

1 Corinthians 12:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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:

Analysis

To another the working of miracles—Energēmata dynameōn (ἐνεργήματα δυνάμεων, "workings of powers") encompasses supernatural deeds beyond healing: exorcisms, nature miracles, judgments (Acts 5:1-11, 13:11), raisings from death. Dynamis (power) describes God's mighty acts, used throughout Scripture for creation, exodus, resurrection. **To another prophecy**—prophēteia (προφητεία) is Spirit-inspired utterance declaring God's message, either forthtelling (proclaiming truth) or foretelling (predicting future). Primary emphasis falls on edification, exhortation, comfort (14:3).

To another discerning of spirits—diakriseis pneumatōn (διακρίσεις πνευμάτων, "distinguishings of spirits") enables believers to test whether a message/messenger comes from the Holy Spirit, human spirit, or demonic spirit (1 John 4:1). Essential for protecting the church from false prophecy. **To another divers kinds of tongues**—genē glōssōn (γένη γλωσσῶν, "kinds of tongues/languages"), ecstatic Spirit-inspired speech, possibly human languages unknown to the speaker or angelic language (13:1). **To another the interpretation of tongues**—hermēneia glōssōn (ἐρμηνεία γλωσσῶν), the ability to translate tongues-speech into understandable language for the congregation's benefit.

Historical Context

All these gifts operated in the apostolic church: Paul worked miracles (Acts 19:11), Agabus prophesied (Acts 11:28, 21:10), Philip's daughters prophesied (Acts 21:9), the Jerusalem church spoke in tongues (Acts 2), Corinthians exercised tongues extensively (perhaps excessively, prompting Paul's regulation in ch. 14).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How can churches cultivate 'discernment of spirits' to test prophetic messages today?
2. Why does Paul list 'interpretation of tongues' as essential to tongues-speaking's value?
3. What is the relationship between the sign-gifts (miracles, tongues) and the teaching-gifts (prophecy, wisdom)?

Interlinear Text

ἄλλω To another G243	δὲ G1161	ἐνεργήματα the working G1755	δυνάμεων of miracles G1411	ἄλλω To another G243	δὲ G1161	προφητεία prophecy G4394
ἄλλω To another G243	δὲ G1161	διακρίσεις discerning G1253	πνευμάτων of spirits G4151	ἐτέρω to another G2087	δὲ G1161	γέννη divers kinds G1085
γλωσσῶν· of tongues G1100	ἄλλω To another G243	δὲ G1161	ἐρμηνεία the interpretation G2058	γλωσσῶν· of tongues G1100		

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 14:39 (Prophecy): Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues.

1 John 4:1 (Spirit): Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

Mark 16:17 (Parallel theme): And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

Joel 2:28 (Spirit): And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

Mark 16:20 (Kingdom): And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

Galatians 3:5 (Spirit): He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

Revelation 2:2 (Parallel theme): I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

Acts 5:3 (Spirit): But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?

Acts 19:6 (Spirit): And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

Acts 11:28 (Spirit): And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar.

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