

# First Corinthians

June 8, 2025

Chapter 12

## The Matters of the Spiritual Part 2

“Manifest Grace of the Holy Spirit”

Chapter 12:9b-

### 8. The Holy Spirit's Healing (12:9b)

Paul adds the manifestation of the Holy Spirit's healing to the list. Verse 9b.

<sup>9b</sup> *and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,*

The term “*healing*” does not refer solely to *physical recovery*; rather, it encompasses *mental, emotional, and spiritual restoration*.

This refers to the supernatural ability to provide mental and spiritual healing. Paul uses the term “*gift*” here, and rightly so. However, it also conveys the same meaning as mentioned above: the *gift of grace*. Through the Holy Spirit's healing, gracefully facilitated by the saint the Holy Spirit is using, individuals are healed from various forms of mental, emotional, and spiritual illnesses. I wish I could say that professional counselors possess this gift, but they operate from a reservoir of research data that has been collected and taught, as utilizing that data has often proven successful. Yet, this is not the kind of *healing gift* described here.

Let me share an example of a time when I witnessed the gift of healing from the Holy Spirit in someone's life, as a saint walked through the door. Many years ago, the wife of a devoted member of the Church passed away in the early morning hours. All the members of this family had very limited thinking abilities. They were quite unaware of how to handle matters outside their narrow scope of work. Quite frankly, I was always amazed at how they managed to survive financially on their meager income; yet they did, and they never asked for help in any way. Additionally, I had seen them in other stressful situations where their behavior was manic beyond anyone's ability to control. On the morning of the death, my secretary informed me about the wife's passing. I walked to Rex Forsyth's office and shared the news with him. I mentioned that I was heading to the house where the death occurred. Rex asked if he could join me, and I was glad he came when I witnessed what happened next. At the house, Rex was ahead of me. I was surprised when he didn't knock on the door. He opened the glass screen door, turned the main door handle, and we walked right in. We could hear the frantic wails coming from the next room. As he turned right into the den, some of the family members sat at the kitchen table while others paced the floor. The funeral director had just left with the body. I was right there with Rex, but the family's attention was entirely focused on him, not me.

The most gracious, soothing, and comforting words I had ever heard came from Him. A calm settled over the family, permeating the entire house. Rex began asking me questions to answer in front of them. He knew the answers well but wanted them to hear the responses from me. It worked. Within a few minutes, we were all sitting at the table making plans. After about an hour, we found ourselves praying and then singing. The family experienced the entire funeral week with a sense of calm and comfort, thanks to the manifestation of the Holy Spirit's healing through Rex Forsyth's words. Many months later, the family shared that when they saw Rex enter the room,

they immediately felt as if the LORD's angel had arrived. His presence brought the peace of the LORD to that family.

This manifestation of the Holy Spirit remains vibrant in the lives of the saints whom the Holy Spirit has chosen to employ.

#### 9. The Holy Spirit's Power (12:10a)

Paul speaks of the manifestation of the Holy Spirit's power. Verse 10a.

<sup>10a</sup> *and to another the effecting of miracles,*

The Greek word for "*miracles*" is "*dunamis*," which translates to power, might, strength, and the ability to accomplish tasks. Many believe that "*miracles*" refer to performing extraordinary or superhuman feats, but that is not the case. Instead, it signifies the capacity to achieve things that others may struggle to accomplish. This manifestation of working ability is bestowed upon individuals to recognize and experience God's authority and presence among His people.

Paul's letter to the Philippians serves as a perfect example of the manifestation of "miracles" in this verse. In Philippians 4:13, Paul states, "*I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.*" At the time he spoke these words, Paul was imprisoned in Rome. Although he had needs, he found contentment even without them being met (Philippians 4:11). He experienced hunger in prison and was without money. Nevertheless, he found the strength and capability to overcome all his challenges by placing his trust in the LORD for everything. Indeed, Paul affirmed, "*I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.*" This illustrates the powerful influence of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life, empowering them to rise above all needs and serve others. This manifestation highlights the Holy Spirit's ability to help people navigate life's challenges with strength, energy, and purpose, offering hope to those struggling with overwhelming circumstances.

This manifestation of the Holy Spirit remains active in the lives of saints selected by the Holy Spirit.

#### 10. The Holy Spirit's Prophecy (12:10b)

Paul speaks of the manifestation of the Holy Spirit's prophecy. Verse 10b.

<sup>10b</sup> *and to another prophecy,*

Here, prophecy involves sharing the messages and stories recorded in the Word of God. It is about preaching, not predicting the future or revealing any new facts or details not found in the Bible. It focuses on communicating God's will, encouraging, comforting, or admonishing the Church (1 Corinthians 14:3). The emphasis is on edification, exhortation, and consolation. It serves as a means for God to speak directly to His people through His Spirit, often offering insight into His plans or giving guidance. Paul refers to this same type of prophecy in Romans 12:3-8, where he tells the saints of Rome that the Church comprises many parts with distinct gifts, allocated to the Church according to the "grace given to us." Each "gift of grace" is administered to the saints based on the measure of faith. He then lists seven different gifts given to the Church: prophecy, service, teaching, exhortation, generosity, leadership, diligence, and mercy. Three of these pertain to speaking: prophecy, teaching, and exhortation, each serving a different purpose. We see that teaching aligns with the work of discipleship found in the Great Commission when Jesus instructed, "teaching them to follow all that I have commanded you." This role is recognized in the gifts of the Lord to the Church as one of its offices in Ephesians 4:11-12: "*And He gave some as apostles, some as prophets, some as evangelists, some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for*

*the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ....*” From 1 Thessalonians 4:10-12, we understand that Paul employs the term “exhorting” in a parental context, guiding the lives of others to *“walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.”* However, the manifestation of the prophecy of the Holy Spirit is part of our list in 1 Corinthians 12, and like the other manifestations, it is not an action the saint performs intentionally; it is a work the Holy Spirit accomplishes through the saint.

What, then, is this “*prophecy*” expressed through the work of the Holy Spirit? Let me illustrate with an example.

For the first 22 years of my life, I had never been in a church where salvations were the norm rather than the exception each Sunday. Yes, we had a few additions to the church as saints from other towns moved in and started attending, but that, too, was uncommon. Even though I sat under romping, stomping, Bible-thumping, hellfire-and-brimstone preachers, salvations and additions were infrequent. In 1977, when I was on staff, my church in Dallas invited Dr. Darrell Robinson and Jakey Shirley to lead a week of revival services. Dr. Darrell was the pastor, and Jakey was his music minister at First Baptist Church in Pasadena, Texas. Jakey’s music leaned more traditional for my taste. I was the Minister of Music then and preferred the Gaither style of music that was gaining popularity at the time.

I will never forget my amazement when I heard Dr. Darrell preach for the first time. He spoke softly and was rather dry, making the entire week feel unexciting and bland. Nothing thrilling emerged from his preaching. When it became clear that he was concluding his message, I thought, “Well, he didn’t get that ball over home plate.” But, oh! Was I wrong? When he extended the invitation to come to the altar and accept Jesus, the aisle and altar filled with people reaching out to Him for the first time. Each night, new individuals arrived to accept Jesus, brought by those who had accepted Him the night before. As I recall, we added about 100 new believers to the Church that week, and almost all remained faithful through the years. You see, it wasn’t Dr. Darrell’s prophecy (or preaching) that brought the people to the LORD; it was the prophecy of the Holy Spirit, who spoke into their lives as they listened to Dr. Darrell’s message. By the end of the week, I realized that Dr. Darrell was a saint, used by the Holy Spirit to invite others to come to a saving faith in Jesus. In reality, as I look back, the content of Dr. Darrell’s message had little to do with the new salvations each night. Instead, his invitation to accept the LORD in the last few minutes of each message contained the words of the Holy Spirit speaking directly to the hearts of the lost people present. It was a manifestation of the Holy Spirit working through Dr. Darrell. This same revelation took root in my theology when I arrived at the Church where I served for 30 years with Dr. John Morgan. In 1990, I witnessed the same manifestation of the Holy Spirit in his life, as I recorded in my first encounter with it in chapter 2, verses 3-4 of this commentary. Regardless of what Dr. John spoke about in a sermon, the Holy Spirit resonated with the people’s hearts, leading them to salvation. During those 30 years, it was unusual not to witness a salvation every Sunday; it was normal to see many salvations each week.

This manifestation of the Holy Spirit remains vibrant in the lives of the saints whom the Holy Spirit has chosen to employ.