

Lesson 3 – A Study of the Holy Spirit
The Temporary Gifts of the Holy Spirit
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Introduction: It is important that we let God make His choices.

- A. The Jews thought they could demand signs. **(1 Cor 1:22-25)**
 - 1. While the Jews made the request God did not give it to them!
 - 2. As a result they rejected the gospel and followed their own ways.
 - 3. We too can make demands of God. Our job is to listen and submit and not to make demands.
- B. We have already studied how God chose special messengers, apostles and prophets, to deliver a perfect message by inspiration. **(Eph 3:3-5)**
 - 1. They did not have to study before teaching. **(Mt 10:19-20)**
 - 2. They had powerful signs that accompanied their message. **(Mk 16:17-20; Heb 2:2-4)**
 - 3. All teachers must be tested by what these inspired men wrote. **(1 Cor 14:37; 1 Jn 4:1,6)**

I. There were gifts of the Holy Spirit given by the laying on of the apostles' hands

- A. A brief survey of the book of Acts shows how gifts were given.
 - 1. At first only the apostles were working signs and wonders. **(Acts 2:4, 43; 4:33; 5:12)**
 - 2. The apostles then laid their hands on selected men. **(Acts 6:3-6)**
 - a. These men could then perform signs. **(Acts 6:8; 8:5-7, 12-13)**
 - b. But these men who were not apostles could not impart spiritual gifts upon others. **(Acts 8:14-18)**
- B. Timothy had Paul's hands laid upon him. **(2 Tim 1:6)**
 - 1. He received the gift of prophecy.
 - 2. Again spiritual gifts were given by an apostle!
- C. Paul could not send another to Rome to impart a spiritual gift. He has to go himself. **(Rom 1:11)**
 - 1. This is one of the unique powers of an apostle. **(2 Cor 12:12)**
 - 2. These gifts were necessary during a period of transition.
- D. Other ways the "laying on of hands" is described in the N.T.
 - 1. To appoint a man to an office.
 - a. The appointment of the seven. **(Acts 6:6)** note the dual usage here!
 - b. The choice of Paul and Silas by God. The church publicly recognized this. **(Acts 13:2-3)**
 - c. The elders laid their hands upon Timothy with Paul when he received the gift of prophesy. **(1 Tim 4:14)**
 - d. In this recognition there is a fellowship and a responsibility. **(1 Tim 5:22)**
 - 2. In the use of the spiritual gift of healing.
 - a. Jesus prepared his disciples for this work. **(Mark 16:18)**

- b. Paul was healed by Ananias before his baptism. (**Acts 9:17**)
- c. The father of Publius was healed by Paul. (**Acts 28:8**)

II. How can we know these gifts ceased?

A. Spiritual gifts were to end at a given time.

- 1. There are no living apostles today.
 - a. Their work was limited and was completed! (**1 Cor 4:9; Acts 1:22**)
 - b. Their work continues through the written word.
- 2. Spiritual gifts ceased when the word of God was fully revealed and written down. (**1 Cor 13:8-10; Jas 1:25**)

B. The gift of healing.

- 1. Since the gift cannot be given, then it cannot be practiced.
- 2. Those who claim to heal today cannot duplicate Bible miracles.

C. The need to confirm God's word has ceased. (Mark 16:17-20; Heb 2:2-4**)**

- 1. Once the covenant was confirmed then it cannot be changed. (**Gal 3:15-17**)
- 2. The need for direct revelation apart from the written word of God has ceased!

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