Language and body language is important.
  - Prayer approach: Baptist-style for "no" (Your will be done); Pentecostal-style for "yes" (In Jesus' name, be healed).
  - With words: "I'm not sure, could you help me know if it is from the Lord." It brings the intensity down and makes it normal.
  - Questions to ask: Why this information? Am I to pray/command/consult/act?

### **Communion:**

We are going to provide space to pray.

There are consequences to your choice and He continues to warn us that there are consequences to our choices.

- Summary: Healing restores wholeness; words of knowledge/wisdom provide God-sourced info or action calls for humbling/healing/helping.
- Invitation: Stand and come forward if you think/want these gifts (healing, knowledge, wisdom) or others from series; repent for mis-teaching; seek healing from past pain; accept God's will.
- Personal story: Hospital room with dying friend—received "no" from God; humbling, encourages wrestling with sovereignty.
- Closing prayer: Holy Spirit clarify gifts, reorient theology, heal past wounds, unleash wave of healing in church. Amen.