

MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

BIBLE *Study*

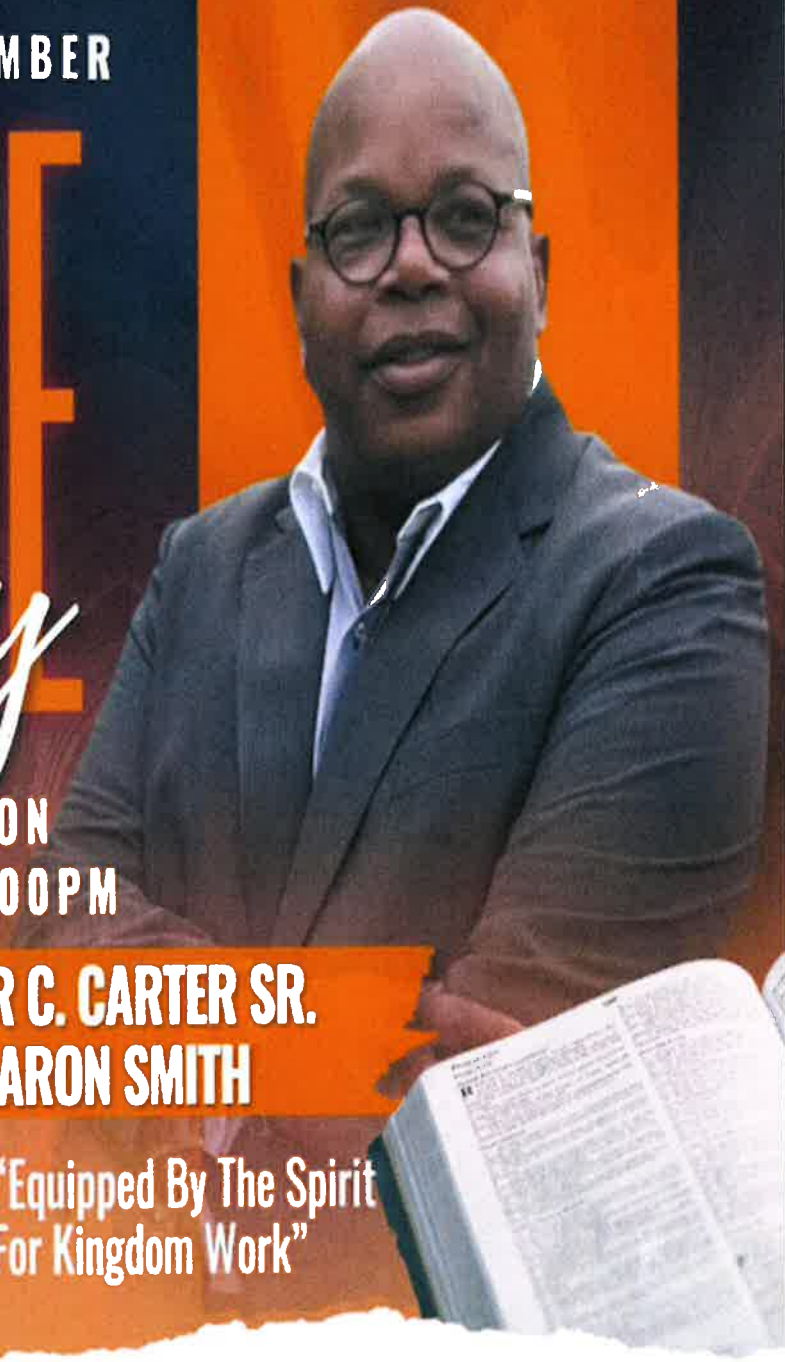
TUESDAY @ NOON
WEDNESDAY @ 6:00PM

**DR. CHRISTOPHER C. CARTER SR.
AND ELDER SHARON SMITH**

Theme: "Equipped By The Spirit
For Kingdom Work"

NEW HOPE BAPTIST 1415 BIG BETHEL RD.

**DISCOVERY ZONE: UNDERSTANDING AND USING YOUR
SPIRITUAL GIFTS.**



Bible Study Wednesday, September 10, 2025
Dr. Christopher C. Carter, Sr., Pastor

Theme: “Equipped by the Spirit for Kingdom Work”
Discovery Zone: Understanding and Using Your Spiritual Gifts

SCRIPTURES

FOCUS SCRIPTURES

1 Corinthians 12:4 -11
Romans 12:4-8
2 Corinthians 12:12

FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY

Ephesians 4:11-13
1 Peter 4:10-11

Lesson Objectives:

1. Understand what spiritual gifts are and their purpose in the Body of Christ.
 2. Identify different types of spiritual gifts mentioned in Scripture.
 3. Begin discerning their own spiritual gifts.
 4. Learn how to use their gifts to serve others and glorify God.
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Lesson Outline

1. Opening

- “What are some talents or abilities you have that you enjoy using?”
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2. What Are Spiritual Gifts?

- **Spiritual gifts:** God-given abilities empowered by the Holy Spirit to build up the church and advance His Kingdom.

1 Corinthians 12:4–7 – emphasize that gifts come from the Spirit, for the common good.

- **Clarify difference between:**

- Natural talents (from birth, everyone has them)
- Spiritual gifts (given by the Spirit at new birth in Christ – come from God)

3. Types of Spiritual Gifts

1. Motivational Gifts (Romans 12:6–8): prophecy, serving, teaching, exhortation, giving, leadership, mercy.
2. Manifestation Gifts (1 Corinthians 12:8–10): word of wisdom, word of knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discernment, tongues, interpretation of tongues.
3. Ministry/Office Gifts (Ephesians 4:11–13): apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers.

Apostolic Gifts

The Bible doesn't mention "apostle gifts" but rather the "apostolic office" and "spiritual gifts". Spiritual gifts given to both Apostles and believers. Apostolic office -being an eye witness to the resurrection and signs of an apostle which were miraculous gifts like healing, casting out demons, and performing signs and wonders and tongues, that served to authenticate the apostles' message.

Cross Reference Scripture/Points:

2 Corinthians 12:12

"Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs and wonders, and mighty deeds."

- The Apostle Paul asserts his authority by recounting the signs of an apostle that he displayed among the Corinthians, which included patience, signs, wonders, and mighty deeds. He contrasts these miraculous demonstrations with the "super apostles" who were challenging him, emphasizing that his ministry among the Corinthians was genuine and validated by supernatural acts.

- Paul responded to challenges from "super apostles" who were questioning

his legitimacy and authority as an apostle.

- He points to the actual signs of a true apostle as evidence of his divine calling and authority.

- Super apostles claimed greater status, lacking the genuine signs and demonstrations of God's power that Paul demonstrated.

~ NOTES ~

These signs were particularly important for establishing the foundational teachings of the early church and are generally understood by the cessationists to have ceased after the apostolic age when the New Testament scriptures were completed.

Cessationists:

A Christian who believes that certain miraculous spiritual gifts, such as speaking in tongues, prophecy, and healing, ceased to be given by God after the apostolic era. They were only necessary for establishing the church and are not necessary for believers today.

The Signs of an Apostle

These miraculous gifts were given to ***establish the church on the foundation of the Apostles' teachings, confirm their authority and the truth of the Gospel message.***

- Miracles: performing powerful acts that confirmed Christ's message
- Healing: laying hands on the sick, who would then recover
- Casting out demons: exorcising evil spirits
- Speaking in tongues: speaking in a language unknown to the speaker, which was also a sign gift in the early church.

Apostolic gifts are not used in the Bible; instead the Bible refers to spiritual gifts.

~ NOTES ~

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ADDITIONAL INFO ON SPEAKING IN TONGUES

Scriptures, such as those in **1 Corinthians 14** and **Acts 2**, discuss "speaking in tongues," a spiritual gift involving speaking in languages not naturally known to the speaker. This gift, also known as a "prayer language," is described as a private communication with God, but can also be a public display of God's works in other languages, requiring interpretation for communal understanding. The gift is a way to release the fullness of the Holy Spirit from within, enhancing a believer's relationship with God.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES

- **1 Corinthians 14:2:**

States that "he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries".

- **1 Corinthians 14:4:**

Explains that "he who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church".

- **Acts 2:4-8:**

Describes the event of Pentecost, where the disciples spoke in different languages, and people from various nations understood the message of God in their own native tongues.

- **1 Corinthians 14:13:**

Encourages praying for the interpretation of tongues for the benefit of the church.

~ NOTES ~

TYPES OF "TONGUES"

A Private Prayer Language:

This form of tongues is for a person's private prayer life, a direct communication with God.

A Public Gift:

In some instances, speaking in tongues can be a public sign to unbelievers, as in Acts, where the disciples spoke in languages that enabled people to understand the message of God in their own native tongues.

Purpose and Significance:

- **Edification:** Speaking in tongues privately edifies the individual speaker, while a prophecy or interpreted tongue edifies the entire church.
 - **Manifestation of the Spirit:** It is seen as an act of releasing the Holy Spirit from within, thereby enhancing the believer's relationship with God.
 - **Praise and Thanksgiving:** The act of speaking in tongues serves as a means to praise and thank God.
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SPIRITUAL GIFTS

- Spiritual Gifts are **God given** abilities empowered by the Holy Spirit to build up the church and advance His Kingdom.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 emphasizes that gifts come from the Spirit, for the common good.

There is a difference between Natural Talents and Spiritual Gifts

- Natural talents (from birth, everyone has them)
- Spiritual gifts (given by the Spirit at new birth in Christ)

1 Corinthians 12:8-10

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| • Wisdom | • Prophecy |
| • Knowledge | • Discerning spirits |
| • Faith | • Tongues |
| • Healing | • Interpretation of |
| • Performing miracles | tongues |

Romans 12:7-8

- Ministering
- Teaching
- Exhortation
- Giving
- Leadership
- Showing mercy

Romans 12:7-8 (KJV) "Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; 8. Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness". This passage describes how various spiritual gifts should be exercised within the Christian body, emphasizing devotion to service, diligent leadership, and cheerful acts of mercy

Other translations:

- **New International Version (NIV)**

"if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully".

- **New Living Translation (NLT)**

"If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly".

KEY THEMES

- **Using spiritual gifts:**

The scripture emphasizes using the specific spiritual gifts (e.g., service, teaching, encouragement, giving, leadership, mercy) that God has given to individuals.

- **Serving in the church:**

The core purpose of these gifts is to serve one another within the Christian community.

- **Attitude of application:**

Each gift should be used with a corresponding quality:

- **Serving:** Serve well.
- **Teaching:** Teach well.
- **Encouraging:** Be encouraging.
- **Giving:** Give generously.
- **Leading:** Lead with diligence or seriousness.
- **Showing mercy:** Do it cheerfully.

TYPES OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1. Motivational Gifts (Romans 12:6-8)

- Prophecy
- Serving
- Teaching
- Exhortation
- Giving
- Leadership
- Mercy

2. Manifestation Gifts (1 Corinthians 12:8-10)

- Word of wisdom
- Word of knowledge
- Faith healing
- Miracles
- Prophecy
- Discernment
- Tongues
- Interpretation of tongues

3. Ministry / Office Gifts (Ephesians 4:11-13)

- Apostles
- Prophets
- Evangelists
- Pastors
- Teachers

~ NOTES ~

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