



**The Way, The Truth, and The Life Christian Center, Inc.**  
**SERMON NOTES**

**“THE GIFTS OF GOD”**

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 1 CORINTHIANS 12: 1-7, 13**

**January 22, 2025**

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### **Summary**

The sermon focused on the Gifts of God through the Holy Spirit. The scripture references for the session included 1 Corinthians 12: 1-7, 13. Apostle Ulysses Tuff emphasized the importance of understanding and properly using these gifts, which include gifts of utterance (prophecy, tongues, interpretation), gifts of power (faith, miracles, healing), and gifts of revelation (word of wisdom, word of knowledge, discerning of spirits). He warned against misuse and syncretism, stressing that these gifts should glorify Jesus Christ. The session included a review of previous teachings and a call for faithful practice and support for the church's mission.

### **Addressing Concerns About The Spiritual Gifts**

- Apostle Tuff reviewed the concerns of the Corinthian believers regarding spiritual gifts and Paul's desire to provide them with proper understanding (1 Corinthians 12:1).
- He provided examples of people's misuse of spiritual gifts and actions that are not grounded in Scripture.
- He stressed the importance of having a proper understanding of the Holy Spirit and the gifts to avoid deception and syncretism, which is the blending of beliefs. (1 Corinthians 12: 2)
- Apostle Tuff warned that Satan comes "as an angel of light" (2 Corinthians 11:14) and that many people will not be able to discern that these are not from God. Apostle Tuff emphasized the need for believers to be very careful and discerning, as there are many manifestations and practices happening that are not truly from the Holy Spirit, but rather from deceptive spirits.

- Apostle Tuff highlighted the need for believers to be well-informed, watchful, and careful not to be carried off by the emotional high of a moment so that we can properly discern the use of spiritual gifts. He warned that without proper knowledge and discernment, people can be easily misled and deceived, even within church settings.
- Apostle Tuff emphasized the importance of studying the Word of God and being sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit to avoid being caught up in false manifestations and practices.

### **The Role of the Holy Spirit in the Church**

- Apostle Tuff emphasized the crucial role of the Holy Spirit in distributing the various gifts within the church. He pointed to 1 Corinthians 12:4-6, where Paul speaks of "diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit" and "differences of administrations, but the same Lord" and "diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all."
- Apostle Tuff explained that it is the Holy Spirit makes the determination of which gifts are to be manifested in the church. This is not something that can be learned through human effort, capability, or education. The gifts are supernatural manifestations of the Spirit, given according to His will for the edification and benefit of the entire Body of Christ.
- He stressed that the gifts are not given for personal gain or exaltation, but rather "for the common good" as 1 Corinthians 12:7 states. The purpose of the gifts is to build up the church, bring glory to Jesus Christ, and minister to the needs of God's people. Apostle Tuff warned against the temptation to use the gifts in a way that draws attention to oneself rather than pointing others to the Lord.
- The congregation was encouraged to approach the gifts with humility, recognizing that they are not owned by any individual but are sovereign distributions of the Holy Spirit. Apostle Tuff emphasized the importance of operating in the gifts with sensitivity to the Spirit's leading, always seeking to exalt Christ and edify the body rather than promote one's own agenda or status within the church.

## **The Word of Knowledge and Supernatural Manifestations**

- Apostle Tuff delved deeper into the concept of the word of knowledge. He cautioned the congregation against adding to or exaggerating the information received through this gift.
- He stressed the importance of believers practicing the Word of God and standing firm in their faith, rather than relying solely on the gifts. He reiterated that the gifts are not earned but are given by the Holy Spirit for specific purposes within the body of Christ.

## **The Interconnectedness of Spiritual Gifts**

- Apostle Tuff discussed how different spiritual gifts work together to bring about specific manifestations, such as faith, miracles, and healing.
- He used the example of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead to illustrate this interconnectedness.
- Apostle Tuff emphasized that the gifts are not random but are purposeful and work in harmony to bring glory to Jesus Christ. He encouraged the congregation to understand and practice the gifts in a way that honors God and edifies the church.

## **Key Takeaways**

- **Importance of Proper Understanding and Discernment:** Avoid deception and syncretism. Exercise discernment to distinguish genuine manifestations from false or fleshly displays of the Holy Spirit's gifts.
- **Spiritual Gifts as Supernatural Distributions of the Holy Spirit:** Gifts are not acquired through human effort or capability but are sovereign distributions of the Spirit. Approach gifts with humility, recognizing they are not for personal gain, money, or exaltation.
- **Interconnectedness and Purpose of the Gifts:** Gifts work together purposefully to bring glory to Jesus and edify the body of believers. Operate in gifts in a way that honors God and builds up the church.
- **Practical Application and Stewardship:** Actively practice using spiritual gifts, remaining sensitive to the Spirit's leading.

## **Reflection Questions**

- What does Paul mean by “the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all” (v. 7)? How does this shape our understanding of spiritual gifts?
- How does the gift of faith in verse 9 differ from the general faith that all believers are called to have? How might this gift be used to encourage others?
- The gifts of healings (v. 9) are plural. Why might this suggest that different types of healing (physical, emotional, spiritual) are included? How do you think God uses people in this gift today
- How can the church ensure that spiritual gifts are used in an orderly and edifying way, as Paul discusses in the broader context of 1 Corinthians 12-14?