

Desire Spiritual Gifts

God's Word encourages us to desire the gifts of the Holy Spirit. 1Corinthians 12:31 says *"... earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way."* The word "gift" is the Greek word "*charis*" from which we get the word "charismatic." It means "God's grace or supernatural endowment."

The Charismatic renewal in the 60's and 70's saw God pour out the gifts of the Holy Spirit (healing, miracles, tongues & interpretation, etc.) among traditional churches that had not experienced this on a normal basis. Catholic Priests and Episcopalian ministers were among the leaders in this movement. While God refreshed His church with the supernatural, some resisted just as they do today.

The religious spirit says the gifts of the Holy Spirit should not be manifested in the church; it will turn people off. They become man pleasers. But scripture teaches, *"the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all"* (I Corinthians 12:7). People are hungry for the supernatural. They seek it through the demonic influences of psychic readings and healings, palm reading and new age religion. Yet the church has the real and genuine gifts of the Holy Spirit and should minister the power of God to this generation.