

Keeping in Step with the Spirit: The [Miraculous] Gifts of the Spirit

For Starters

1. Why do we as evangelicals love the Bible so much?
2. Why do you think some evangelicals hesitate to talk about or expect the miraculous work of the Holy Spirit today?
3. How do you feel about the following reflection:
“Caution is not wrong — Paul himself says, “*test everything; hold fast what is good*” (1 Thess 5:21). But reductionism is. To act as though the Spirit no longer works in miraculous ways today is to shrink our view of God. The same Spirit who inspired Scripture also empowered the early church — and still empowers Christ’s body today.”

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

4. New Testament Scholar Gordon Fee helpfully groups the gifts into three clusters:
 - Forms of Assistance – gifts of service, mercy, administration.
 - Miraculous Activities – faith, healings, miraculous powers.
 - Inspired Utterances – prophecy, tongues, interpretation, words of wisdom or knowledge.
- Why might Paul group “faith,” “healings,” and “miraculous powers” together?
- What do these gifts show us about the character and power of God?

EXPLORING THE MIRACULOUS GIFTS

Faith (v9)

5. What do you think the gift of ‘Faith’ is (v9)?
 - It’s probably not *saving faith*, since every Christian gets that and these gifts mentioned are not given to every Christian.
 - How about *mountain-moving faith* (1 Cor 13:2; Matt 17:20). A Spirit-given confidence that God will act powerfully in a specific circumstance.
6. What do you think of that? Have you ever known someone whose prayer seemed marked by extraordinary confidence in God’s power?

Healings (v9)

7. RE Gifts of Healings (v.9, plural). We can safely assume that each healing is its own act of grace — God’s power revealed in mercy.
8. What do you think the difference between praying for healing generally and having a “gift of healing” would be?
9. Have you seen or experienced God’s healing — physical, emotional, or spiritual?

Workings of Miracles (v10)

- Literally “*energemata dynamēōn*” — “operations of powers.” This may include nature miracles, deliverances, or other extraordinary acts of divine power.
10. What do these miracles reveal about God’s compassion and authority?

Reflecting on Our Life Together

11. Do you think our church might be missing some of these gifts in operation?
12. What might it look like for us to make space for the Spirit’s miraculous work, while staying grounded in Scripture and humility?
13. What difference would it make if we truly believed the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead was at work among us?

Read Ephesians 3:20–21:

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us...”

14. Do you sense any conviction or longing for a larger vision of the living God?
15. How might God be inviting you to trust his Spirit more deeply?

Suggested Prayer

Invite people to pray something like:

Lord, give us a larger vision of who you are.

Teach us to love your Word and trust your Spirit.

Heal the sick, strengthen our faith, and do in us what only you can do.

Make us a body alive with your gifts, for the glory of Jesus Christ and the good of one another. Amen.