

Mark 16:17-18 -- *And these signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it shall not hurt them...*

2. OBTAINING THE GIFTS: THEN AND NOW

Today there are actually schools that will help teach one how to acquire certain gifts, especially how to speak in a tongue, but in the first century, this was not the way it worked.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 -- *Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit... And there are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good... But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.*

These passages afford us much insight into the purpose and nature of gifts. From the context, we see:

- A. That there were a variety of gifts and they all appeared in the same congregation.
- B. That the gifts are distributed, different gifts to different people (See also 1 Corinthians 12:28-30).
- C. That the gifts were given for the common good of the church and not for glorification of individuals (See 1 Cor. 14:3-5).
- D. People do not learn how to acquire them. They are distributed as the Spirit sees fit and by all accounts, this is through the laying on of the apostle's hands (Hebrews 2:4. & Acts 8:18).

3. THE SPECIAL PROBLEM OF TONGUES

The "speaking in tongues" is the most prevalent manifestation of pseudo-gifts today, probably because they are the easiest to fake. Tongue-speakers may pride themselves in having a Spirit-filled church, but the *implications* of possessing gifts of the Spirit are usually overlooked.

- A. **They were a "sign" of an infant church.**

1 Corinthians 13:11 -- *When I was a child, I used to speak as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. [Reference to doing away with prophecy and knowledge in verses 8-10.]*

4. PROPERLY DEFINING "INDWELLING"

According to lexicographers, while the Greek word to *dwell* may be either literal or metaphorical, the Greek word for *indwell* is *always* metaphorical, meaning that the Holy Spirit does not really do it. All the other passages where *indwell* is used, besides Romans 8:11, are listed below and explanations are provided.

In the first verse, you will notice that what is said to *indwell* is *faith* . Faith is not a living thing to *dwell* physically anywhere. It is used as a figure of speech, a personification, so that it can be said to *dwell* in someone. The next verse does the same thing with *sin* .

2 Timothy 1:5 -- *For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois, and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.*

Romans 7:17 -- *So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which indwells me.*

Further, in the next two verses both *God* and *Christ* are said to dwell in us and it is plan that they should be taken metaphorically, since with Christ, the operation is through faith.

2 Corinthians 6:16 -- *Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I will dwell in them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people."*

Ephesians 3:17 -- *So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love...*

The verse below is a parallel passage to Ephesians 5:18 (Introduced in the previous section). Both Ephesians and Colossians deal with singing. Note that being *filled with the Spirit* is *letting the word dwell in* you richly. This explains what we mean by metaphorically. The word of God is the Spirit of God and that Word needs to guide us, not some strange voice inside us.

In Luke 16:29, Abraham said, "They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them..." Of course, the rich man's brethren did not have Moses and the Prophets, but they had their writings. In the same way, we have the Spirit when we have His writings and do what they say.

Colossians 3:16 -- *Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

