

Smith Wigglesworth On Spiritual Gifts

Smith Wigglesworth on Spiritual Gifts Smith Wigglesworth, often referred to as the "Apostle of Faith," was a pioneering British evangelist and faith healer whose life and ministry continue to inspire believers worldwide. Renowned for his unwavering faith, miraculous healings, and powerful preaching, Wigglesworth's teachings on spiritual gifts remain influential within Pentecostal and charismatic circles. His emphasis on the active, dynamic nature of spiritual gifts underscores the importance of these divine endowments for the modern Christian life. In this article, we explore Smith Wigglesworth's perspective on spiritual gifts, their biblical foundation, and their relevance today.

Understanding Smith Wigglesworth's Perspective on Spiritual Gifts Smith Wigglesworth believed that spiritual gifts are essential tools provided by the Holy Spirit to build up the church, evangelize the lost, and demonstrate God's power in the earth. For Wigglesworth, these gifts were not merely theological concepts but practical manifestations of God's presence and authority in the believer's life.

The Role of the Holy Spirit Wigglesworth emphasized that spiritual gifts originate from the Holy Spirit, who bestows them according to His will. He taught that believers should seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit continually, as this infilling empowers them to operate in the gifts effectively.

> "The Holy Spirit is the source of all spiritual gifts. Without Him, we can do nothing. With Him, we can do all things."

The Manifestation of Spiritual Gifts According to Wigglesworth, spiritual gifts manifest in various ways, including healing, prophecy, miracles, tongues, and discernment. He believed these gifts serve to:

- Demonstrate God's power
- Confirm the gospel message
- Edify and strengthen the church
- Bring salvation and healing to the lost

Biblical Foundation of Spiritual Gifts in Wigglesworth's Teaching Wigglesworth's teachings on spiritual gifts are deeply rooted in biblical scripture, especially passages like 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12, and Ephesians 4. He encouraged believers to study these scriptures to understand the purpose and operation of spiritual gifts.

1 Corinthians 12: A Closer Look Wigglesworth often referenced 1 Corinthians 12 to highlight the diversity and unity of spiritual gifts. He emphasized that:

- All gifts are given by the Holy Spirit for the common good.
- No gift is superior to another; each has a unique purpose.
- Believers should earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially prophecy and healing.

Romans 12 and Ephesians 4 He also pointed to Romans 12, which describes gifts like prophecy, service, teaching, and exhortation, and Ephesians 4, which speaks about the leadership gifts for the edification of the church. Wigglesworth believed that understanding and operating in these gifts were vital for spiritual growth and effective ministry.

The Practice and Operation of Spiritual Gifts According to Wigglesworth, Wigglesworth's ministry was marked by a powerful demonstration of spiritual gifts. His approach was characterized by faith, dependence on the Holy Spirit, and an expectation of divine intervention.

How believers can operate in spiritual gifts Wigglesworth outlined several principles for believers seeking to operate in spiritual gifts:

- Seek the Holy Spirit fervently: Continuous prayer and surrender are essential.
- Exercise faith: Believing that God will work through you.
- Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit: Discern His leading and timing.
- Practice humility: Recognize

that the gifts are for God's glory, not personal gain. - Desire spiritual gifts earnestly: According to 1 Corinthians 14:1, believers should eagerly desire the gifts, especially prophecy. Faith and Expectation For Wigglesworth, faith was the catalyst for the operation of spiritual gifts. He believed that when believers step out in faith, God's power is unleashed, leading to healings, miracles, and prophetic words. The Role of Prayer and Fasting Wigglesworth often emphasized prayer and fasting as means to prepare oneself to operate in spiritual gifts. He believed these spiritual disciplines foster humility, sensitivity, and authority in ministry. The Significance of Spiritual Gifts in Modern Christianity Smith Wigglesworth's teachings remain relevant because they challenge believers to pursue the fullness of the Holy Spirit and to operate in spiritual gifts with faith and humility. Encouragement to Seek Spiritual Gifts - Believers are encouraged to earnestly seek and desire spiritual gifts. - The Holy Spirit is willing to empower all believers who ask in faith. The Purpose of Spiritual Gifts Today - To demonstrate God's love and power. - To bring salvation, healing, and deliverance. - To edify and unify the church. Overcoming Common Challenges Wigglesworth acknowledged that operating in spiritual gifts requires: - Faith and boldness - Discernment to avoid misuse - Humility to attribute all to God's glory Practical Steps to Embrace Spiritual Gifts Inspired by Wigglesworth 1. Pray for the Holy Spirit's Fillings Seek a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit regularly, asking for empowerment to operate in spiritual gifts. 2. Study Scripture Immerse yourself in biblical passages about spiritual gifts to understand their purpose and operation. 3. Practice in Faith Step out in faith, believing that God will work through you to heal, prophesy, or perform miracles. 4. Join a Spirit-Filled Community Surround yourself with believers who operate in spiritual gifts to learn, receive encouragement, and grow. 5. Maintain Humility and Discernment Operate with humility and seek the Holy Spirit's guidance to ensure the gifts are used appropriately. 6. Expect Miracles Believe that God desires to manifest His power today through His people. Conclusion Smith Wigglesworth's teachings on spiritual gifts highlight their divine origin, biblical foundation, and practical application in the believer's life. His life exemplifies a passionate pursuit of the Holy Spirit's power, demonstrating that spiritual gifts are not relics of the past but vital tools for ministry today. Believers who follow Wigglesworth's example, seeking the Holy Spirit with faith and humility, can experience the transformative power of spiritual gifts, bringing glory to God and advancing His kingdom on earth. By embracing the biblical principles and practical steps outlined by Wigglesworth, Christians can unlock the supernatural dimension of their faith and operate in the spiritual gifts that the Holy Spirit freely gives to all who earnestly seek them.

Smith Wigglesworth on Spiritual Gifts: An In-Depth Examination of His Teachings and Legacy The figure of Smith Wigglesworth stands as one of the most influential and controversial personalities in the history of Pentecostalism and charismatic Christianity. Renowned for his vigorous faith, miraculous healings, and unwavering commitment to the Holy Spirit's gifts, Wigglesworth's teachings continue to inspire and challenge believers worldwide. Central to his ministry was a profound emphasis on spiritual gifts, which he believed were vital for the church's growth, divine authority, and the manifestation of God's power on earth. This article seeks to explore Smith Wigglesworth's perspective on spiritual gifts, dissect his teachings, assess their theological foundations, and evaluate their legacy within contemporary Christianity.

Understanding Smith Wigglesworth's Context and Theological Foundation

To grasp Wigglesworth's teachings on spiritual gifts, it is important to situate his ministry within its historical and theological context. Born in 1859 in England, Wigglesworth's early life was marked by a humble background and a career in plumbing. His conversion in the early 20th century marked a turning point, leading him to become a fervent evangelist and healing minister. His theology was deeply rooted in a literal interpretation of Scripture, particularly the New Testament, emphasizing the ongoing relevance of the spiritual gifts described in the Pauline Epistles. Wigglesworth's theology was characterized by: - A high view of the Holy Spirit's power and activity in the believer's life. - An emphasis on divine healing as a sign of God's kingdom. - An expectation of supernatural manifestations as evidence of true Christian faith. - A belief in the continuation of spiritual gifts beyond the apostolic era. He aligned himself with Pentecostal doctrines, especially the baptism of the Holy Spirit, which he believed was essential for believers to access spiritual gifts and operate in divine authority.

Smith Wigglesworth on Spiritual Gifts: Core Teachings and Practices

Wigglesworth's teachings on spiritual gifts were not merely theoretical but practical, rooted in his own experiences and ministry. His perspective can be summarized through several key points:

The Continuation of Spiritual Gifts

Wigglesworth firmly believed that the spiritual gifts described in the New Testament—such as healing, prophecy, miracles, tongues, and interpretation—were not limited to the early church but were available to believers today. He often cited 1 Corinthians 12-14 as biblical mandates for the ongoing operation of these gifts. > “The gifts of the Spirit are for the church today, just as they were for the church in Acts. We should expect to see them in operation and not dismiss them as outdated or obsolete.” His conviction was that spiritual gifts were vital for evangelism, edification, and the demonstration of God's power in the world.

The Manifestation of the Gifts

Wigglesworth emphasized that spiritual gifts should be manifested spontaneously and under divine guidance. He believed that the Holy Spirit would give gifts as needed, especially during prayer meetings or healing services. Key principles he taught regarding manifestation: - Faith is essential for the operation of spiritual gifts. - Believers must be yielded and sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading. - The gifts should be used to glorify God, not for personal gain or attention. - An atmosphere of faith and expectation facilitates the manifestation of gifts.

Healing and Miracles as Evidence of the Gifts

While Wigglesworth saw healing as a primary gift, he considered it one of the most powerful expressions of the Spirit's work. He believed divine healing was part of the atonement and accessible through faith. He regularly recounted stories of miraculous healings, emphasizing that these acts were not due to human effort but divine power released through faith and prayer. His approach to healing included: - Praying with unwavering faith. - Commanding sickness and disease to leave in the name of Jesus. - Expecting immediate and complete healing. - Viewing healing as a sign of the Holy Spirit's presence.

Prophecy and Tongues

Wigglesworth regarded prophecy and speaking in tongues as gifts meant to edify believers and communicate divine messages. He believed that tongues should always be accompanied by interpretation to ensure edification. He encouraged believers to seek the gift of tongues as a sign of the Holy Spirit's baptism but warned against superficial or counterfeit manifestations.

Controversies and Criticisms Surrounding Wigglesworth's Teachings

Despite his popularity and reported miracles, Wigglesworth's teachings have not been without controversy. Critics have raised several concerns: **Excessive Emphasis on Miracles** Some critics argue that Wigglesworth's focus on miracles and healing sometimes overshadowed the central message of salvation and discipleship. They suggest that an overemphasis on signs and wonders can lead to sensationalism. **The Authority of Spiritual Gifts** Some theological opponents question Wigglesworth's understanding of spiritual authority, arguing that his claims of divine healing and miracles could foster dependence on supernatural displays rather than faith in Christ alone. **Theological Rigor and Scriptural Balance** Others caution against taking Wigglesworth's interpretations at face value, emphasizing the

need for balanced theology that recognizes the gifts' place within the broader biblical narrative without neglecting doctrinal orthodoxy. Allegations of Excess and Spiritual Abuse There have been claims of spiritual excess and even manipulation in some Pentecostal and charismatic circles inspired by Wigglesworth's model, though such issues are more reflective of broader movement trends rather than his personal teachings.

The Legacy of Smith Wigglesworth on Spiritual Gifts in Contemporary Christianity

Wigglesworth's influence persists in modern Pentecostal and charismatic movements. His approach to spiritual gifts has inspired countless believers and ministries worldwide.

Key Aspects of His Enduring Legacy

- Emphasis on Holy Spirit Baptism: The belief that believers should seek a baptism in the Holy Spirit as a foundation for operating spiritual gifts. - Faith-Filled Expectation: The importance of faith as a catalyst for the manifestation of gifts. - Healing Ministries: A model for faith-based healing ministries operating today. - Propagation of Signs and Wonders: A movement that continues to prioritize supernatural manifestations as evidence of authentic Christianity.

Modern Movements Influenced by Wigglesworth

- The Pentecostal movement, which originated in the early 20th century, draws heavily on Wigglesworth's teachings about spiritual gifts. - Charismatic renewal within mainline denominations often references his example of faith and healing. - Contemporary healing evangelists and revivalists frequently cite Wigglesworth as a spiritual ancestor.

Critiques and Cautions in Contemporary Contexts

While many embrace Wigglesworth's emphasis on spiritual gifts, modern believers are encouraged to approach these teachings with biblical discernment, ensuring that manifestations align with Scripture and promote genuine spiritual growth.

Conclusion: The Significance of Smith Wigglesworth’s Teachings on Spiritual Gifts

Smith Wigglesworth remains a towering figure in the history of Pentecostal and charismatic Christianity, primarily because of his unwavering belief in and practice of spiritual gifts. His teachings underscore a vibrant, supernatural Christianity rooted in faith, divine power, and obedience to the Holy Spirit. While his ministry has sparked debate and criticism, his influence in shaping beliefs about the continuation and importance of spiritual gifts cannot be denied. For contemporary Christians, studying Wigglesworth’s approach offers both inspiration and caution. His life exemplifies a deep reliance on the Holy Spirit, a fervent desire for divine manifestations, and a commitment to evangelism and healing. At the same time, believers are reminded to interpret and exercise these gifts within the bounds of biblical orthodoxy and love. In the end, Smith Wigglesworth’s legacy challenges believers to pursue a faith that is both deeply spiritual and practically impactful—an enduring reminder of the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of the church today.

Questions & Answers About smith wigglesworth on spiritual gifts

No	Question	Answer
1	What was Smith Wigglesworth's view on the importance of spiritual gifts in the Christian life?	Smith Wigglesworth emphasized that spiritual gifts are essential for empowering believers to serve effectively, perform miracles, and advance God's kingdom. He believed that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are vital for spiritual growth and demonstrating God's power in the world.
2	How did Smith Wigglesworth demonstrate faith in the use of spiritual gifts?	Wigglesworth demonstrated unwavering faith by trusting in the Holy Spirit's power to heal the sick, cast out demons, and perform miracles. His boldness and reliance on the Holy Spirit's guidance were central to his ministry and serve as a model for believers seeking to operate in spiritual gifts.
3	What teachings did Smith Wigglesworth give about the operation of spiritual gifts today?	Wigglesworth taught that spiritual gifts are available to all believers who seek them with faith and humility. He encouraged believers to pursue the baptism of the Holy Spirit and to be open to the gifts of healing, prophecy, and miracles, emphasizing that these gifts are for today just as they were in the early church.

4	Did Smith Wigglesworth believe that spiritual gifts should be used publicly or privately?	Wigglesworth believed that spiritual gifts should be used both publicly and privately, depending on the context. He emphasized that gifts like healing and prophecy should be exercised to edify the church and bring glory to God, always guided by love and humility.
5	What impact did Smith Wigglesworth have on the modern understanding of spiritual gifts?	Wigglesworth's life and ministry helped revive an emphasis on the supernatural and the active use of spiritual gifts in contemporary Christianity. His faith-filled approach inspired many believers and ministries to seek the baptism of the Holy Spirit and to operate in the gifts of the Spirit confidently and boldly.

Smith Wigglesworth, spiritual gifts, Holy Spirit, Pentecostal, faith healing, miracles, spiritual awakening, divine power, prayer, spiritual revival