

Lesson 5. Be My Witness – Pt. 2

“Believe me: I am in my Father and my Father is in me. If you can't believe that, believe what you see—these works. The person who trusts me will not only do what I'm doing but even greater things, because I, on my way to the Father, am giving you the same work to do that I've been doing.” [John 14:11-14](#) MSG

1. So... What works did Jesus do? (vs. 11)

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. [Acts 10:38](#)

i. List a few specific things that Jesus did that were ‘extra-ordinary’:

- ⇒ made great wine from water
- ⇒ healed many people using various methods (blind, deaf, dumb, lepers, crooked backs, lame, sick, diseased) [Matthew 4:23-25](#)
- ⇒ cast out demons
- ⇒ raised the dead
- ⇒ walked on water
- ⇒ calmed storms
- ⇒ took a coin out of a fish
- ⇒ knew what someone was thinking (Nathaniel in [John 1:48](#)) – knew someone’s past without inquiring (women at the well in [John 4:17,18](#))
- ⇒ forgave sins
- ⇒ taught with authority
- ⇒ rose from the dead

ii. Jesus went about _____.

- The Father’s love was the _____ factor in everything that He did.

iii. He did the _____ of His Father. But Jesus answered them, "My Father is always at His work to this very day, and I, too, am working." ([John 5:17-21](#))

Here’s what the original Greek (translated of course :) had to say in [Matthew 4:23-24](#)...

²³And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

²⁴And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers (of various sorts) diseases (sickness, infirmity) and torments (pains), and those which were possessed with devils (to be under the power of a demon), and those which were lunatick (to be moon-struck or lunatic, to be epileptic), and those that had the palsy (paralytic: suffering from the relaxing of the nerves of one's side, disabled, weak of limb); and he healed (to cure, restore to health) them.

Make a quick list of some of what ‘the Father’ did:

- ⇒ created the earth
- ⇒ flooded the earth
- ⇒ sent plagues on Egypt
- ⇒ became a pillar of fire and a cloud
- ⇒ split the Red Sea in two
- ⇒ provided food, water & clothes for His people ([Deuteronomy 8:4](#))
- ⇒ prophesied through many people
- ⇒ healed diseases (Naaman in [2 Kings 5](#))
- ⇒ fought armies ([2 Chronicles 20:20-22](#))
- ⇒ made the sun stand still ([Joshua 10:13](#))
- ⇒ gave artistic ability & skills ([Exodus 31:3-5](#))
- ⇒ Conceived a Baby

Everything that Jesus did was a reflection of His Father, reflecting God’s love for His people & His Son. Everything came from God, revealed God, and brought honour to God.

2. We have the Same Work to Do.

- i. Through the Holy Spirit, we have been given abilities beyond ourselves to do the same work of Jesus and the Father, to bring Him honour and extend His heart to others.
- ii. We need to know what tools God has given us. Paul tells the Believers in Corinth that he doesn’t want them to be ignorant with regard to spiritual gifts. Listen to how the Message Bible puts it in 1 Corinthians 12:1-3:

What I want to talk about now is the various ways God's Spirit gets worked into our lives. This is complex and often misunderstood, but I want you to be informed and knowledgeable. Remember how you were when you didn't know God, led from one phony god to another, never knowing what you were doing, just doing it because everybody else did it? It's different in this life. God wants us to use our intelligence, to seek to understand as well as we can. For instance, by using your heads, you know perfectly well that the Spirit of God would never prompt anyone to say "Jesus be damned!" Nor would anyone be inclined to say "Jesus is Master!" without the insight of the Holy Spirit.

- iii. He then goes on to explain that there are several different gifts & tasks that we as a body can accomplish together through the Holy Spirit. Let’s continue reading in 1 Corinthians 12:4-7:
 - There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit.
 - There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.
 - There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.
 - Now to each one the manifestation (outward perceptible indication, expression, materialization) of the Spirit is given for the common good
 - God is creative and all powerful. He has equipped us with whatever we need for whatever task that needs to be done

Everything that God has given us is GOOD ([James 1:17](#)) and for the GOOD of the Body of Christ.

Read the following passages.

I have listed them in order as they appear in these scriptures and given information beside each.

You will notice that some of them overlap.

GIFT	GREEK TRANS.	OTHER TRANSLATIONS	SIMPLY PUT...
1 Corinthians 12:8-10			
Word of Wisdom	Sophia --Supreme intelligence	-Wise counsel (MSG) - [the power to speak] a message of wisdom (AMP)	- the power to speak wisdom & counsel (insight, good judgement) to a person or situation, in order to act rightly
Word of Knowledge	Gnosis --Science, understanding way	- clear understanding (MSG) - [the power to express] a word of knowledge and understanding (AMP)	- the ability to understand facts & information that would not normally be available to you
Faith	Pistis -- a conviction or belief respecting man's relationship to God and divine things, generally with the included idea of trust and holy fervour born of faith and joined with it	- simple trust (MSG) -[wonder-working] faith (AMP)	- a God-given courage and ability where our spirit 'gets it' so to speak, that God will do what He says He will do. Trust soars, doubt disappears, boldness enters and God is released through us as we act out in faith what He is showing us to do.
Gifts of Healing	Iama --a means of healing, remedy, medicine	-extraordinary powers of healing (AMP)	-there are many diseases and health issues and God gives the ability to heal all by giving us the different 'spiritual' medicine that is needed
1Working of 2Miracles	1Energema --things wrought, effects, operation 2Dunamus --strength, might, ability, inherent power, power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature, or which a person or thing exerts and puts forth	- miraculous acts (MSG)	-anything that brings an alteration to nature is a miracle. God gives us the enablement, according to His will, to release supernatural changes to the natural.
Prophecy	Propheteia --a discourse emanating from divine inspiration and declaring the purposes of God, whether by reproofing and admonishing the wicked, or comforting the afflicted, or revealing things hidden; esp. by foretelling future events	- prophetic insight (the gift of interpreting the divine will and purpose) (AMP) - proclamation (MSG)	-NT prophecy is different than OT, as we live in the era of grace. 1 Cor. 14:3 tells us that prophecy should speak 'edification and exhortation and comfort' to all. There is not to be condemnation. Exhortation, though can come through advice and that may be in the form of God revealing sin in our lives, but it is always for the purpose of bringing us up, of edifying us and giving us hope and a direction for restoration. It is always given in 'love'.
Discerning of spirits	Diakrisis --a distinguishing, judging Pneuma	- the ability to discern and distinguish between [the utterances of true] spirits [and false ones] (AMP)	-this is a God-given ability to discern truth and to know what is spiritually operating or motivating a person or a situation

	--a simple essence, devoid of all or at least all grosser matter, and possessed of the power of knowing, desiring, deciding, and acting --God’s Spirit, evil spirit, human spirit		- some people see things visually and others just have a knowing in their spirit
Different kinds of Tongues	Glossa --the language or dialect used by a particular people distinct from that of other nations	- various kinds of [unknown] tongues (AMP)	-a language given by God to release praise back to Him, and to release His message (through interpretation to the Church.
Interpretation of Tongues		- the ability to interpret [such] tongues (AMP)	- a God-given understanding of what someone has just declared in tongues
Romans 12:3-8 6. Having gifts (faculties, talents, qualities) that differ according to the grace given us, let us use them:			
Prophecy	*same as above		
Ministry / Serving	Diakonia --service, ministering, esp. of those who execute the commands of others ('diako'=to run errands)	- [He whose gift is] practical service, let him give himself to serving (AMP) -if you help, just help, don't take over (MSG)	-this is a God-given ability to simply serve; to identify undone tasks in God’s work, however menial, and use available resources to get the job done
Teaching	Didasko --to impart instruction, instill doctrine, to explain or expound a thing	- if you teach, stick to your teaching (MSG)	-an authority to teach in such a way that people understand the Word & the Heart of God.
Exhorting	Paraklesis --comfort, consolation, exhortation, intreaty, appeal, encouragement, urging	- if you give encouraging guidance, be careful that you don't get bossy (MSG) - He who exhorts (encourages), to his exhortation (AMP)	-the ability to encourage someone’s destiny and to practically cheer & steer them in it.
Giving	Metadidomi --to impart, share	- if you're called to give aid to people in distress, keep your eyes open and be quick to respond (MSG) - he who contributes, let him do it in simplicity and liberality (AMP)	-to share what material resources you have with liberality and cheerfulness without thought of return -extravagant, supernatural generosity
Leading	Proistemi --to set over, to be over, to superintend, preside over, to be a protector or guardian, to give aid, to care for, give attention to	- if you're put in charge, don't manipulate (MSG) - he who gives aid and superintends, with zeal and singleness of mind (AMP)	- when you are 'called' to lead, you cannot do it passively. God anoints people and places them at all levels of authority. This must be taken seriously & passionately.
Showing Mercy	Eleeo --to help the afflicted, to bring help to the wretched, to have compassion	- if you work with the disadvantaged, don't let yourself get irritated with them or depressed by them. Keep a smile on your face. (MSG) - he who does acts of mercy, with genuine cheerfulness and joyful eagerness. (AMP)	- we are instructed here to show mercy with 'cheerfulness'.
Ephesians 4:11,12 ...for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.			
Apostles	Apostolos	-apostles (special messengers) (AMP)	-to be sent forth to new frontiers with the gospel, providing leadership over church bodies and maintaining

	--one sent forth with orders (specifically applied to the twelve apostles of Christ) -- in a broader sense applied to other eminent Christian teachers		authority over spiritual matters pertaining to the church
Prophets	Prophetes -- the forth-telling of the will of God; 'pro'=forth; 'phemi'=to speak	-some prophets (inspired preachers and expounders) (AMP)	-to speak forth the message of God to His people
Evangelists		-some evangelists (preachers of the Gospel, traveling missionaries) (AMP)	-to be a messenger of the good news of the Gospel
Pastors		-some pastors (shepherds of His flock) (AMP)	-to be responsible for spiritually caring for, protecting, guiding, and feeding a group of believers entrusted to one's care
Teachers	*same as above		
1 Corinthians 12:27-31 God has appointed these in the church.....first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues			
Helps	Antilepsis - to embrace, to help, to support		-someone who loves to help, to aid, to do the necessary but unnoticeable tasks, the 'behind the scenes' worker.
Administration	Kubernesis -a governing, government (from the root word meaning: to steer)	-organizers (MSG)	
Exodus 31:3 ... and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts-			
Craftsman	M@'la'kah -occupation, work, business (from the root word meaning: to steer)	-to make artistic designs (NIV)	-God gives specific skill and artistic design capabilities to individuals to accomplish His work

3. Application

Have a look at the above list. Can you think of circumstances in Scripture where you see Jesus displaying these gifts?

Make a list of people in your life that have displayed some of these gifts.

What have you seen God doing in you personally or know that He is prompting you in?

4. Conclusion

- We have a job to do, but we can only accomplish it by the power of the Holy Spirit working through us.
- God is good. He equips us personally (for our own good) and powerfully (for the good of others).
- Our role is to seek Him, listen for His voice, watch for His plan, and act it out in obedience & faith.
- I believe that the gifts of God are endless, beyond our imagination. Do not box the Holy Spirit in with what we have written above. These are human attempts to describe the all-powerful, incomprehensible ways of God Almighty. They are incomplete at best, but can give us meaningful guidance and assurance that we are hearing the voice of the Lord properly.

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:14-21 NKJV