



Grantham
Church
BRETHREN IN CHRIST

CHARISMATA

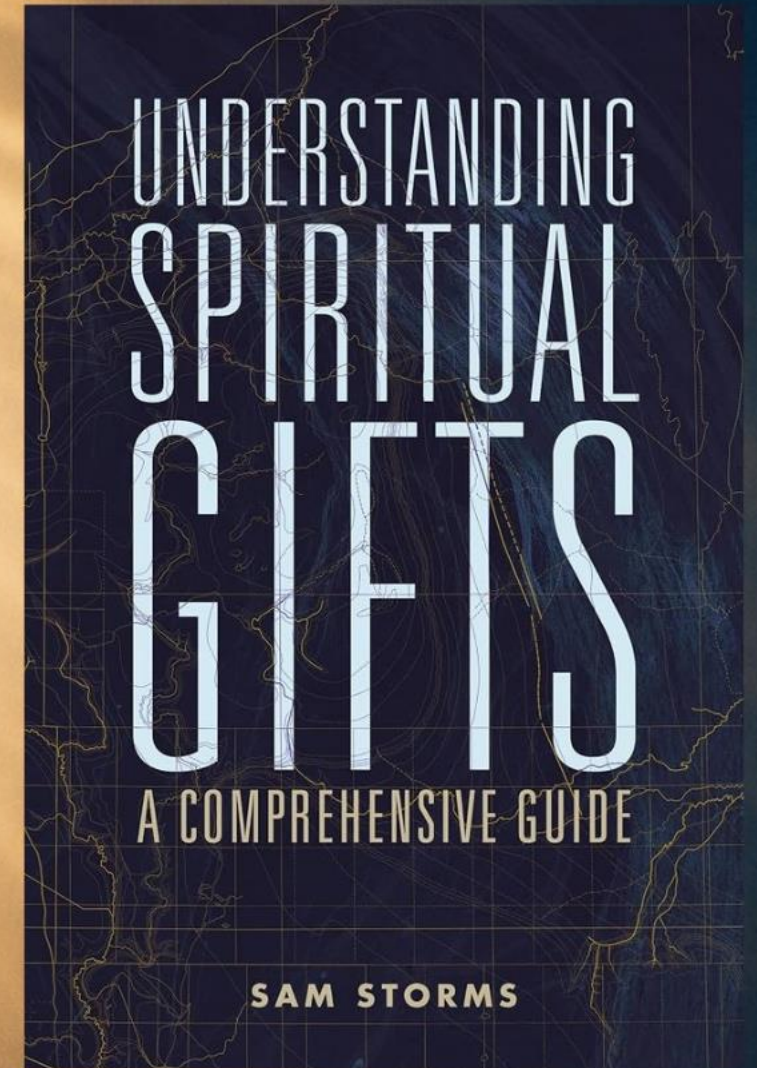
a series on spiritual gifts



What is a spiritual gift?

“A **spiritual gift** is when the Holy Spirit manifests his presence and imparts his power into and through individual believers to enable them to exceed the limitations of their finite humanity so that they might faithfully and effectively fulfill certain ministry tasks for the building up of the body of Christ.”

Sam Storms, *Understanding Spiritual Gifts* (pg.20)



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Sermon Series Overview

1. Gifts of Grace
2. Equipping the Saints
3. Many Gifts, One Spirit
4. **The Gifts That Make Us Nervous**
5. **Discover Your Gifts & Use Them!**



SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 12:27-31



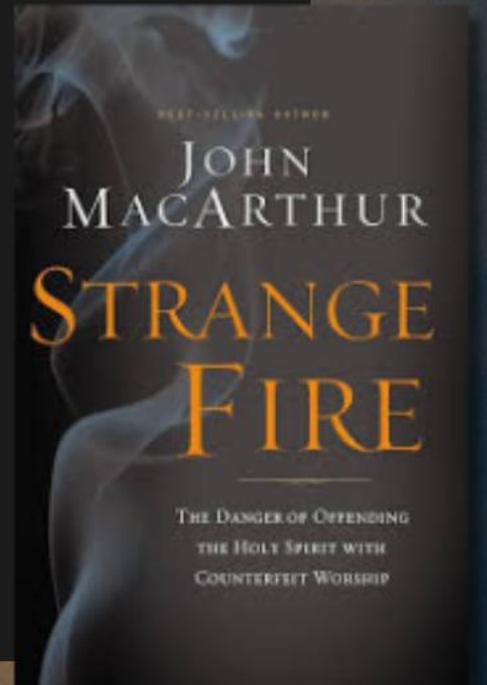


strange fire

A TRUTH MATTERS CONFERENCE

FROM

GRACE
to You





"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all... A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other." **Paul, 1 Corinthians 12:4, 7 NLT**



POWER GIFTS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT



GOD'S POWER AT WORK THEN. GOD'S POWER AT WORK TODAY.



PROPHECY

God gives people the ability to see the future to help the church.

Acts 11:27-30; 21:10-14



HEALING

God heals the sick through people to restore them.

Acts 3:1-10



MIRACLES

God performs mighty works that confirm the Gospel and bring glory to Christ.

Acts 5:12-16; 19:11-12



DELIVERANCE

God sets people free from the power of darkness and restores liberty.

Acts 16:16-18



TONGUES

God enables people to speak in other languages to build up and advance His Kingdom.

Acts 2:1-4



THE SAME HOLY SPIRIT. THE SAME JESUS. THE SAME POWER.
FOR THE GLORY OF GOD AND THE GOOD OF HIS CHURCH.

WHY THESE GIFTS MAKE US NERVOUS

1.

WE CAN'T CONTROL THEM.

- Western culture prizes predictability.
- Jesus said that the Spirit “blows where he wishes”
(John 3:8)

2.

WE’VE SEEN ABUSES.

- Some have witnessed:
 - manipulation
 - false prophecies
 - fake healings
 - emotional hype.
- Paul experienced abuse too, but his response was **CORRECTION** not **PROHIBITION**.

3.

THEY CONFRONT OUR WESTERN MATERIALISM.

- Many Christians believe in miracles and gifts of power on paper, but struggle to expect them in practice.
- Yet Scripture and non-Western cultures consistently present God as actively working through the Spirit in supernatural ways.



GOD IS **NOT LIMITED** BY OUR COMFORT.
LET’S BE PEOPLE WHO **EXPECT HIS POWER!**



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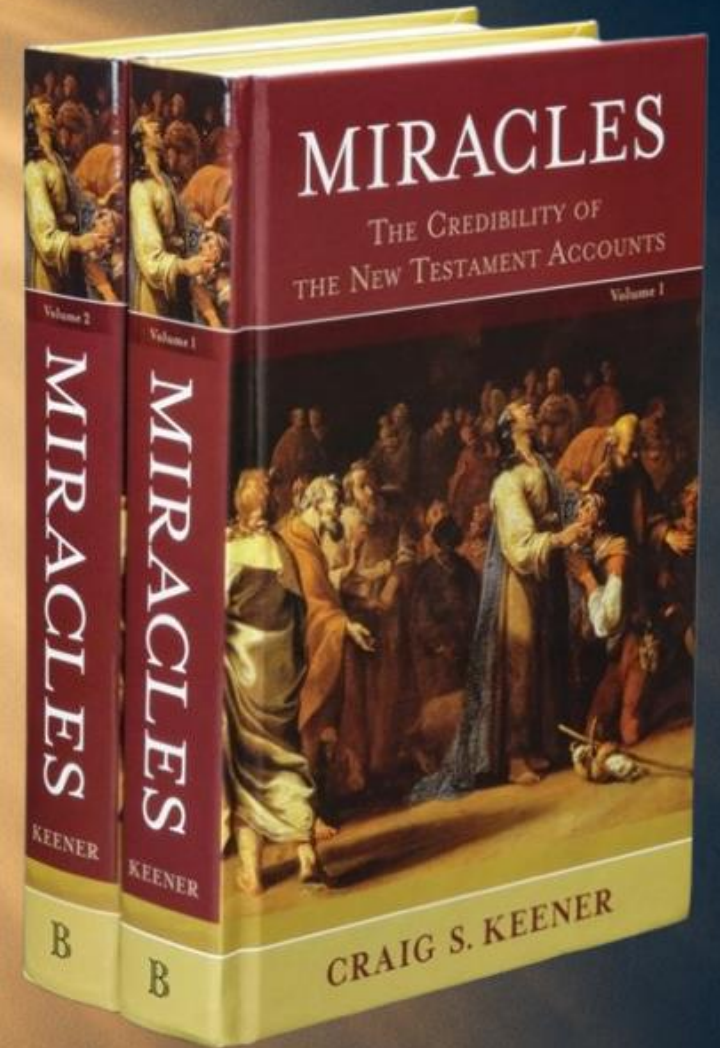
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“ Hundreds of millions of people worldwide claim to have experienced or witnessed what they believe are miracles. Eyewitness claims to dramatic recoveries appear in a wide variety of cultures, among Christians often successfully emulating models of healings found in the Gospels and Acts. Granted, such healings do not occur on every occasion and are fairly unpredictable in their occurrence; yet they seem to appear with special frequency in cultures and circles that welcome them.”

Craig Keener (prominent NT scholar), *Miracles: The Credibility of the New Testament Accounts*





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WHAT IS THE GIFT OF TONGUES?

A Spirit-Given Ability to Speak in Languages Not Learned on Earth



**1. FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP:
TO COMMUNICATE THE GOSPEL
IN ANOTHER LANGUAGE**



In Acts 2, the Spirit enabled believers to speak in other languages so people from many nations could hear the wonderful works of God in their own language.

**TONGUES CAN BRIDGE CULTURES
AND ADVANCE THE GOSPEL.**



**2. FOR PRIVATE PRAYER:
TO EXPRESS THINGS OF THE
SPIRIT IN GROANS BEYOND WORDS**



In private, the gift of tongues can help build up a person's faith as they pray in the Spirit. It allows the Spirit to pray through you when you don't have the words.

**TONGUES DEEPENS YOUR PRAYER
AND SPIRITUAL SENSITIVITY.**

**PUBLIC WORSHIP CAVEAT:
ALWAYS WITH INTERPRETATION
OR IT CAN CAUSE HARM**



When tongues are used in public worship, there must be an interpreter. Without interpretation, it can lead to confusion, distraction, and disorder.

**GOD IS NOT THE AUTHOR OF
CONFUSION, BUT OF PEACE.**



**THE GOAL OF EVERY SPIRITUAL GIFT IS TO GLORIFY GOD
AND BUILD UP THE CHURCH.**

**USE TONGUES WITH LOVE, DISCERNMENT,
AND ACCORDING TO GOD'S ORDER.**



PAUL'S GUARDRAILS IN CORINTH

How to Exercise Spiritual Gifts Wisely (Especially Gifts of Power)

1 LOVE COMES FIRST

Read 1 Corinthians 13

Without love:

- Prophecy is empty.
- Tongues are noise.
- Faith is meaningless.
- Power without love becomes spiritual pride.

2 EVERYTHING MUST BUILD UP THE CHURCH

Read 1 Corinthians 14:3, 12, 26

Paul repeats one phrase:

Build up.

The purpose of every gift is edification.

Ask:

- Does this strengthen faith?
- Encourage people?
- Point people toward Jesus?

3 EVERYTHING MUST BE DONE WITH DISCERNMENT AND ORDER

Read 1 Corinthians 14:29–33, 39–40

- Prophecies are weighed.
- Tongues are interpreted.
- No chaos.
- No manipulation.
- No pressure.
- God is not the author of confusion.

***Healthy charismatic ministry is
both Spirit-filled and Scripture-shaped.***

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**The Gifts That Make
Us Nervous (4 of 5)**

Three Main Takeaways

1. God Still Works Powerfully Through His Spirit

The gifts of prophecy, healing, miracles, tongues, and deliverance are part of the New Testament's picture of the Spirit's ongoing work. We shouldn't dismiss them simply because they seem strange, unfamiliar, supernatural, or make us nervous. They are meant to bless the church.

Big Idea: *Don't reject what Scripture, other traditions, and other parts of the Church affirm because it stretches your comfort zone.*



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2. Spiritual Gifts Must Always Be Governed by Love

The goal of these gifts that demonstrate God's power is never to inflate your ego, impress people, or create spiritual celebrities. They are given to glorify Christ, strengthen the Church, and serve others with humility.

Big Idea: *The greatest evidence of the Holy Spirit isn't spectacular experiences—it's love guiding every spiritual gift to bless others.*



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3. We Can Be Both Open and Discerning

Paul calls the Church to "earnestly desire" spiritual gifts while also testing, weighing, and exercising them in an orderly way. Healthy churches neither suppress the Spirit nor abandon biblical discernment.

Big Idea: *The healthiest churches are neither skeptical of "charismatic" gifts nor are they sensational—they are open and biblically balanced.*

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Questions for reflection and response:

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Questions for reflection and response:

1. Which of the "power gifts" (e.g., prophecy, healing, miracles, tongues, or deliverance) do I find most difficult to understand or accept? What is God saying to me?



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1. Which of the "power gifts" (e.g., prophecy, healing, miracles, tongues, or deliverance) do I find most difficult to understand or accept? What is God saying to me?
2. Spiritual gifts must be governed by love. How does putting love at the center change the way I think about spiritual gifts?

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2. Spiritual gifts must be governed by love. How does putting love at the center change the way I think about spiritual gifts?
3. How can Grantham Church cultivate an environment that is expectant of the Spirit's power, open to those with "power gifts" and committed to being a balanced congregation?

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Holy Spirit, give us *hearts* that are open to all that you desire to do among us. Guard us from *fear, pride, and deception*.

Teach us to pursue *love* above all else, to *eagerly desire* the gifts you choose to give, and to use every gift for the *glory of Jesus* and the *building up* of his Church.

Amen.





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