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## SPIRITUAL GIFTS.

*Discourse Delivered in the Tabernacle,  
Salt Lake City, Sunday, November  
26, 1893, by*

**PRESIDENT GEORGE Q. CANNON**

[REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTER.]

I will read a portion of the 12th chapter of Paul's first Epistle to the Corinthians:

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led.

Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another, the word of knowledge by the same Spirit.

To another, faith by the same Spirit; to another, the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

To another, the working of miracles; to another, prophecy; to another, discerning of spirits; to another, divers kinds of tongues; to another, the interpretation of tongues;

But all these worketh that one and the self-same Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body; so also is Christ.

For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

In standing up to address you this afternoon, I earnestly solicit an interest in your faith and prayers, that I may be led to say the very things that should be said for your edification. However familiar I may be with public speaking, I never arise without feeling my insufficiency and my inability to instruct the people. I know that no man can do this properly without the aid of our Eternal Father through His Holy Spirit.

Since I came in here my mind has rested upon this 12th chapter of Corinthians and upon similar instructions in other books that we hold sacred. These were the instructions that Paul gave to the Corinthian Church in the day in which he lived concerning spiritual gifts. His writings are full of exhortations to the people whom he was the instrument in the hands of God of bringing to the knowledge of the Gospel, concerning

the importance of exercising faith in God in order to receive the blessings that were peculiar to those who obeyed the Gospel of Jesus. The Savior himself, as well as all His Apostles of whose labors we have an account, endeavored to impress the people with the importance of their relationship to the Almighty through their obedience to the Gospel of the Son of God. Miraculous powers were promised, and gifts of the most precious character. These were to be enjoyed by those who bowed in submission to the requirements of the Gospel. The followers of the Lord were distinguished among the people with whom they labored for the possession of these powers. They were peculiarly blest; and while they did not work signs and perform miracles in order to convince people that they were the servants of God, nevertheless they possessed the power, and they exercised it on many occasions. They exhorted, as Paul does in that which I have read to you, those who became members of the Church of Christ to seek earnestly for these different gifts, impressing upon them to the extent of their ability that these were within the reach of every faithful man and woman who embraced the Gospel. The Savior promised His disciples that "these signs shall follow them that believe." He did not confine the promise to His immediate followers; it was extended to all who should believe, all who should espouse the plan of salvation which He taught. Hence we find that wherever the Apostles labored they taught the people that these gifts and blessings and peculiar heavenly favors were to be obtained by them through the exercise of faith. The whole tenor of their writings was to this effect, not only to the Corinthians, but to all those who had espoused the Gospel under their teachings.

In our day, for nearly sixty-four years the Elders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have testified that God has restored the everlasting Gospel to the earth; that with it He has restored the authority that had been taken from the earth, by means of which men can administer the ordinances of life and salvation; and that through this restoration, the gifts, the blessings and the powers that had been bestowed upon believers in ancient days were again enjoyed by the children of men. The burden of the teachings of the Elders of this Church has been to awaken mankind to these solemn and important truths and to arouse in their breasts the old faith, that had died out from among men, causing these gifts and blessings to be withdrawn and no longer enjoyed by those who professed to be the followers of the Son of God. There have been no stronger testimonies borne, no

stronger appeals made upon any subject by those who have gone forth preaching the Gospel as restored to the earth, than upon this important point. The constant effort of the Elders who have gone out to preach the Gospel has been to convince the people that these gifts were within their reach by obeying the Gospel which the Lord had revealed.

The contention has been persistent on the part of those who have opposed them that these gifts were abolished; that the powers through which they were obtained in ancient days had been withdrawn, and that it was the work of imposture to attempt to revive the idea that they were to be enjoyed any more. It has been declared time and time again by those who held this opinion that the only reason for the bestowal of these miraculous powers was that they were necessary to convince the world, at the time when the Apostles were laboring to found the Church, that it was the Church of Christ. Having accomplished that end, and the Church having been established, it has been contended that there was no longer any necessity for them, and therefore they were withdrawn from among men.

It is not necessary for me at this time, neither is it my purpose, to enter into any argument upon this point. Suffice it to say that if these gifts were necessary in order to convince the world that Jesus was the Christ and that His Gospel was the plan of salvation in the days of the Apostles, certainly the necessity has not ceased to exist but is still in as great force as it ever was; for we have as many heathen, as many unbelievers, and almost as many determined to deny that Jesus is the Christ, today probably as there was in those days if we consider how narrow were the bounds of the known earth at that time. If it were necessary that these gifts should be bestowed to convince men, then as long as unbelief reigned, as long as there were large bodies of men to be convinced, they would be required.

But there are other reasons for the withdrawal of these gifts. To illustrate the views of the Latter-day Saints upon this subject, I will take the liberty of reading from another sacred record, one that we hold as equally sacred and binding as the Bible. I will read from the 10th chapter of Moroni, contained in the Book of Mormon:

And ye may know that he is, by the power of the Holy Ghost; wherefore I would exhort you, that ye deny not the power of God; for he worketh by power, according to the faith of the children of men, the same today and tomorrow, and for ever.

And again I exhort you, my brethren, that ye deny not the gifts of God, for they are many; and they come from the same God. And there are different ways that these gifts are adminis-