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## **The Holy Spirit and You**

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**Leading Believers into God's Power for the Harvest**

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*What Every Disciple Ought to Know!*

**The Holy Spirit and You**

**General Editor:** Dr. Michael D. Gross

**Contributors:**

Dr. Michael D. Gross

Dr. Heidi C. Daniels

*This work is dedicated to the memory of Rev Bob Swanger who graduated to glory in 1995. As my spiritual father and a true apostle to the nations, he wrote a discipleship series under the same title several decades ago. It is my prayer that the present work will meet with the same anointing around the world.*

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are taken from the New King James Version (NKJV) of the Bible.

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## Introduction

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The 21st Century presents us with the greatest opportunities to advance Christianity around the world. The calling and responsibility Jesus has placed upon the church is enormous. Much is riding upon the maturity of every believer. Spiritual leaders agree that we must do a far better job of properly laying the foundation of the Christian faith within believers than was done in the previous century - particularly in the past four decades. This foundation must be laid in an environment of grace, love, and spiritual freedom.

“What Every Disciple Ought to Know” has been developed to help “thoroughly furnish” the next generation of leaders with a resource for making disciples. The units of study that follow are word-centered and will provide the ongoing training necessary for each disciple to mature and move forward in faith and effective participation within the body of Christ. They also comprise a comprehensive teaching strategy that will heighten the unity and spiritual health of the local church.

The modern world has yet to see the true church in operation; full of spiritual life and vibrancy. They have seen the old legalistic righteousness of long-established religious traditions and for the most part, they have rejected it. But it’s a new hour for the church. It’s time for a new wineskin. Jesus is coming soon! We must make disciples while it is still day. We must teach others all that Jesus has commanded. This is the task of every Ephesian 4 leader around the world. Our prayer is that this resource will cause you to run with the vision to make disciples of all nations.

*Michael D. Gross, General Editor*

*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.*

Matthew 28:19, 20

*Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

II Timothy 2:15 KJV

*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

II Timothy 3:16, 17 KJV

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# Unit 2: The Holy Spirit and You

## CHAPTER 1

### WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT AND WHAT IS HIS PURPOSE?

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*And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever...  
John 14:16*

#### **Introduction to the Holy Spirit**

The vast majority of believers have been taught little more of the Holy Spirit than as the third person of the Trinity. Christians have confessed for centuries the belief that God has revealed Himself in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. But after a lifetime of repeating this statement from the Apostles' Creed, believers have been left shallow in understanding the Holy Spirit beyond this point. This has created a spiritual vacuum. A person can come up short only so many times before they look elsewhere. It is time for the church to let the Holy Spirit back in!

There is a growing hunger within the people of God today both to know and to experience fellowship with the Holy Spirit. This is especially true as the time of Christ's appearing draws near. Although the Pentecostal and Charismatic movements awakened a renewed interest within many in the church, the desire in the hearts of believers to know the Holy Spirit today is much deeper than the Pentecostal and Charismatic religion that has developed thus far.

What about you? What about the Holy Spirit and you? Do you desire to truly know Him? If so, this discipleship course will help you to have fellowship with the Holy Spirit and to be used by Him to bring glory to God. To know Him means to understand who He is and to also daily experience Him in your life. He is waiting to introduce Himself to you and for you to introduce yourself to Him.

#### **The Holy Spirit in the Beginning**

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Genesis 1:1, 2*

The picture of the Holy Spirit in the beginning is of the creating and sustaining presence of God Himself. The Spirit of God (*ruah* in Hebrew) is revealed to resemble the wind or breath. This characterization of the Holy Spirit will help you to understand who He is, for He has not changed His identity from the beginning.

As the wind and breath of God, the Holy Spirit introduces Himself to you as the life, the strength, the direction, and the disposition of God. He moves everywhere God sends Him to execute the Father's will and to perform His word. This is why you do not see Him stationary in the beginning, but hovering in the sense of sweeping or moving over the face of the waters to actively accomplish every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. The Holy Spirit is like the Psalmist says:

*You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; And You renew the face of the earth. Psalm 104:30*

As the wind and breath of God, the Holy Spirit also introduces Himself to you as the One who sustains the life God creates. This encompasses the born again life as well as the natural life.

*That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, "You must be born again." The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." John 3:6-8*

You cannot control the Holy Spirit anymore than you can imprison the wind. He is the strength of the living God and He is still moving over the face of the waters to do all that pleases God.

## **The Helper**

Jesus described the Holy Spirit as the Helper, Counselor, or Comforter (*parakletos* in Greek) four times in Scripture (John 14:16; 14:26; 15:26; 16:7). In doing so, He reveals some very important features regarding the Holy Spirit. He is an intercessor, comforter, helper, advocate, and counselor. How could a person be afraid or timid about wanting to know Him in light of such truth about who He really is?

Something very special happened after Jesus was baptized with water in the Jordan River. The Holy Spirit descended and rested upon Him like a dove.

*When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Matthew 3:16, 17*

The purity and gentleness of the dove introduces the Holy Spirit to you as the perfect gentleman. Yes, He is powerful! Yes, He convicts of sin like a strike of lightning upon the heart! But He is also the Helper, the Comforter and He wants to come along side of you, rest upon you, and dwell in you to renew and refresh you in the Lord. How could anyone resist Him?

## **The Person of the Holy Spirit**

There are hundreds of references to *the Holy Spirit* or *the Spirit of God* in the Bible. The New Testament alone contains over 250 references. Did you know that not one of these references ever refer to the Holy Spirit as *it* or some impersonal entity. The significance of this is best seen in how Jesus Himself addressed the Holy Spirit.

- *And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever-- the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. John 14:16, 17*
- *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. John 14:26*
- *"But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. John 15:26*
- *Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: John 16:7, 8*

The Holy Spirit is a divine personality! He is one substance with the Father and the Son. This is His true identity, and He wants to have fellowship with you. Are you ready?



*But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. John 15:26*

## **He Will Testify of Me**

If someone asked you what the purpose of the Holy Spirit was, what would your answer be? The first thing most think of is power. The Holy Spirit certainly gives you power, but this is not His primary purpose. The Holy Spirit is the Father's emissary to testify or bear witness to the divinity of Jesus Christ. Jesus is Lord according to the Holy Spirit!

*Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:3*

Let's get one thing clear right now. You cannot really know the Father or the Son apart from the Holy Spirit! This is what God's word says:

*This is He who came by water and blood--Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness on earth the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one. 1 John 5:6-8*

Just think of it! The Holy Spirit is not only co-equal with the Father and the Son, but He is the one that placed the divine seed within the virgin Mary for **she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit** (Matthew 1:18). He bears witness in heaven and on earth to who Jesus really is! It's time for believers, those who have been radically saved and sanctified, to discard the religious Jesus created by the doctrines and cathedrals of man. It's also time to be set apart from the New Age Jesus with all its emphasis on the power of the human mind. Let us say it again! You cannot know or have fellowship with the real Jesus apart from the Holy Spirit! The real Jesus is the One whom the Holy Spirit bears witness to and the witness of God is greater than the witness of man.

*If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which<sup>[a]</sup> He has testified of His Son. 1 John 5:9*

This is why the Holy Spirit also convicts the world because they do not receive the One whom the Spirit bears witness of.

*And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. John 16:8-11*

The Holy Spirit is persistently present to testify to the people of the world that Jesus Christ is who He says He is. You can settle for nothing less! According to the Holy Spirit, Jesus is Lord!

## **Can You Overemphasize the Holy Spirit?**

There is a scenario that repeats itself over and over again as the Holy Spirit seeks to speak and move in the churches across our nation and the world. No sooner does the Spirit's fire begin to accomplish God's will in a church and community, than the voice of some well intentioned individuals, groups, or religious leaders begin to question the increased emphasis on the work of the Holy Spirit. Their concern is that the renewed emphasis on the Holy Spirit is somehow endangering the worship of Jesus Christ. Do you believe this is biblically possible? Can you overemphasize the Holy Spirit?

Let's approach the above question directly and with great clarity. You will jeopardize your worship of Jesus Christ if you emphasize the spirit of man, the spirit of religion, or any other spirit with a little "s." But

remember this: the Holy Spirit will always glorify the Father and exalt the Son according to God's word.

*He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. John 16:14*

Churches that grow according to God's plan are those that do not dilute or tone down their emphasis on the work of the Holy Spirit. Instead, they are preoccupied with Him. The obvious issue with many believers and the churches they belong to is not an overemphasis but an underemphasis of the Holy Spirit!

## **What Can the Holy Spirit Do For You?**

Jesus introduces the Holy Spirit to you as the *Helper or Comforter*. In light of His primary objective to bear witness to and glorify Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit is sent to believers to help them fulfill this objective on earth. This is why you must learn to depend upon the Holy Spirit.

Many have been raised to accept a religious philosophy that says, "God helps those who help themselves." Although there may be some value in that philosophy in the natural, it has no credibility in the spiritual sense. If you have been taught this misleading philosophy, then give it up! First of all, it is not biblical. In addition, that philosophy will keep you self-dependent rather than Spirit-dependent. There is a big difference between the two. The Lord would not have presented the Holy Spirit as the Helper if He did not intend for you to depend upon Him. This becomes clear when you begin to realize what the Holy Spirit can do for you. Are you willing to depend upon Him?

- ✓ He will dwell with you and be in you forever.
  - *And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever--the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.. John 14:16, 17*
- ✓ He will open up the Word of God to you.
  - *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. John 14:26*
- ✓ He will lead you to the truth.
  - *However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come..*
  - John 16:13
- ✓ He will declare Jesus to you.
  - *He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you. John 16:14, 15*
- ✓ He will sanctify or set you apart as a believer.
  - *But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, 2 Thessalonians 2:13*
- ✓ He will free you.
  - *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. Romans 8:2*
  - *Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 2 Corinthians 3:17*
- ✓ He will change you.
  - *But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. 2 Corinthians 3:18*

- ✓ He will empower you.
  - *Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem<sup>2]</sup> until you are endued with power from on high. Luke 24:49*
  - *But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. Acts 1:8*
- ✓ He will speak through you.
  - *But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you. Matthew 10:19, 20*
- ✓ He will equip you with a variety of gifts.
  - *But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. 1 Corinthians 12:7-11*
- ✓ He will help you in weakness.
  - *Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Romans 8:26*
- ✓ He will give you life.
  - *But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. Romans 8:11*
  - *...who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. 2 Corinthians 3:6*
- ✓ He will fill you with love.
  - *Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. Romans 5:5*
- ✓ He will strengthen you.
  - *...that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, Ephesians 3:16*
- ✓ He will guarantee your inheritance.
  - *In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory. Ephesians 1:13, 14*
- ✓ He will perform miracles through you.
  - *And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen. Mark 16:20*
  - *God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will? Hebrews 2:4*





## CHAPTER 2

# THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE PURITY HE REQUIRES

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*Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem<sup>[a]</sup> until you are endued with power from on high. Luke 24:49*

### The Greatness of His Power

The Bible is filled with wonderful displays of the power of God. What if you were asked at this very moment to identify the singular most incredible display of the power of God in all the Bible! What would it be? The Red Sea? The Walls of Jericho? The Virgin Birth? The raising of Lazarus from the dead? All of these demonstrate the greatness of God's power, but the Bible gives only one answer to the above question. It's the mighty power He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead! God wants you to know this!

*...and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. Ephesians 1:19-23*

You may be wondering why the Lord wants you to know the greatness of His power when He raised Jesus from the dead. The reason is because an understanding of His purpose and power working in your own life is dependent upon this revelation. You see, it was the Holy Spirit, carrying out the perfect will of the Father that raised Jesus from the dead. That same awesome resurrection power dwells in you and gives you life in the here and now. You are doomed to live a spiritually powerless life if you do not accept and apply this truth to your own life.

*But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. Romans 8:11*

### The Working of His Power in Jesus

Let's briefly review the working of the Holy Spirit's power in the earthly life of Jesus Himself. You learned earlier in this study of the Holy Spirit's role in the birth of Jesus as Mary **was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit** (Matthew 1:18). Little is said of Jesus' childhood except for His experience in the temple at twelve years of age and that He **grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men** (Luke 2:52). However, from the fulfillment of John the Baptist's ministry on, there's a great detail regarding His ministry.

Do you realize that Jesus walked fully as a man on this earth! Just think of it. Although He was God manifested in the flesh, He still experienced stress, tiredness, hunger, pain, and temptation during His earthly life.

*For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Hebrews 4:15*

This means that Jesus had to depend on the same power you do. It's the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus

could not and would not begin His earthly ministry without Him! The emphasis on this fact is remarkable!

- ***And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."*** Luke 3:22
- ***Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,*** Luke 4:1
- ***Then Jesus returned in the power of the Holy Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region.*** Luke 4:14
- ***"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."*** Luke 4:18, 19

Jesus would not even think about accomplishing the will of the Father without the Holy Spirit. As such, He received not just a measure of Him, but the fullness of the Spirit.

***For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure.*** John 3:34

In fact, the only time Jesus did not have the fullness of the Holy Spirit was on the cross of Cavalry when He cried out in agony just before He died, ***"My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?"*** (Matthew 27:46). The Holy Spirit temporarily departed so Jesus could pay the price for the sins of the world. But it was the power of the Holy Spirit that raised Him from the dead, and it's the same power that continues His ministry today.

## **The Working of His Power in You**

There should be little doubt in your mind by now that Jesus had to fully depend on the power of the Holy Spirit to fulfill His earthly ministry. What if the Apostles had tried to minister without waiting for the power of the Holy Spirit contrary to what Jesus commanded them to do? And what is it with believers that makes them think that somehow the ministry of Jesus Christ can continue today without absolute dependence upon the Holy Spirit? Jesus said believers would do His works and even greater works.

***Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.*** John 14:12

Jesus also said that particular signs would accompany those who believe.

***And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."*** Mark 16:17, 18

God's design is that these signs continue to bear witness to the Lordship of Jesus Christ from generation to generation. Casting out demons, speaking in new tongues, divine protection, and healing the sick will not cease until the Lord Himself returns. This is an important truth for you to understand because the Lord promises to work with you to confirm His word.

***And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.*** Mark 16:20

Have you ever asked yourself why the Lord does this? Why does He desire the power of the Holy Spirit to work in you in such a way? The first reason is that a lot of people will not believe the words that you speak. So, the merciful Lord works in partnership with you to confirm or firmly establish the truth of the

message. God backs you up with miracles! As a result, they believe for the sake of the works themselves just like Jesus said they would. This is why it's so important for you to receive and allow the power of the Holy Spirit to flow through you. Others will be confronted with the truth about the One you serve!

***Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves. John 14:10, 11***

The second reason the Lord desires to work supernaturally in you is that your faith may be grounded in God's power rather than the wisdom of men.

***And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. 1 Corinthians 2:4, 5***

It's sad to say in many churches today that excellence of speech is sought more often than the demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit. Churches need to stop scorning and ignoring the releasing of His power in the sanctuary. Instead, the power of the Holy Spirit needs to be unleashed in the church, from house to house, and into the marketplace. Remember, the ministry of Jesus Christ continues today according to the power that works in you. And God's desire is that His power—the power of the Holy Spirit—be the power at work in you!

***Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:20, 21***

## **Falling Under the Power**

There are times when the Holy Spirit demonstrates His power over the flesh and a person or people “fall under the power” or, as some say, are “slain in the Spirit.” This appears to be a more frequent experience during major revivals recorded in church history, including those at the beginning and end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but we don't hear much about it in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Some are very skeptical of the authenticity of this experience, while others assume that a person who falls under the power of the Holy Spirit is more spiritual than the others. Both are wrong!

The first occurrence in the New Testament of this experience is when the soldiers came to arrest Jesus.

***Now when He said to them, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground. John 18:6***

You will notice that the soldiers were unbelievers. Nevertheless, the Holy Spirit demonstrated His power as they fell to the ground. This experience does have biblical roots, but it has more to do with a person's spiritual need than his or her spiritual maturity level.

The above truth is born out in the next example of a person being “slain in the Spirit.” In this case, it involved Saul who became Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles.

***As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" Acts 9:3,4***

The power of the Holy Spirit on this eventful day got Saul's attention! If he was riding on a horse as many believe then God's power knocked him off his horse. It was an experience that he would live to tell about many times. Saul would not have become Paul without the Damascus road experience with the Lord. This experience included falling out under His power.

You may still be asking why? But why not? Why should believers not, at times, be overcome by the



power of the Holy Spirit? There is no doubt that the real presence and manifestation of the Lord is awesome. John found this out on the island of Patmos as he was **“in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day.”** (Revelation 1:10).

*And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. Revelation 1:17*

There are times people need to be reminded of the power of the Holy Spirit. There are other times people need a radical change in their direction of life as in Saul’s case. And there are those times when the glory of God comes in like a cloud and you are so overcome by the Spirit that your mortal body gets weak and you just cannot stay on your feet. This is the presence of God! It’s the overwhelming, life-changing power of the Holy Spirit! That power is real and ready to work in you! You need to be more aware of His presence. You need to clear a path for His glory and power in your life. May you experience His power in the sanctuary as they did at the dedication of Solomon’s temple.

*It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD; So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God. 2 Chronicles 5:13-14 KJV*

## **Your Body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit**

*Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?  
1 Corinthians 3:16*

There is a particular philosophy that says: *“It’s my body and I’ll do what I want with it!”* You undoubtedly have heard this expressed in many different forms during your lifetime. This philosophy has permeated the hearts and minds of many like few others have. It’s the fruit of a continual emphasis on individualism and everything to do with the self. In addition, it’s contrary to the truth revealed in God’s word. Scripture clearly says that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and that you belong to God.

*Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body<sup>a</sup> and in your spirit, which are God’s. 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20*

Just think of it! This means that the Holy Spirit desires to dwell in and even fill your mortal body. He wants to live inside you! With this in mind, how would you modify your understanding of living your life? What changes if any would you make in your lifestyle? I like the challenge one international leader recently presented, *“What is our conduct/behavior with the Holy Spirit? Be thirsty for the Holy Spirit in your life!”*

## **Have You Been Crucified With Christ?**

Before you can even begin to deal with changes in your lifestyle you need to confront the very important issue of control. Most people like to feel that they are in control of their lives. In fact, they feel various levels of discomfort if their lives appear out of control. The Bible says that none of us lives to himself. Then to whom do you live? The answer is certain. The life you live, you live to the Lord Jesus Christ!

*For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s. Romans 14:7, 8*

The key to understanding and accepting your body as the temple of the Holy Spirit is to give up your control and even the desire to control your life. This is the single most difficult thing for believers to do! God’s word

expresses it best when it emphasizes the need to be crucified with Christ.

- *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. Galatians 2:20*
- *And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Galatians 5:24*

You have been crucified with Christ when you give yourself in prayer to Him as He gave Himself for you. Notice the result is a change of control. You no longer live to yourself, but Christ lives in you. You are the temple of the Holy Spirit!

## **It Is Unwise to Defile the Temple of the Holy Spirit**

Once you settle the control issue, then it's time for the temple to be cleansed. Believers need to be continually reminded that the only way to deal with unclean sins of the flesh is to drive them out of the temple just as Jesus drove out the unclean things from the temple at Jerusalem (John 2:13-22). The Holy Spirit will help you to cleanse your body as the temple of God. Remember—you have already understood and accepted that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit in accordance with the word of God. You want your body to be filled with and controlled by the Holy Spirit. You want Christ to live in you. Then, as a believer, you don't want to defile your body which is His dwelling place. This is such a serious matter, and yet Christians today play with this as a child would play with matches. God sternly warns that He will destroy those who defile His temple!

*If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are. 1 Corinthians 3:17*

You may still be wondering what specifically is being talked about in relation to your own body. Let's identify some of the areas mentioned in Scripture that are directly linked to the defiling of your body as the temple of the Holy Spirit and God's answer for each.

1. Area of Defilement: Controlling your life in such a way as a believer that your works build another foundation than that which has been laid in Christ. See 1 Corinthians 3:1-17.

**God's Answer:** *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me . . . Galatians 2:20*

2. Area of Defilement: Allowing your body to be brought under the control of foods, drugs, alcohol, and cigarettes, and any form of sexual immorality. See 1 Corinthians 6:12-20.

**God's Answer:** *For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. . . Romans 8:13*

3. Area of Defilement: Submitting your body to idolatrous practices in fellowship, in partnership, or in marriage with unbelievers. See 2 Corinthians 6:11-18.

**God's Answer:** *"Come out from among them And be separate," says the Lord. . . 2 Corinthians 6:17*

The battle between your flesh and the Spirit of God is real. At times, you may feel it's unlikely for the Holy Spirit to dwell in you. The idea that He could fill your body may seem a mystery, but the Lord has the solution. It's to walk in the Spirit. Like a child, you have to learn to walk.

*I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. Galatians 5:16*

## **Sins Against the Holy Spirit**

You have learned that the Holy Spirit is the *Helper, Counselor, or Comforter* and, as such, He is the perfect gentleman as well as the One who convicts and corrects. This truth also implies that He will not

dwell where He is not made welcome. An obvious way of welcoming the Holy Spirit into a person's life is to stop sinning against Him! The Bible reveals five sins against the Holy Spirit.

1. **Blaspheming:** This means to willfully and continually reject the Holy Spirit against spiritual knowledge by attributing His work to the devil. Jesus said this is the only sin that will not be forgiven.

*Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come. Matthew 12:31, 32*

2. **Insulting:** This means to reject the Lord Jesus Christ, after having been born again, by treating the Son of God with scorn and regarding His blood as common. This insults the Holy Spirit because He bears witness to the truth that Jesus is Lord.

*Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? Hebrews 10:29*

3. **Resisting:** This means to oppose or strive against the Holy Spirit by refusing His ministry and manifestations in the church and world today, including coming against or accusing those who minister in the fullness and power of the Holy Spirit. This is often the result of being taught the religious traditions and doctrines of men and/or an inability to be set free from carnal sins.

*"You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers. . . Acts 7:51, 52*

4. **Grieving:** This means to cause pain or distress to the Holy Spirit by disobeying or failing to yield to His leading while giving in to the carnal nature and/or the devil. This causes the indwelling Spirit to experience hurt and sadness, especially in relationships.

*And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. Ephesians 4:30, 31*

5. **Quenching:** This means to damper or cool the fire of the Holy Spirit by displaying a negative or disruptive response when His gifts and ministry are being poured out upon the people of God. This includes both cold and exaggerated responses in thought, word, or deed.

*Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22*

You may discover at this time that you have sinned against the Holy Spirit in some way. Although you may have done it in ignorance, it's still important that you confess any indifference toward Him as sin. The Holy Spirit will cleanse and deliver you from any unclean spirits. He will enlighten you and purify you. And you can welcome Him again as you pray:

*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true. . .  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for You.*

**Discussion Questions:**

1. The ultimate display of God's power came in what one action?
2. It is important for you to know the greatness of God's power because the working of His **p**\_\_\_\_\_ and **p**\_\_\_\_\_ in your own life is **d**\_\_\_\_\_ upon this revelation.
3. How did Jesus accomplish His earthly ministry?
4. Did Jesus have the Holy Spirit with Him all the time?
5. The ministry of Jesus Christ continues today through those who **b**\_\_\_\_\_ in the **p**\_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit and perform His **w**\_\_\_\_\_ in this power.
6. According to Mark 16, what did Jesus say believers would do?
7. Why does God want His power to work in you?
8. You are having a discussion with a friend who is a new believer. The discussion turns toward the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives today. How would you describe to this friend what it means to fall under the power or be slain in the Spirit?
9. The Bible says that your body is the **t**\_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit and that you **b**\_\_\_\_\_ to God.

10. What is the key to understanding and accepting your body as the temple of the Holy Spirit?
  
11. When it comes to issues of control, what is the single most difficult thing for believers to do?
  
12. What does it mean to be crucified with Christ and how can this be accomplished?
  
13. How can you cleanse your body from sinful habits with the help of the Holy Spirit?
  
14. Identify some specific areas in the Bible in which believers can defile the body.
  
15. God's solution to the battle between the flesh and the Spirit is to   w                   in the Spirit.
16. List and define the five sins against the Holy Spirit.
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
  - 5.
  
17. How do you welcome the Holy Spirit again when you have sinned against Him?

## CHAPTER 3

# WHAT IS THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

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*I indeed baptized you with water,  
but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." Mark 1:8*

### Jesus Will Baptize You with the Holy Spirit

Among the first things revealed about Jesus just prior to the beginning of His earthly ministry is that He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit. This should be exciting news for you as a believer, but unfortunately this excitement is not shared by all. Nevertheless, the truth remains: Jesus Christ is the Baptizer with the Holy Spirit!

- *I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. Matthew 3:11; See also Mark 1:7, 8; and Luke 3:16.*
- *Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high." Luke 24:49*
- *And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." Acts 1:4, 5*
- *And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning. Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, "John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' Acts 11:15, 16*

If you have any doubt and confusion about the validity of the baptism with the Holy Spirit, it should be gone in light of the above testimony of the Word of God. Rejoice! Jesus will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

### The Promise of the Father

Jesus commanded the first 120 believers to wait for the promise of the Father (see Acts 1:4). What was this promise? Jesus said it was the Holy Spirit as experienced by believers who would be baptized with the Holy Spirit. This not only means that the baptism with the Holy Spirit is distinct from water baptism, but that it's also the fulfillment of prophecy. Joel prophesied nearly 800 years before the time of Christ that God would one day pour out His Spirit upon all flesh. The New Testament confirms beyond any doubt that God fulfilled His promise on the day of Pentecost and continues to fulfill it in every believer that is baptized with the Holy Spirit.

*And it shall come to pass in the last days, says That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy. Acts 2:17, 18; See also Joel 2:28, 29.*

It's important to note that Peter explained the Pentecost experience as the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy. He said, "**this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel**" (Acts 2:16). This again clearly establishes the importance of the baptism with the Holy Spirit from the day of Pentecost to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. It's the Promise of the Father and the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy. It's absolutely

necessary for believers to come into prophetic alignment with God's word on this.

## **The Baptism with the Holy Spirit Is for You**

The Bible uses the words *baptize*, *filled*, and *receive* in reference to the baptism with the Holy Spirit. In all, there are over 15 references in the New Testament using these terms. How can anyone who believes the Bible to be the Word of God discredit the validity of the baptism with the Holy Spirit for themselves, let alone for others? They do it in at least two ways. Either they believe that the experience was limited to the believers in the early church or that future believers receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit at the time of conversion. Both of these views often reflect the teachings of their particular church or denomination. Let's see why these views are in error and why the baptism with the Holy Spirit is for all believers.

Joel's prophecy is definitive in saying that the Holy Spirit, the Promise of the Father, would be poured out upon all flesh. This means just what it says! It's God's will for everyone under the new covenant to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. In addition, the prophecy specifically mentions your sons and your daughters. The Promise of the Father is for future generations. Each new generation in God's plan is to be a generation of the Spirit.

*Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." Acts 2:38, 39*

Many have used the previous passage to support the idea that conversion is the same as being filled or baptized with the Holy Spirit. But this view does not line up with the biblical pattern. Around twenty years after the day of Pentecost, Philip, with great power of the Holy Spirit, preached and ministered the Lord Jesus Christ to the people of Samaria. The result was very predictable.

*But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done. Acts 8:12,13*

What follows in this passage of Scripture surprises many believers, but again confirms all those things that you are being taught about the Holy Spirit in this course. The apostles sent Peter and John to them for the express purpose that they might receive the Holy Spirit. Notice the Bible says, **"as yet He had fallen upon none of them."**

*Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. Acts 8:14-17*

It should be obvious to you that the Samaritans were already believers and had been baptized with water. Now they needed to be baptized with the Holy Spirit! The early church recognized this! Why can't churches today? In addition, Paul asked the disciples at Ephesus whether they had received the Holy Spirit since they believed.

*And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. Acts 19:1, 2 KJV*

What does this mean? You become a candidate to receive the Holy Spirit the second after being converted, and, as evidenced by the teaching of Jesus and in the book of Acts, you must be a believer before you can receive. This is because the unbelieving world cannot receive the Spirit of God.

*And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever-- the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. John 14:16, 17*

I like what my Nepalese partner, Reuben Pradhan, once said, "No one teaches better on the Holy Spirit than Jesus." This is so true and it's obvious that the experiences recorded in Acts reveal the early believers understood His teachings and obeyed His instructions on the Holy Spirit. By now you should have no doubt or confusion that the baptism with the Holy Spirit is of God and that the experience is for you. The words of Jesus Himself should make every believer thirsty to be filled with the Holy Spirit. How about you?

*On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. John 7:37-39*

## **The Evidence of the Baptism with the Holy Spirit**

Let's look at how the early Christians received the Spirit and how they and others knew they had indeed been baptized with the Holy Spirit. As you review the following passages you will discover that speaking in tongues is consistently associated with the biblical experience of being baptized or filled with the Holy Spirit.

- *And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Acts 2:4*
- *Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, saying, "Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit." Acts 8:17-19*
- *And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Acts 9:17*
- *I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all; 1 Corinthians 14:18*
- *While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Acts 10:44-46*
- *And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. Now the men were about twelve in all. Acts 19:6, 7*

The only way the early church immediately knew that believers were baptized with the Holy Spirit was when they began to speak in tongues. In addition, the Jewish believers were convinced that God had also poured out His Spirit upon the Gentiles only because "**they heard them speaking in tongues.**" Peter's report to the Jerusalem Church presents insurmountable evidence of this:

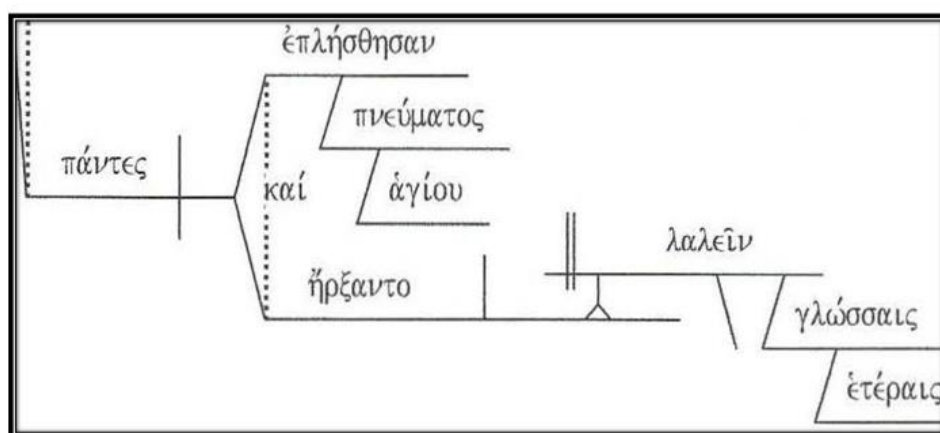
*"And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup> "Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, 'John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>17</sup> "If therefore*



God gave them the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?" <sup>18</sup> When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life." Acts 11:15-18

Whose report will the new generation believe? I discovered a conclusive truth about the baptism with the Holy Spirit several years ago while preparing for a house church fellowship. I was examining the Greek words in Acts 2:4 and decided to diagram the sentence. Sentence diagraming has become a lost art in learning, but it has a tremendous value because it illuminates points of grammar to reveal what's going on, what action is taking place, who is doing it, and to whom it is being done. Here's how Acts 2:4 looks fully diagrammed in the Greek:

## Acts 2:4 Under the Microscope



In the above sentence structure, "all" is the subject and the action words are two plural verbs. I noticed when I looked at the diagram of the sentence structure, particularly the second action word for "began", an important discovery came forth. It's found in the use of the Greek verb *archomai* which means to be the first to do or begin anything; to be chief, leader, or ruler. The word is used here to reveal or bring attention to the initial stage or beginning that's associated with the action of being filled with the Holy Spirit. The two statements are blended together. The initial stage of speaking in tongues is expressly pointed out by the Scripture. The two verbs apply to everyone present where the Holy Spirit filled all and all began to speak in tongues. In addition, the third person plural of each verb supports this all-inclusive outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Speaking in tongues, therefore, was the first or initial thing that was done after the infilling by the Holy Spirit. Another thing that stands out is that they began to speak the Holy Spirit's utterance. In other words, they used their own vocal cords and speech ability to by faith release the given utterance. Many do not understand this and fail to engage and release the new tongues when the Holy Spirit comes upon them.

Many spiritual leaders and believers remain unconvinced of the above truth. But God has not changed the way believers receive the Holy Spirit today. They begin to speak in tongues when filled with the Holy Spirit. It's the initial evidence God provides for you and for others to know that you have received the Holy Spirit. New generation leaders and believers need to trust God and His Word on this!

## **The Purpose of the Baptism with the Holy Spirit**

Although the Holy Spirit is responsible for carrying out the spiritual rebirth of those who receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, He goes a step beyond the born-again experience and fills believers who ask with God's power. This is what the baptism with the Holy Spirit is all about.

***But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8***

Have you ever wondered why the New Testament believers sought earnestly to receive the Holy Spirit? It was because they needed the power of the Holy Spirit for ministry, service, and victorious living as Christ's witnesses upon the earth. They could not have proclaimed God's word with boldness without the power of the Holy Spirit. Believers today should reflect this same awareness.

***Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus." And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness. Acts 4:29-31***

Believers today also need shaken by the Holy Spirit! The baptism with the Holy Spirit gives you the divine energy and enablement to exhibit spiritual power and authority. And what's so amazing is that this power comes upon ordinary people. It should be no wonder why the apostles urged the people to seek out those who were full of the Holy Spirit and appoint them to be responsible for distribution of food to the needy!

***Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; Acts 6:3***

It's no wonder Paul instructs all believers to receive the Holy Spirit!

***And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit. Ephesians 5:18***

You must be baptized with the Holy Spirit to most effectively carry out the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is a forever settled matter with God!

## **How You Can Receive the Holy Spirit**

Dr. Paul Yonggi Cho, pastor of the largest Christian church in the world, says it best regarding those who want to be baptized with the Holy Spirit: *"Today, as much as in the past, those who want to receive the promised baptism of the Holy Spirit should have a fervent expectation and a desperate desire to receive. If you have that fervent expectation and desperate desire, then you will receive!"* Let's look now at the biblical way to receive the Holy Spirit.

- Prepare your heart by taking care of any sins in your life.
  - ***Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38***
- Ask your heavenly Father.
  - ***If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" Luke 11:13***

- Receive the Holy Spirit by faith.
  - ***This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Galatians 3:2***
- Submit your tongue to God by opening your mouth and using your vocal cords to release the utterance of the Holy Spirit for all to hear.
  - ***And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Acts 2:4***

Be filled with the Holy Spirit now in Jesus Name!

**Discussion Questions:**

1. How can you be certain that the baptism with the Holy Spirit is a valid Christian experience?
2. Provide scriptural reference that shows the baptism of the Holy Spirit as a fulfillment of prophecy.
3. What teachings today show a lack of belief in the baptism of the Holy Spirit as it is evidenced by the New Testament record?
4. Why is the baptism with the Holy Spirit for all believers?
5. Explain the relationship between conversion and the baptism with the Holy Spirit and why they are not the same.
6. The streams of living water Jesus talked about in John 7:37-39 indicate how the   H    
  S   will   f   out of believers once the Holy Spirit has filled them.
7. By what physical evidence did the early church know that believers had received the Holy Spirit?



## CHAPTER 4

# THE FRUIT AND GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE ROLE OF SPEAKING IN TONGUES

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*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. Galatians 5:22, 23*

*Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant: 1 Corinthians 12:1*

### Defining the Fruit of the Spirit

In Chapter 3 of Unit One entitled, “*Repentance from Dead Works*,” we outlined God’s way for believers to bear fruit and more fruit for God’s glory. You may find it helpful to review these points at this time. In this chapter, we will establish the Biblical perspective of the fruit of the Spirit as the prerequisite for desiring and operating in the gifts of the Spirit. In the Parable of the Sower, Jesus clearly describes those who bear fruit for God.

*But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.” Matthew 13:23*

The definition of bearing fruit in the above passage literally means to be fertile, to bring forth fruit. It’s to bring forth something by the Spirit that can be used by others. Notice that the seed, the capability to bear fruit is in us by the indwelling Spirit of Christ. Another thing that defines the fruit of the Spirit is that it determines our spirituality. The fruit is both the mark and test of true discipleship.

*By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. John 15:8*

With this in mind, let’s examine the fruit of the Spirit. The following Scripture identifies nine fruit of the Spirit.

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. Galatians 5:22, 23*

Notice the passage is clearly contrasted with the previous segment which lists at least 17 works of the flesh that epitomize the corrupt fruit of the sinful nature. The Greek word for fruit is *karpos*. This word is used 66 times in the New Testament and refers to fruit that is plucked. Surprisingly, it is a singular noun, which indicates that the other fruit listed are the result of love. In other words, the fruit of the Spirit begins, ends, and flows with God’s love. This also heightens the significance of the placement of First Corinthians 13 in the midst of Paul’s teaching on spiritual gifts. The following is a list of the nine fruit of the Spirit with brief definitions for each, some of which have been taken from the *Life in the Spirit Study Bible*:

1. **Love** (*agape*) – a caring for and seeking the highest good of another person without motive of personal gain (Rom 5:5; 1 Cor 13; Eph 5:2; Col 3:14).
2. **Joy** (*chara*) – the feeling of gladness based on the love, grace, blessings, promises and nearness of God that belong to those who believe in Christ (Ps 119:16; 2 Cor 6:10; 12:9; 1 Pet 1:8).
3. **Peace** (*eirene*) – the rest of heart and mind based on the knowledge that all is well between the believer and his or her heavenly Father, resulting in freedom from the turmoil of anxiety (Rom 15:33; Phil 4:7; 1 Thes 5:23; Heb 13:20).
4. **Longsuffering** (*makrothumia*) – endurance, patience; being slow to anger or despair (Eph 4:2; 2 Tim 3:10; Heb 12:1).

5. **Gentleness/Kindness** (*chrestotes*) – kindness; not wanting to hurt anyone or cause them pain (Eph 4:32; Col 3:12; 1 Pet 2:3).
6. **Goodness** (*agathosune*) – zeal for truth and righteousness and a hatred of evil; it can be expressed in acts of kindness (Lk 7:37-50) or in rebuking and correcting evil (Mat 21:12-13).
7. **Faith/Faithfulness** (*pistis*) – firm and unswerving loyalty to a person to whom one is united by promise, commitment, trust and honesty (Mat 23:23; Rom 3:3; 1 Tim 6:12; 2 Tim 2:2; 4:7; Tit 2:10).
8. **Meekness/Gentleness** (*prautes*) – gentleness; restraint coupled with strength and courage; it describes a person who can be angry when anger is needed and humbly submissive when submission is needed (2 Tim 2:25; 1 Pet 3:15; for gentleness in Jesus, compare Mat 11:29 with Mat 23 and Mark 3:5; in Paul, compare 2 Cor 10:1 with 10:4-6 and Gal 1:9; in Moses, compare Num 12:3 with Ex 32:19-20).
9. **Temperance/Self control** (*egkrateia*) – self-control; mastering one's own desires and passions, including faithfulness to one's marriage vows; also purity (1 Cor 7:9; 9:25; Tit 1:8; 2:5)

These are produced in believers as they allow the Holy Spirit to direct and influence their lives to the destruction of sin's power. All Christians can and must practice and produce the fruit of the Spirit. Paul concludes that there is no law keeping us from living according to these godly principles.

### **The Relationship between the Fruit of the Spirit and the Gifts**

The fruit of the Spirit is one of the most neglected topics in Spirit-filled churches around the world. Most would agree that there has been much more emphasis upon the gifts rather than the fruit of the Spirit. Could it be possible that in our zealous pursuit of spiritual gifts, we have created an environment centered on the gifts when, in truth, God centers everything on the fruit? In fact, the Bible concludes that the operation of spiritual gifts without the fruit is just a bunch of noise.

*Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. 1 Corinthians 13:1-3*

The point is this: we diminish the effectiveness and increase the misuse of spiritual gifts when we ignore the fruit of the Spirit. Obviously, God's word tells us not to be ignorant of the gifts, to desire them, and to cultivate the best or greater gifts. However, this is not the primary emphasis of First Corinthians 12-14 in the context of the church. Review these important points from chapter 12 of First Corinthians to see the inseparable balance between the fruit and gifts of the Spirit.

- 12:3 – the ultimate tribute to the Spirit's presence is saying through the believer that Jesus is Lord!
- 12:7 – the chief purpose for desiring the gifts is the profit of all!
- 12:28 – the recognition of Christ's reign as the head of the church who Himself structures it!
- 12:31 – the more excellent way to operate in spiritual gifts is through love!

We must understand that the fruit of the Spirit is at the center of God's heart. The spiritual gifts operate effectively only in the context of the fruit of the Spirit. This must also be our perspective as we desire and operate in the gifts. The believer's pursuit of the fruit of the Spirit needs to be of the greatest intensity. The Bible does not say that we will be known to all by our spiritual gifts, but by our fruit!

***By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:35***

In addition, false prophets outwardly disguised and those who are hypocritical though operating in various spiritual gifts are known by their fruits rather than by their gifts.

*Therefore by their fruits you will know them. "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"*  
 Matthew 7:20-23

Although the Bible warns believers not to judge, we do have the right to be fruit inspectors. The reason this is so important is because it is the fruit of the Spirit born through us that will change the world around us. Our fruit is an expression of our character and God's command for us to bear fruit is a call to godly character.

## Introduction to Spiritual Gifts

There are many spiritual gifts listed in the Bible and the Lord makes it clear that believers need to know them and understand how they operate in the body of Christ. Spiritual gifts are the tools that He provides to build His church. If you really desire to be a part of the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ, then you will take time to learn about spiritual gifts and seek to operate in them. First, there are three primary listings of spiritual gifts in the New Testament. Let's begin by examining the introductions to each of these listings:

Romans 12:3-5	1 Corinthians 12:1-7	Ephesians 4:1-10
<p>I beseech you therefore, brethren, <u>by the mercies of God</u>, that you <u>present your bodies a living sacrifice</u>, holy, acceptable to God, <i>which is</i> your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup> And <del>do not be conformed to this world</del>, but be transformed <u>by the renewing of your mind</u>, that you may <u>prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God</u>. <sup>3</sup> For I say, <u>through the grace given to me</u>, to everyone who is among you, <del>not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think</del>, but to <u>think soberly</u>, as <u>God has dealt to each one a measure of faith</u>. <sup>4</sup> For as we have many members in <u>one body</u>, but all the members do not have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, <i>being many</i>, are <u>one body in Christ</u>, and individually members of one another.</p>	<p>Now concerning spiritual <i>gifts</i>, brethren, I <del>do not want you to be ignorant</del>: <sup>2</sup> You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led. <sup>3</sup> Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking <u>by the Spirit of God</u> calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord <u>except by the Holy Spirit</u>. <sup>4</sup> There are diversities of gifts, but <u>the same Spirit</u>. <sup>5</sup> There are differences of ministries, but <u>the same Lord</u>. <sup>6</sup> And there are diversities of activities, but it is <u>the same God who works all in all</u>. <sup>7</sup> But the <u>manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all</u>:</p>	<p>I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to <u>walk worthy of the calling</u> with which you were called, <sup>2</sup> with <u>all lowliness and gentleness</u>, with <u>longsuffering</u>, <u>bearing with one another in love</u>, <sup>3</sup> endeavoring to keep <u>the unity of the Spirit</u> in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup> <u>There is one body and one Spirit</u>, just as you were called in <u>one hope of your calling</u>; <sup>5</sup> <u>one Lord, one faith, one baptism</u>; <sup>6</sup> <u>one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all</u>. <sup>7</sup> But to each one of us <u>grace was given</u> according to the measure of Christ's gift. <sup>8</sup> Therefore He says: "<u>When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men</u>." <sup>9</sup> (Now this, "He ascended"-- what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? <sup>10</sup> He who descended is also the One who <u>ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things</u>.)</p>

Each of the above introductions to gifts reveal some similarities to how we approach spiritual gifts. There's a transformative mandate in each introduction to move us from where we were to a new place of utilization by God. There's an absolute emphasis upon God as the author of gifts. Each introduction repeatedly points



to the mercy and grace of God as the author of the gifts given. They are perfect gifts for the body of Christ (James 1:17). Spiritual gifts are His plan for the church. And He wants to work in each one of us! Although members of His body have different gifts (Rom. 12:4; 1Cor. 12:7, 11; Eph. 4:11), God has given each believer **“a measure of faith”** to operate in these gifts. Therefore, each one has a responsibility in Christ to grow and mature in the use of spiritual gifts. Faith is the activation key for any spiritual gift to be **“fanned into flame.”**

***This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you.***  
2 Timothy 1:6 NLT

***For I long to visit you so I can bring you some spiritual gift that will help you grow strong in the Lord. <sup>12</sup> When we get together, I want to encourage you in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by yours.*** Romans 1:11 NLT

There are several things that will quench the operation of spiritual gifts. One is conformity to the world (Rom. 12:2). Another is overconfidence in yourself or a lack of trust and dependence upon the Lord (Rom. 12:3). Many are also ignorant of spiritual gifts in the church (1Cor. 12:1). This goes along with a neglect of the Holy Spirit by deemphasizing His operation in the church. Today, I believe the Lord desires to use young leaders to restore the operation of spiritual gifts to the church. If they step out in faith in the use of spiritual gifts and teach and encourage others to do the same, God will use them to bring back the spiritual life and fire to His church.

Spiritual gifts can be classified into three categories:

1. The gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:8-10)

***There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.*** 1 Corinthians 12:4

2. The gifts of the Son (Ephesians 4:11, 12). Also called the *“governmental ministries.”*

***There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.*** 1 Corinthians 12:5

3. The gifts of the Father (Romans 12:6-8)

***And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.***  
1 Corinthians 12:6

In addition, there are natural talents and motivations that each person inherits as a gift from God to be used to bring Him glory. This study, however, will concentrate on the manifestation gifts of the Holy Spirit. Take a moment to review in Appendix 1 what are considered the most recognized classifications of spiritual gifts as provided by Dr. Owen Weston, formerly of Regents University. Spiritual gifts, according to Dr. Weston, represent your job description with God and that makes them important to you and the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ.

## **The Importance of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are very important to our lives and the work of God. It is advantageous to every member of the body of Christ for the gifts of the Holy Spirit to be in operation. This is clearly what the word of God says.

***But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:*** 1 Corinthians 12:7

The Holy Spirit discloses and proclaims the real ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ when His gifts are in operation. This profits everyone! This involves everyone in His ministry! This is body or congregational ministry at its best when the operation is with the fruit of the Spirit.

Just as there are nine fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23, there are nine “*manifestation gifts*” of the Holy Spirit listed in First Corinthians 12:8-10. These are called manifestation gifts because they are not possessed by any individual. Instead, they manifest according to the will of the Holy Spirit. It is a clear sign that He is in control when any of these gifts operate in the body of Christ. They are visible evidence of His activity, for they do not come from any human source or heightened natural ability.

***But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. 1 Corinthians 12:11***

The activity of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ also means that the Spirit of God is in control. Spiritual gifts themselves demand a belief in miracles and the supernatural. They take you beyond the rational thinking of your own mind to a dependency upon the Lord and a willingness to participate in what He is doing. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are not possessed, but given or distributed to seeking believers for ministry in the body of Christ. When spiritual gifts are being manifest, the church must allow for all things to be done decently and in order. What so many churches fail to understand, though, is that this refers exclusively to the order and pattern of God as revealed by the Holy Spirit, not to the order and pattern of man’s rational thinking or traditional church administrations.

***Let all things be done decently and in order. 1 Corinthians 14:40***

It is very important that every believer be reminded that it is not the arm of the flesh that will build His church. Rather, it’s by the Spirit of God! The Spirit of God must be permitted to be in control!

***So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the LORD of hosts. Zechariah 4:6***

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are also instrumental in the fulfillment of the Great Commission. When there is a release of God’s power through spiritual gifts, many more conversions take place. It is the will of God that none should perish. The harvest is plentiful and the fields are ripe. You should want to see many conversions!

***...how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will? Hebrews 2:3,4***

## **God Wants You to Desire the Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

Morris Williams, associate professor of the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary says: “*If our pursuit of spiritual gifts were like our pursuit of Christ-likeness, the imperfectness of our efforts would cease to be a stumbling block. If the people of God really want Jesus Christ to build His church, then they must pursue spiritual gifts.*” In fact, this is just what the Bible says:

***Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. 1 Corinthians 14:1***

The Greek word *zeloo* in the above passage means “*to be zealous for, to burn with desire*” and “*to eagerly pursue.*” Believers are called by God to be intense in their desire for spiritual gifts. You need to pursue them with great passion! This is God’s will because He wants to use you in building His church.

The motivation of your heart is extremely important as you eagerly and intensely are in pursuit of spiritual gifts. No one can afford to dismiss the manifestation of the gift from its purpose. To do so often results in the misuse of spiritual gifts. You need to become effective in building up the body of Christ. The Bible is very clear on this point.

***Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel. 1 Corinthians 14:12***

This is the yardstick to measure whether a manifestation of the Spirit is in the flesh or in the Spirit. All things are to be done for the strengthening and building up of the body of Christ.

***How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification. 1 Corinthians 14:26***

Do you desire to be used by God to build up His church? Ask yourself that question. But do not stop there because the qualifying factor is this: how much do you really love the body of Christ? This is why First Corinthians 13 is placed in the middle of the most detailed description of the use and function of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the Bible. As we discussed earlier, love is the only way to effectively operate in the spiritual gifts.

***Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 1 Corinthians 13:1***

## **Why You Shouldn't Neglect Spiritual Gifts**

It should be rather obvious to you by now that it is vitally important for you to operate in the spiritual gifts. It is true that if you decide not to pursue them, then God will find someone else to use. However, there is another reason why you should not neglect spiritual gifts. Your loving and faithful pursuit of and operation in the gifts of the Holy Spirit has a direct impact on the salvation and spiritual growth of others. Of course, this is done while continuing to be a Godly example to other believers in conduct and the doctrine of Christ.

***Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you. 1 Timothy 4:12-16***

No wonder Paul urged Timothy to stir up the gift of God. This literally means to fan into flame the gift of God within you. Although the Holy Spirit distributes His gifts according to His own will, it is by your initiative that the respective gifts come to life and are manifested through you. In other words, a particular gift bestowed upon you by the Holy Spirit will remain dormant unless you are willing to allow or eagerly desire it to manifest. Only when it manifests will it edify the church!

***The Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain; 2 Timothy 1:6***

You need to be willing to speak as if God is speaking through you. The only way to learn this is to step out in faith and allow spiritual gifts to operate through you. The word of God promises that the church will be edified and He will be glorified.

***As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 4:10, 11***

## **What Is Speaking in Tongues?**

*I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all. 1 Corinthians 14:18*

*Glossolalia* or *speaking in tongues* will probably be noted as one of the most controversial subjects the church has faced during the 20<sup>th</sup> century and carried into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Some say it never existed; others say that it ceased with the early church. Still others say it is not relevant for today, and some have gone so far as to attribute speaking in tongues to the devil. And if this is not enough, some Pentecostals say you cannot be saved without it. No wonder there is so much confusion! Believers who study the Bible for themselves discover that speaking in tongues is ordained by God. It does have an important place as a valid manifestation and demonstration of the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life. Although many Christians are beginning to accept this truth, there are still questions surrounding this biblical phenomenon. One of the greatest questions is: What is it?

Speaking in tongues was a common manifestation in the early church. It can easily be defined biblically as “*a supernatural utterance that comes forth as the result of the believer’s participation with the Holy Spirit. Believers participate by allowing the Holy Spirit to express Himself through their faculties of speech.*” This special cooperation with the Holy Spirit was particularly evident on the day of Pentecost.

*And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Acts 2:4*

Speaking in tongues is also a unique manifestation of the Holy Spirit under the new covenant. The New Testament saw it as the fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy.

*For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people. . .*  
Isaiah 28:11; See also 1 Corinthians 14:21.

In addition, Jesus spoke of speaking in tongues as a New Testament sign that would accompany those who believed in Him.

*And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues. . .”* Mark 16:17

Jesus also spoke of the Holy Spirit as rivers of living water flowing out of the believer’s heart.

*He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.*  
John 7:38

We need to cooperate with the Holy Spirit so that His life can flow from each of us. So many believers do not understand this.

At this point, let us note that there is a difference between the spiritual gift of different kinds of tongues and the tongues commonly manifested in a Spirit-filled believer’s prayer and worship life. Chapter 7 of this handbook goes into detail on this matter. In our current chapter, let us focus on the scriptural support for any type of tongue being given to believers.

## **The Tongues of Men and of Angels**

Scripture reveals that speaking in tongues involves languages known to man as well as angelic or heavenly language.

*Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels... 1 Corinthians 13:1*

Some translations use the terminology *speaking in an unknown tongue* or *speaking in other tongues*. This

means that the language spoken as the Spirit gives the utterance is unlearned or unknown to the believer. The Day of Pentecost involved the tongues of men or foreign languages. These came forth supernaturally from the 120 believers and were understood by those listeners who spoke the respective dialects.

*Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs--we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God." Acts 2:7-11*

On the other hand angelic or heavenly language is not understood by the mind of man.

*But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you unless I speak to you either by revelation, by knowledge, by prophesying, or by teaching? Even things without life, whether flute or harp, when they make a sound, unless they make a distinction in the sounds, how will it be known what is piped or played? For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare for battle? So likewise you, unless you utter by the tongue words easy to understand, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air. There are, it may be, so many kinds of languages in the world, and none of them is without significance. Therefore, if I do not know the meaning of the language, I shall be a foreigner to him who speaks, and he who speaks will be a foreigner to me. 1 Corinthians 14:6-11*

It is evident in the above passage that Paul is not talking about the languages of the world that can be understood by those who speak it, but that which is spoken by the angels in heaven. In this case, however, it is being spoken by the believer in the Spirit here on earth. This heavenly language is spoken to God and edifies the one speaking it.

*For 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. But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. 1 Corinthians 14:2, 4*

## **Praying With the Spirit**

The Bible also reveals that speaking in tongues involves praying with or in the Spirit.

*For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding. 1 Corinthians 14:14, 15*

You are encouraged to pray in the Spirit as a believer, yet so many fail to see the importance of it. It is how the Lord urges you to pray because He wants you to receive every spiritual blessing. You should pray in the Holy Spirit when:

- You have special requests or needs for intercessory prayer.

*...praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints-- Ephesians 6:18*

- You need help and you don't know how to pray.

*Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us<sup>1a</sup> with groanings which cannot be uttered. Romans 8:26*

- You are weak in faith.

*But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. Jude 1: 20, 21*

- You have a deep need to give thanks to the Lord.

*For you indeed give thanks well, but the other is not edified... 1 Corinthians 14:17*

## **Why the Devil Does Not Want You to Speak with Tongues**

One thing that you need to get perfectly clear is that there is no way the devil wants you or any believer to receive the Holy Spirit and speak with tongues. Have you ever wondered why? Look at the following benefits and you will understand why:

- Speaking in tongues gives you confidence from God that you have received the promised Holy Spirit.

*And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Acts 2:4*

- Speaking in tongues edifies you.

*He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church... 1 Corinthians 14:4*

- Speaking in tongues keeps your prayer in line with God's perfect will.

*Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. Romans 8:26, 27*

- Speaking in tongues builds up your faith.

*But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Jude 1:20*

- Speaking in tongues gives you spiritual refreshment.

*For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people, To whom He said, "This is the rest with which You may cause the weary to rest," And, "This is the refreshing"; Yet they would not hear. Isaiah 28:11,12; See also 1 Corinthians 14:21.*

- Speaking in tongues provides you with a special way to give thanks to God.

*For you indeed give thanks well, but the other is not edified... 1 Corinthians 14:17*

- Speaking in tongues subjects your tongue to God.

*But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison... James 3:8*

Take Paul's advice. Thank God you speak in tongues and do so more than anyone else!

### Discussion Questions:

1. Spiritual gifts are   t   that He provides to believers for the purpose of   b   His church.
2. Explain the three categories of spiritual gifts as given in this chapter.
3. What is the difference between spiritual gifts and talents?
4. It is important for spiritual gifts to be in operation through the lives of believers so that the Holy Spirit can   d   and   p   the real ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ.
5. What does it mean to “allow all things to be done in decency and order” in the church?
6. How is the operation of spiritual gifts important to the fulfillment of the Great Commission?
7. What does it mean “to pursue or desire” spiritual gifts?
8. To tell whether a manifestation of the Spirit is presented in the flesh or in the Spirit, look for evidence that the body of Christ is being   b   up and   s   by the gift being demonstrated.
9. What is the single most qualifying factor needed to operate in the gifts of the Holy Spirit?
10. To operate effectively in the gifts of the Holy Spirit, you should be willing to   s   as if speaking the very words of God and willing to   s   with the strength God provides, so that He alone will be glorified and the church will be edified.

11. Based on your reading and our discussions to this point, how would you define “speaking in tongues”?
  
12. How do believers participate with the Holy Spirit when they speak in tongues?
  
13. We can know that   I   28:11 is a prophecy given about speaking in tongues by Paul’s reference to this scripture in I   C   14:21.
  
14. In John 7:38, Jesus describes the Holy Spirit in believers to be as streams of   I     W   that flow from within.
  
15. How would you define “the tongues of men” and “the tongues of angels”?
  
16. Explain the relationship between speaking in tongues and praying with or in the Spirit?
  
17. When should you pray in the Spirit?
  
18. Why does the devil not want you to speak in tongues?



## CHAPTER 5

# THE REVELATION GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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*But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: 1 Corinthians 12:7*

### **Understanding the Manifestation Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

The best way to understand the nine Manifestation Gifts of the Holy Spirit is to divide them according to the nature of their function. You will notice that three of these gifts reveal information that only God knows. These may be called, for teaching purposes, the revelation gifts of the Holy Spirit. Let us take a closer look at these three gifts and how they are profitable for the body of Christ.

### **The Word of Wisdom**

The Scripture says, ***“for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit. . .”*** (1 Corinthians 12:8). This gift of the Holy Spirit is identified as *the word (or message) of wisdom*. The definite article *“the”* helps to clarify what this gift is all about. The word of wisdom is limited to the portion of God’s plan and purposes that He chooses to reveal for a given situation. The *Spirit Filled Life Bible* defines this gift as: *“a spiritual utterance at a given moment through the Spirit, supernaturally disclosing the mind, purpose, and way of God as applied to a specific situation. The value of this gift is that it reveals the perfect will of God for the situation.”* It’s difficult for the body of Christ to get off course when the word of wisdom is in operation through the Spirit.

One of the best examples in the Bible of this gift in operation is when God commanded Ananias to go and pray for Saul of Tarsus. In this situation, Ananias was not too keen on the task. In fact, he objected.

***Then Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name.”***  
Acts 9:13, 14

Ananias had good reason for alarm regarding Saul of Tarsus; however, he was able to proceed without hesitation after he received the word of wisdom.

***But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake.”*** Acts 9:15, 16

Notice the word of wisdom clearly reveals God’s future purpose for Saul and the importance of Ananias’ obedience in going to pray for him. As a result of this revelation through the Spirit, Ananias went and prayed for Saul with confidence. Saul received his sight, was filled with the Holy Spirit, was baptized with water, and immediately preached that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. The perfect will of God was revealed and performed. This is why this gift of the Holy Spirit is so profitable to the body of Christ.

## **The Word of Knowledge**

In First Corinthians 12:8, the Scripture says, “**to another [is given] the word of knowledge through the same Spirit...**” This is the second revelation gift of the Spirit. It is similar to the word of wisdom; however, the word of knowledge concerns itself with revealing bits of information regarding the past and present. Dr. Owen Weston defines the word of knowledge as: *“the supernatural Manifestation Gift that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ which consists of a revelation of facts about a person or situation, which is not learned through the efforts of the natural mind, but is a fragment of knowledge freely given by God, disclosing the truth which the Spirit wishes to be made known concerning a particular person or situation.”* The reason God reveals this information is to direct the person that is giving ministry and to encourage the one that is receiving ministry. The people of God confidently wait with great anticipation for the unleashing of God’s power when the word of knowledge is in operation. It builds up your faith in God’s ability to meet the needs of the body of Christ. This again makes the word of knowledge a very valuable gift of the Holy Spirit.

A good example of the word of knowledge in operation is when God spoke to Ananias in a vision. Notice this gift directed Ananias to Saul and encouraged them both that it was all God’s doing.

*In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, “Ananias!” “Yes, Lord,” he answered. The Lord told him, “Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight.” Acts 9:10-12*

Imagine how Ananias and Saul’s faith soared after they first met. Ananias did not even take time to introduce himself, but laid hands on Saul and prayed in accordance with God’s instructions. There is boldness and excitement when you know what the Lord is going to do in a situation. You just speak it out and do it in the obedience of faith. Once you find this out, your faith soars to new heights. There’s also comfort in knowing that God is aware of every detail—even what street you live on or need to go to!

The Lord also used the word of knowledge to direct Peter and Cornelius together which resulted in the Gentiles receiving the Holy Spirit.

*Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man’s house. He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, “Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.” As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them, as he had come on us at the beginning. Acts 11:11-15*

The Holy Spirit had already given the word of knowledge to Peter that three men would come to get him (Acts 10:19, 20). This was a supernatural manifestation that revealed information that only God knew.

One final example of this particular manifestation gift is when the Samaritan woman met Jesus. After the Lord offered the woman living water to drink, He asked her to bring her husband.

*He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.” “I have no husband,” she replied. Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have said is quite true.” “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet.” John 4:16-19*

The Holy Spirit revealed bits of information about the Samaritan woman that were necessary to help her recognize that Jesus is more than a prophet. He is the Messiah!

*Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?”. . . They said to the woman, “We no longer believe*

*just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.” John 4:28, 29, 42*

As you can see, the operation of the word of knowledge led to many conversions. God knows all things, and when He chooses by the Spirit to reveal a portion to you through the word of knowledge, you must go forth to minister without doubting.

## **Discerning of Spirits**

The Bible says “. . .to another [is given] discerning of spirits” (1 Corinthians 12:10). This is the last of the revelation gifts of the Holy Spirit. It involves recognizing or distinguishing between spirits. In other words, this gift involves identifying that which is of God and that which is not. Dr. Owen Weston defines this as: *“the supernatural Manifestation Gift that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ which enables them to have supernatural insight into the realm of spirits (whether they are of God, Satan, or human). This gift is valuable to the body of Christ because it helps to keep the devil out of the house of God.”*

Discerning of spirits separates truth from error and right spirits from wrong spirits. In some instances, the believer’s eyes are even opened to see into the spirit world. A good example of this was when Isaiah saw the Lord sitting on a throne. Such detail could only be revealed supernaturally by God!

*In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.” At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. Isaiah 6:1-4*

You do not normally see into the spirit world. When the king of Syria sent an army to capture Elisha, the Lord opened the eyes of his young servant to see the protection of God’s army.

*And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?” So he answered, “Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” And Elisha prayed, and said, “LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.” Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. 2 Kings 6:15-17*

Jesus also saw into the spirit realm when the seventy returned in victory.

*Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.” And He said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Luke 10:17, 18*

One final example of the discerning of spirits is when the Apostle Paul became annoyed at a girl who followed them in their ministry.

*Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, “These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation.” And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And he came out that very hour. Acts 16:16-18*

Notice it was not anything in particular in what the girl said that indicated a wrong spirit. Yet the operation of the discerning of spirits enabled Paul to deal directly with the spirit of divination and the girl

was set free.

You need to understand that the devil will try any means to get inside the body of Christ—even to the extent of posing as an angel of light.

***And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works. 2 Corinthians 11:14, 15***

This is why discerning of spirits and the other revelation gifts of the Holy Spirit are so important. They operate through believers in the church to keep God in and the devil out! You need to seek and praise God for these gifts!

**Discussion Questions:**

1. List the nine manifestation gifts of the Holy Spirit.
2. Why are these gifts called “manifestation” gifts?
3. The best way to understand the nine manifestation gifts of the Holy Spirit is to divide them by their   f  .
4. The three gifts which are called the “revelation gifts” are the word of   w  , the word of   k  , and the   d   of spirits.
5. Explain, in your own words, “the word of wisdom.”
6. Why is the word of wisdom important to the body of Christ?

7. Explain, in your own words, “the word of knowledge.”

8. Why is the word of knowledge important to the body of Christ?

9. Explain, in your own words, “the discerning of spirits.”

10. Why is the discerning of spirits important to the body of Christ?

## CHAPTER 6

# THE POWER GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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*"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. John 14:12*

### **Miracles, Signs, and Wonders**

The credibility of the Lord Jesus Christ was based on His miracle ministry. Peter boldly proclaimed this truth on the day of Pentecost.

*"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know-- Acts 2:22*

The miracle ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ continued in the early church. In fact, they earnestly sought and welcomed this ministry of power.

*Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus." Acts 4:29, 30*

The same ministry is to be prevalent in the church today. Have you ever wondered what would happen if believers would seek with all their hearts the manifestation of Christ's anointed ministry in their lives? There exists today the potential of the greatest unleashing of Jesus' miracle ministry since the time of the early church. This is because He is coming back soon!

Three of the nine manifestation gifts of the Holy Spirit deal primarily with miracles, signs, and wonders. They are gifts that do something and as such are called the power gifts of the Holy Spirit. The power gifts are important to the body of Christ because they bear witness to the fact that Jesus is real and they glorify Him through the church. In fact, Jesus said they provide a greater witness.

*But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish--the very works that I do--bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me. John 5:36*

### **Faith**

Scripture says, ". . .to another [is given] faith by the same Spirit. . ." (1 Corinthians 12:9). What type of faith is this to be classified a gift of the Holy Spirit? The *Spirit Filled Life Bible* defines it as: "a unique form of faith that goes beyond natural faith and saving faith. It supernaturally trusts and does not doubt with reference to the specific matters involved." The spiritual gift of faith involves a special endowment by the Spirit. Extraordinary confidence arises in the heart of the believer, and when this faith is released upon its intended target, the will of God is accomplished. You can do a lot for God in a short period of time with the gift of faith! What God has spoken comes to pass when this gift is in operation! Any and all obstacles are crushed with seemingly little effort! This is why the body of Christ needs to be open to such manifestations of the Holy Spirit.

There are numerous examples of the spiritual gift of faith in the Bible. One such example is that of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These young men of God were in a situation where they were ordered to worship the gods of King Nebuchadnezzar or be thrown into a fiery furnace. Their response to the king

reveals that this kind of faith speaks forth an extraordinary confidence in God.

***Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up. Daniel 3:16-18***

You need to understand that, at times, the release of the gift of faith causes unbelievers and even worldly-minded believers to respond with anger. The king was so angry with these three men that he heated the furnace seven times more than normal. In fact, it was so hot that the fire killed the men who threw them in. This type of intense response is why so many believers fail to release the gift of faith when the Spirit gives it. This supernatural faith, however, will produce God's results when released through the believer.

***Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king." "Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God Daniel. 3:24, 25***

Another wonderful example of the spiritual gift of faith in operation is in the raising of Lazarus from the dead. Both before and after Lazarus died, Jesus spoke as the Holy Spirit gave Him the gift of faith.

***When Jesus heard that, He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." John 11:4***

Jesus stayed where He was for two more days and then told His disciples that Lazarus was dead.

***Then Jesus said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe. Nevertheless let us go to him." John 11:14, 15***

When Martha met Jesus in route to the tomb, He allowed the gift of faith to again speak through Him.

***Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."...Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live." John 11:23,25***

Lazarus had been dead for four days when Jesus told them to take away the stone. He called him by name to come forth, and he did. This is how the gift of faith works! It speaks and then goes into action through the believer.

***Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with grave clothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go." John 11:43, 44***

One final example of this gift in operation is when the lame man was healed at the entrance of the temple. Notice again the important pattern in the way this gift manifests.

***And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us." So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them--walking, leaping, and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God. Acts 3:4-9***

The believer first releases the gift of faith by speaking it out. This establishes a positive atmosphere of extraordinary confidence in the Lord's ability to do His will in the situation. It also overcomes doubt and unbelief. Secondly, the believer participates with the Holy Spirit in applying the gift of faith directly to the



person or situation. This always involves doing something with great confidence and spiritual authority. In the case of the lame man, Peter took **“him by the right hand and lifted him up.”** Remember, when this gift operates through you, it will take you beyond your normal faith. You will do things that will amaze you and others. Although some may resist, many more will believe and be added to the body of Christ. In Jerusalem, 5,000 men alone were saved because Peter and John allowed this spiritual gift to operate through them. The church needs this gift of faith to operate through believers today!

## **Gifts of Healings**

The Bible says, “. . . **to another [is given] gifts of healings by the same Spirit**” (1 Corinthians 12:9. Notice both gifts (*charismata*) and healings (*iamaton*) are in the plural. Some translations do not have this and are in error because both words are definitely plural in the original Greek. The plural is important in understanding this particular power gift of the Holy Spirit because it involves the manifestation of power over different kinds of sicknesses, diseases, and impairments of the physical body. Although you need to be thankful to God for the advances of medical science, none of the nine manifestation gifts involve, or are dependent upon, modern medicine. God performs all of these healings supernaturally by the Spirit! Dr. Owen Weston defines this gift as: *“the supernatural Manifestation Gift that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ which enables them to serve as human intermediaries, through whom it pleases God to cure various illnesses and restore health supernaturally and is often used in conjunction with the Word of Knowledge and the Gift of Faith.”*

This gift was very prominent in Jesus’ ministry and it should be just as prominent in His ministry today. Its manifestation by the Holy Spirit bears witness that Jesus Christ is still *Jehovah Rapha* and *the Great Physician* with power over all the works of the devil.

***The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ--He is Lord of all--that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. Acts 10:36-38***

One of the best ways to learn about gifts of healings is to read through the Gospel of Mark and the book of Acts, taking special note of how Jesus, the apostles, deacons, and other believers operated in this gift. You will notice that there were cases where all were healed, and as well there are those cases where people with certain kinds of sicknesses and diseases were healed. This was and is still today geared by the Holy Spirit and dependent upon the specific healing anointings He chooses to manifest. A healing anointing is a *“specific manifestation of the Holy Spirit to cure a specific sickness, disease, or impairment of the physical body.”* In addition, you will see a pattern: (1) the verbal command to be healed or the casting out of a demon related to a particular illness; (2) the touching, laying on of hands, or anointing with oil to release the healing power; and (3) the importance of returning praise to God. Of course, you need to understand that all this is done through and in the strong name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

There are so many wonderful examples of people getting healed by the power of God in the Bible that volumes could be written about them. The purpose of this study, however, is to help you see how the gifts operate through believers. If you are seeking spiritual gifts, then you are a candidate for God to operate with in the gifts of healings! A great example regarding this gift is when a leper came to Jesus and earnestly asked Him if He was willing to heal him.

***Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed." As soon as He had spoken, immediately the leprosy left him, and he was cleansed.***

**Mark 1:41, 42**

Notice this situation required Jesus to lay hands on the man and to speak a verbal command to be healed. Then the leprosy left. Jesus also healed ten lepers as He passed through Samaria and Galilee. In this case, they were healed as they obeyed His command to show themselves to the priest. Yet only one, a Samaritan, returned to give praise to God. It is very important to give Him glory for every healing miracle! Believers need to be vocal in praising Him for His healing power.

***And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?" Luke 17:15-18***

Most of the healing accounts in the Bible mention the laying on of hands or touching. This touch is either initiated by the one ministering or those seeking to be healed.

***Wherever He entered, into villages, cities, or the country, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged Him that they might just touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched Him were made well. Mark 6:56***

When gifts of healings come upon a believer, the laying on of hands or touching often releases the healing power of God upon a person. The believer can feel this healing virtue, just like Jesus did when the woman with the issue of blood touched the hem of His garment. She had spent all that she had on doctors and was no better, but grew worse and had suffered for twelve long years. Notice that, in her healing, they both felt the healing power.

***When she heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment. For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well." Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction. And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched My clothes?" Mark 5:27-30***

Jesus also cast out demons associated with given illnesses. One such case was the boy who experienced frequent and violent seizures. A person from the crowd told Jesus that the boy had a mute spirit, and when they brought him to Jesus, the boy immediately began going into convulsions. As you can imagine, the scene created quite a commotion.

***When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. Mark 9:25-27***

Gifts of healings continued to flow through the apostles, deacons, and many believers in the early church—to the extent that multitudes were added to the Lord.

***And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed. Acts 5:14-16***

This gift also manifested itself through Philip as he preached Christ in Samaria. Notice that there was a particular healing anointing that cured those who were paralyzed and lame.

***For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. Acts 8:7***

In much the same way, the disciple Ananias experienced a gift of healing to cure Saul's blindness. This

was in conjunction with “the word of knowledge” regarding where Saul was staying and what had happened to him on the way to Damascus.

*And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized. . . Acts 9:17, 18*

One final example that reveals the value of this gift is the healing of Aeneas. He had been bedridden and paralyzed for eight years. But when the gift of healing for his condition operated through Peter in conjunction with the gift of faith, two cities turned to the Lord. Think what would happen in your community if even one cripple walked by the power of God!

*And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed." Then he arose immediately. So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord. Acts 9:34, 35*

## **The Working of Miracles**

In First Corinthians 12:10, Scripture also reveals that “**to another [is given] the working of miracles.**” It is important for believers to know that they are not always limited to natural law. God can still do the impossible! The *Spirit Filled Life Bible* defines this gift as: “a manifestation of power beyond the ordinary course of natural law. It is a divine enablement to do something that could not be done naturally.” Although you respect the laws of nature as established by God and for the most part are bound by them, God can change them for you at a given moment of time to work His purposes. He has that power! This manifestation gift of the Holy Spirit proves it. Let us take a look how this power gift works.

In some cases, the working of miracles requires the following of specific instructions. For instance, Moses had to stretch the rod of God over the Red Sea before it would divide. Likewise the priests bearing the ark of God had to step into the Jordan River before it dried up and the people could walk across on dry ground, and the people had to march around Jericho seven times and shout for the walls to come down. From the plagues in the Old Testament to the feeding of the 5,000 in the New, the Bible is filled with miracles in which natural law is temporarily suspended or altered by the power of God.

The prophet Elisha frequently worked miracles that fit the above description. The majority of these cases involved specific instructions for the recipient of the miracle. For example, the wife of one of the prophets whose husband had died was experiencing a very serious financial crisis. The creditors were ready to take her sons away from her. All she had left in the house was a jar of oil. Then Elisha gave these precise instructions:

*Then he said, "Go, borrow vessels from everywhere, from all your neighbors--empty vessels; do not gather just a few. And when you have come in, you shall shut the door behind you and your sons; then pour it into all those vessels, and set aside the full ones." 2 Kings 4:3, 4*

The oil did not cease until all the vessels were full. It was a miracle that provided the way out of a desperate situation.

*Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debt; and you and your sons live on the rest." 2 Kings 4:7*

Elisha also worked a miracle when the sons of the prophets lost a borrowed ax head. It fell into the water while they were cutting down some trees to build a larger house.

*So the man of God said, "Where did it fall?" And he showed him the place. So he cut off a stick, and threw it in there; and he made the iron float. Therefore he said, "Pick it up for yourself." So he reached out his hand and*

**took it. 2 Kings 6:6, 7**

Jesus also worked miracles that followed much the same pattern. When He turned the water into wine at the wedding in Cana, He gave specific instructions to the servants. Notice that the purpose for the working of this miracle is also given. It was to manifest the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ and to build the faith of His disciples. This remains the purpose of all miracles!

***Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. And He said to them, "Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast." And they took it. When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him. John 2:7-9, 11***

Jesus also commanded the wind and the rain, walked on the sea, and fed five thousand men and their wives and children with only five loaves of bread and two fish. Believers need to start trusting Him again!

The early church experienced multitudes that believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as a result of the working of miracles. Miracles give glory to Him! This is how God bears witness to His word and to Jesus. Jesus wants to work the same miracles through believers today. He worked miracles through Paul and Barnabas as well as Philip.

- ***Therefore they stayed there a long time, speaking boldly in the Lord, who was bearing witness to the word of His grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands. Acts 14:3***
- ***Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them. Acts 19:11, 12***
- ***And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. Acts 8:6***

Churches need the miracle ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ! The world around you is desperate to hear and see the working of His miracles for they bear witness to the glory of His presence and His awesome power.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. F \_\_\_\_\_, gifts of h \_\_\_\_\_, and the working of m \_\_\_\_\_ can be called the power gifts of the Holy Spirit because they are gifts that d \_\_\_\_\_ something.
  
2. The power gifts are important because they bear w \_\_\_\_\_ to the reality of Jesus and give great g \_\_\_\_\_ to Him through the church.
  
3. Describe what you think would happen if believers today would earnestly see Christ's anointed ministry in their lives?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. The spiritual gift of faith is a unique form of faith that goes b \_\_\_\_\_ natural faith and saving faith.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. For the gift of faith to operate, the believer must first s \_\_\_\_\_ o \_\_\_\_\_ in faith and then p \_\_\_\_\_ with the Holy Spirit in applying the gift of faith directly to the person or situation.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Define "gifts of healings."
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Why is "gifts of healings" in the plural?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Based on biblical examples, how do the gifts of healings operate through a believer?

9. A “healing anointing” can be described as a s\_\_\_\_\_ manifestation of the Holy Spirit to cure a s\_\_\_\_\_ sickness, disease, or physical impairment.
10. Why is it important to lay hands on or touch a person when gifts of healings are being manifested?
11. The working of miracles is a manifestation of p\_\_\_\_\_ beyond the ordinary course of n\_\_\_\_\_ law.
12. We see a biblical pattern that in the working of miracles through a believer, often there are given s\_\_\_\_\_ i\_\_\_\_\_ which are to be followed. Do you think that these instructions will always seem logical to our way of thinking?
13. What is the purpose of every miracle?

## CHAPTER 7

# THE VOCAL GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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*If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 4:11*

### Introduction to the Vocal Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The third and final category of the nine Manifestation Gifts of the Holy Spirit are those that say something. Prophecy, tongues, and Interpretation of tongues are called the vocal gifts because they involve the use of the believer's vocal capacity when in operation. The human voice is used to manifest supernatural communication with the purpose of giving inspiration to the hearers.

The vocal gifts of the Holy Spirit help the body of Christ become sensitive to what God is saying to His people. When these gifts are in operation, the people of God are more likely to get on His frequency. They are sensitive to the voice of the Spirit. It is difficult for the arm of flesh to rule in His church when there is the bringing forth of divine utterances by the Holy Spirit! God desires His people to hear His voice! These three gifts call us to hear what the Lord is saying to the church. This is why they are so important.

*"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.. .  
Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22*

### Prophecy

Scripture says "**to another [is given] prophecy**" (1 Corinthians 12:10). In addition, the Bible provides precise guidelines for the operation of the gift of prophecy as well as the other two vocal gifts. This may be because the tongue is classified as "**a restless evil, full of deadly poison**" (James 3:8) and a member that no man can tame apart from God. The tongue must be surrendered to God if this gift is to effectively operate!

Dr. Owen Weston defines the gift of prophecy as: "*the supernatural Manifestation Gift that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ which enables them to receive and communicate a message from God to man through a divinely-anointed utterance.*" Although the message is spoken through the believer, it is still a message from God. Its purpose is to edify, exhort, and comfort believers.

***But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. 1 Corinthians 14:3***

Of all the gifts of the Holy Spirit, prophecy is to be desired the most. The Bible says you are to earnestly desire this gift and not to despise such utterances.

- ***Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. 1 Corinthians 14:1***
- ***Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues. 1 Corinthians 14:39***
- ***Do not despise prophecies. 1 Thessalonians 5:20***

Have you ever wondered why this gift is so important? One reason is because it exhibits one of the clear results of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

***And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams..”  
Acts 2:17***

Another reason the gift of prophecy is so important is because its primary purpose is to speak forth the will and counsel of God. When believers in the body of Christ are openly speaking forth divine messages by the Spirit, you know that they are on the cutting edge of what the Lord is doing! Regularly hearing such supernatural messages from God establishes an atmosphere of expectancy within the body of Christ. Believers are uplifted and given insight to fulfill the vision God has given. The church is directed by God when the gift of prophecy is in operation. It is a sign to believers that God is in their midst. It also brings conviction upon unbelievers and leads them to repentance.

***But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all. And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you. 1 Corinthians 14:24, 25***

The gift of prophecy is governed by several biblical guidelines because it is so important and to be desired more than the other gifts. Believers must prophesy in an orderly manner, two or three at the most. All prophecies must be judged to ensure they line up with the written word of God and are given in the right spirit. In addition, prophecies must edify the body of Christ. The Bible establishes a divine balance for the gift of prophecy to function effectively in the church. If a church refuses to follow God’s established pattern, then that church will allow Satan to bring in confusion. This is why so many churches do not welcome prophetic utterances. The better way, though, is always God’s way!

***Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge. But if anything is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged. And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints. 1 Corinthians 14:29-33***

It is important to understand that not all prophecies are from God. Although the importance of the gift of prophecy is certain, you, nor the church should panic if and when an utterance manifests that is not of God. This vocal gift is always to be tested by the written word of God.

***Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. . . 1 Corinthians 13:8***

Do not put up with prophetic utterances that sound good, but do not settle with the word and Spirit of God! This was one of Paul’s greatest concerns.

***But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted-- you may well put up with it! 2 Corinthians 11:3, 4***

The Bible has many examples of men and women who spoke divinely inspired utterances to edify, exhort, and comfort. Philip’s four daughters operated in this gift. This is important because it makes it crystal clear that women brought forth divine utterances by the power of the Holy Spirit in the early church. Men and women share equally in the anointing and ministry of the Holy Spirit! As was shared earlier, this is also a fulfillment of Joel’s prophecy that **“your sons and daughters will prophesy”** (Joel 2:28).

***On the next day we who were Paul’s companions departed and came to Caesarea, and entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. Now this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied. Acts 21:8, 9***

In addition, Moses anticipated the time when God would pour His Spirit upon all His people. The 70 elders



prophesied, but Joshua was concerned because the two who had remained back in camp also received and prophesied in the camp. Moses, however, longed for the day when all God's people would receive His Spirit and prophesy. You are now living in that day!

*Then Moses said to him, "Are you zealous for my sake? Oh, that all the LORD's people were prophets and that the LORD would put His Spirit upon them!" Numbers 11:29*

## **Different Kinds of Tongues**

The Bible also says "**to another [is given] different kinds of tongues**" (1 Corinthians 12:10). Unfortunately, this vocal gift of the Holy Spirit is noted for its controversy within the church. It is important to understand, however, that the controversy is human in origin. The gift of tongues is designed by God and distributed upon the believer by the Holy Spirit to profit all in the body of Christ. If it were not important, then it would not be listed with the other Manifestation Gifts! You need to learn how this gift functions because of all the misuse and controversy in churches across the land.

The gift of tongues can be defined as: "*the supernatural Manifestation Gift that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to speak naturally in an unlearned foreign and/or spiritual language in bringing an immediate message to God's people.*" There is a difference between the manifestation of spiritual language as evidence of being baptized with the Holy Spirit and the spiritual gift of tongues with interpretation. As a Manifestation Gift, the gift of tongues is for the church, not just the benefit of the individual believer, and requires the accompanying gift of the interpretation of tongues. Whereas all believers are encouraged to be baptized with the Holy Spirit and speak in tongues, the use of the spiritual gift being discussed here is distributed only as the Spirit wills. This means not all believers are used in this way for the edification of the church body. It is important for you to understand this distinction because some try to dismiss tongues by using the very scriptures that support the operation of this gift.

*And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the best<sup>a</sup> gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way. 1 Corinthians 12:28-31*

You can see from the above passage that the spiritual gift of tongues has an important place "**in the church.**" God Himself has appointed this gift along with the others "**in the church.**" It is foolish, therefore, for any believer to discredit a gift of the Holy Spirit. But this is what many have done with the gift of tongues! Do not be one of them! Accept what God Himself says about the spiritual gift of tongues and do nothing to hinder or prevent its operation within the body of Christ.

*Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues. 1 Corinthians 14:39*

Let us take a closer look at some of the important functions of the spiritual gift of tongues and the guidelines for its operation in the church. Please note that this particular gift, along with the gift of the interpretation of tongues, are the only two that are unique to the new covenant. In other words, they have no Old Testament counterpart. Although there are greater gifts, these were important enough for God Himself to specifically include them in His distribution of New Testament giftings. Often overlooked is that the spiritual gift of tongues is also important as a sign to unbelievers. Not many ever mention this biblical truth, but Paul reminds the church of Isaiah's prophecy:

***In the law it is written: "With men of other tongues and other lips I will speak to this people; And yet, for all that, they will not hear Me," says the Lord. Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophesying is not for unbelievers but for those who believe . . . 1 Corinthians 14:21, 22***

One thing is certain about the operation of this gift in the church. It is an attention grabber! Every time the gift of tongues operates in the church, it draws attention to the supernatural fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy and reminds the unbeliever that God is about to speak to them and His people. God wants unbelievers to hear Him just as much as believers. The gift of tongues is one more attempt by God to reach and save the lost. This is why God commands believers not to hinder or "*forbid speaking in tongues*" (1 Corinthians 14:39). Instead, you are encouraged to reach the same conclusion that the Apostle Paul did:

***What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding. 1 Corinthians 14:15***

## **The Interpretation of Tongues**

The Bible says, "***to still another [is given] the interpretation of tongues***" (1 Corinthians 12:10). This gift is the ninth and final Manifestation Gift of the Holy Spirit. Tongues and interpretation are totally dependent upon each other to effectively operate in the church. No other gifts are limited in such a way. This is most likely due to the fact that the tongue is an unruly evil and subject to great misuse. What makes this gift important to the Body of Christ is that it allows the church to be edified when a message in tongues is given.

***I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification. 1 Corinthians 14:5***

Dr. Owen Weston defines this gift as "*the supernatural Manifestation Gift that God gives to certain members in the body of Christ which enables them to make known in the vernacular the message of one who speaks in tongues.*" If this gift does not operate, then the gift of tongues is reduced to private usage or worship where no interpretation is needed. This does not negate the value of spiritual language or personal prayer language, but its proper parameters must be emphasized to avoid confusion and disorder in any public gathering of believers.

***If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret. But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God. 1 Corinthians 14:27, 28***

The above passage again reveals the importance of interpretation as the accompanying gift of tongues. Please note that an interpretation is not the same as a word for word translation. An interpretation only reveals the meaning of a message in tongues to the church. This has the equivalent value as the gift of prophecy because it also speaks edification and exhortation and comfort. This is why the Bible encourages the one who speaks in a tongue to also pray to interpret. And all of this is because the primary thing sought is the edification of the church.

***Therefore let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret. 1 Corinthians 14:13***

When we consider these points from First Corinthians 14, we see the value of being open to the operation of tongues and interpretation in the church today:

- 14:13 one who speaks in a tongue prays to interpret
- 14:26-28 one who speaks in a tongue knows that someone present will be able to interpret or just speaks quietly to God

- 14:5-19 the church is edified through the accompanying gift of the interpretation of tongues
- 14:20-22 tongues are a supernatural fulfillment of Isaiah 28:11, 12 and a sign to unbelievers
- 14:27, 40 tongues with interpretation should be limited to three people and done orderly in turn
- 14:39 do not forbid to speak with tongues

## No Confusion Required!

Many believers around the world have questions regarding the role of these vocal expressions. How can these gifts really operate in the body of Christ without confusion or disorder? According to First Corinthians 14, each of these spiritual gifts of the Holy Spirit has a specific purpose and a specific audience which is being addressed through the gifting - to the glory of God!

*Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues. Let all things be done decently and in order. 1 Corinthians 14:39-40*

The following chart will help to clarify much of the confusion and can serve as a guide to direct our understanding and operation in these vocal spiritual gifts:

Gift	Definition	Purpose	Confirming Scriptures
<b>Prophecy</b>	A specific enablement distributed by the Holy Spirit at such times when He desires for an individual to receive and <b>communicate a message from God to man</b> through a divinely anointed utterance.	Although it may edify the individual believer speaking, its primary purpose is to edify the <b>church</b> and to convince the <b>unbeliever</b> of the reality of God's presence and the need for personal repentance and salvation.	1 Corinthians 14:3-4 1 Corinthians 14:22 1 Corinthians 14:24-25
<b>Tongues with Interpretation</b>  Refer to p. 34-35 for further discussion of tongues of men and of angels.	A specific enablement distributed by the Holy Spirit at such times when He desires for an individual to speak in an unlearned foreign language and/or spiritual language in <b>bringing an immediate message to God's people</b> . This gift is to manifest in <b>partnership</b> with interpretation by the same or another individual who is enabled to <b>give in the vernacular the meaning of the message</b> .	Without interpretation, only the individual is edified. <b>When completed by interpretation, the church is edified</b> . The use of the <b>tongue</b> with interpretation <b>can be a sign that attracts unbelievers</b> to the power of God, but it <b>needs followed up by a clear word</b> .	1 Corinthians 14:6-13 1 Corinthians 14:21-23
<b>Spiritual Language</b> (also called Prayer Language)  Refer to p. 34-35 for further discussion on how this differs from tongues with interpretation.	A supernatural utterance that comes forth as the result of the <b>believer's participation of the Holy Spirit</b> , allowing Him to express Himself through their faculties of speech. This expression is	The <b>individual</b> speaking in the spiritual language speaks to God. This prayer edifies the individual and <b>God is the primary audience</b> . Unbelievers may be attracted by this sign, but	1 Corinthians 14:1-2 1 Corinthians 14:14-17 1 Corinthians 14:21-23 Acts 2:1-41 1 Corinthians 14:24-25

	commonly associated with the baptism of the Holy Spirit and is available to all believers.	many will question, and some actually mock. We see, however, in Acts 2 when spiritual language was followed by Peter's clear word, many were drawn to repentance.	
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**Conclusion to the Manifestation Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

The purpose of the last few chapters was to familiarize you with the nine Manifestation Gifts of the Holy Spirit. It is so important that you begin to understand how they operate and that God Himself commands you to intensely seek these gifts for the edification of the body of Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ will not build His church without the gifts of the Holy Spirit! It's unwise for young leaders to build Christ's church on anything else but the doctrine of Christ and the operation of the Holy Spirit. If the church you lead or attend is to be alive in Jesus, then you must earnestly seek the gifts and applaud their operation in the church.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. List the three vocal gifts of the Holy Spirit.
2. Why are these gifts called “vocal” gifts?
3. What is the importance of the vocal gifts to the body of Christ?
4. Define “the gift of prophecy.”
5. The purpose of the gift of prophecy is to e \_\_\_\_\_, e \_\_\_\_\_, and e \_\_\_\_\_ all believers.
6. Why is this gift (the gift of prophecy) to be desired the most?
7. Describe the guidelines for the operation of the gift of prophecy.
8. Are all prophetic utterances from God? Why or why not?

9. What is “the gift of different kinds of tongues” and why is it so controversial?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. The difference between the spiritual gift of different kinds of tongues and the tongues manifested when a believer is baptized with the Holy Spirit is that the first requires an i\_\_\_\_\_.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. Explain why the spiritual gift of tongues is important to the church.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. Describe “the gift of the interpretation of tongues.”
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
13. Why is the gift of the interpretation of tongues important to the church?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
14. Explain the difference between an interpretation and a translation.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
15. What are the key guidelines for the operation of tongues and interpretation in the church?

## CHAPTER 8

# THE ANOINTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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*But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things. 1 John 2:20*

### **What Is the Anointing of the Holy Spirit?**

The anointing of the Holy Spirit is the singular most important aspect of the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. All that He did, taught, and commanded was through the Holy Spirit.

*The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen,... Acts 1:1, 2*

Although you may be baptized with the Holy Spirit, you need to understand what the anointing is and flow with it to be effective in His ministry. There is a lot of ministry being done in churches around the world, but not all of it is anointed by the Holy Spirit. Believers need to learn to recognize the difference!

The anointing of the Holy Spirit can be defined as *“a distinct (sovereign, fixed, God-controlled) rubbing or smearing on of the Spirit of God upon a person or from one person to another setting them apart for an office or specific function of ministry.”* The Hebrew *masah* literally means *“to smear on with the result of setting that person or object apart for God.”* In addition, Messiah (Hebrew *Masiah*) literally means *“the Anointed One.”* The Greek equivalents *chria* and *Christos* have the same meaning of *“rubbing or smearing on to set apart.”* The latter reveals the special anointing of Jesus of Nazareth for His role as the Christ (Anointed One) of God. More will be said about this later.

### **The Sacredness of the Anointing**

The most common use of the terms mentioned above is in the context of someone being set apart for an office or function of ministry. Samuel anointed David when he was just a shepherd boy to be God's chosen one as king to replace Saul.

*And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all the young men here?" Then he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here." So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!" Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah. . . 1 Samuel 16:11-13*

There are several things revealed about the anointing in the above passage. One is that the anointing is worth waiting for. Samuel would not rest until he had seen every one of Jesse's sons. It is also obvious that God is the one in control. The anointing is not a learned condition. It can only come from God! The people of God can encourage you and those anointed by God can train you, but only God can call you into a ministry and anoint you for that ministry. Do not ever forget this truth. Man cannot call you into a ministry! It has to be God! Notice the immediate association between the anointing and the Spirit of God coming upon David. The obvious conclusion is that oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. When God gave Moses the recipe for making holy anointing oil for the tabernacle, He made this condition:

***"And you shall speak to the children of Israel, saying: "This shall be a holy anointing oil to Me throughout your generations. It shall not be poured on man's flesh; nor shall you make any other like it, according to its composition. It is holy, and it shall be holy to you. Exodus 30:31, 32***

Believers are so privileged to have available to them, through the blood of Jesus Christ, the sacred anointing oil of the Holy Spirit. Even though you have this access to the anointing, you must remember that it is something quite sacred. The anointing of the Holy Spirit is just as holy as the anointing oil used in the tabernacle. This is why David would not touch Saul with his sword. It is a commandment of God that many churches need to be reminded of today.

***He permitted no one to do them wrong; Yes, He rebuked kings for their sakes, Saying, "Do not touch My anointed ones, And do My prophets no harm." Psalm 105:14, 15***

Many believers make the mistake today of openly coming against prominent ministers or ministries, especially when those ministers or ministries are in a fallen condition and have lost the anointing. God's people should never rejoice when a minister or ministry falls. It is okay to exhort when there is obvious error, but do not touch what God has anointed in any way that openly communicates a disrespect for the anointing of the Holy Spirit. This is true even when the anointing has left that minister or ministry. The young man, who killed Saul, because he was sure that Saul could not live after he was wounded, failed to respect the anointing. David, therefore, ordered the young man executed.

***So David said to him, "How was it you were not afraid to put forth your hand to destroy the LORD's anointed?" Then David called one of the young men and said, "Go near, and execute him!" And he struck him so that he died. So David said to him, "Your blood is on your own head, for your own mouth has testified against you, saying, "I have killed the LORD's anointed."" 2 Samuel 1:14-16***

You need to understand that the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon a person, a ministry, or an object is sacred and holy. Don't judge other ministers and ministries and be careful of alignments, but do not support any minister or ministry that demonstrates a different spirit on the matter of anointing because God has not changed His view: ***"Do not touch my anointed."***

## **The Anointing With Fresh Oil**

There is a fresh anointing that God's people desperately need today. Psalms 92 describes this anointing with a vivid detail like no other place in the Bible.

***But my horn you have exalted like a wild ox; I have been anointed with fresh oil. My eye also has seen my desire on my enemies; My ears hear my desire on the wicked Who rise up against me. The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those who are planted in the house of the LORD Shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; They shall be fresh and flourishing, To declare that the LORD is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him. Psalm 92:10-15***

If you break down this description of the fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit, you find more than enough evidence that should make you desirous and willing to pay the price in prayer to receive it. This also will help you understand how to recognize the anointing and what it can do for you and the church. Let us take a closer look at this anointing with fresh oil! It will bring at least five things to the person or church that seeks and receives it.

1. vs. 11 **Victory over everything that rises against you!**
2. vs. 12 **Astounding personal growth in the Lord!**
3. vs. 13 **Astounding growth in the church!**
4. vs. 14 **Fruit that continues in old age!**
5. vs. 15 **Bold declaration that He is the Lord!**



There is great joy in victory. Do not let anyone deceive you on that. Have you ever wondered why some believers act like they are the happiest people on the face of the earth? It is because they are walking in victory! The person or church that walks in His victory is going to be anointed with the oil of gladness more than his companions. This was true of Jesus, and it is also true for those who follow Him.

***You love righteousness and hate wickedness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions. Psalms 45:7***

This anointing of fresh oil also brings victory because it assures you of two great truths regarding the anointing of the Holy Spirit. The first is that the anointing breaks the yoke of bondage.

***And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing. Isaiah 10:27 KJV***

The second great truth is that no weapon formed against you shall prosper. Many believers have forgotten that the servants of the Lord have this victory promise as a heritage from God. A fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit helps you walk in the reality of His victory. In fact, His victory becomes your victory.

***No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their righteousness is from Me," Says the LORD. Isaiah 54:17***

The Bible also reveals that every believer receives an anointing for personal growth in the Lord. This is more of a general anointing; nevertheless, it is important because you cannot significantly grow spiritually without it.

***But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things... But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him. 1 John 2:20, 27***

Nothing can instruct you like the anointing can! Nothing can illuminate your soul like the anointing! Nothing can abide through temptations, snares, and seductions like the anointing of the Holy Spirit because it comes from the throne of God and it instructs you in the truth! The individual or church that is anointed with the fresh oil of the Holy Spirit will know and experience this. Both the church and its members grow astoundingly under this anointing! This is the type of church God wants His people to belong to. It is the kind of church where they can boldly witness for the Lord Jesus Christ, where they can still bear fruit in their old age. The church needs to be anointed with fresh oil today before it is too late!

## **The Anointing of Jesus Christ**

There are different types of anointings mentioned throughout the Bible. There are healing anointings, teaching anointings, preaching anointings, etc. The ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ was performed as a result of the specific anointing with the Holy Spirit. The miracles that He did, and the power and authority with which He preached and taught, all came as a result of the anointing of the Holy Spirit. It is evident that Jesus Himself was aware of this fact when He stood up to read in the synagogue at Nazareth.

***And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD. "Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the***

***synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."  
Luke 4:17-21***

The early church also recognized the anointing that was upon the Lord Jesus Christ. They first saw that it was only because of the anointing that Jesus could have endured the suffering at the hands of man to die on the cross for the sins of the world.

***"For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. Acts 4:27, 28***

In addition they recognized that Jesus was effective in ministry because of the anointing of the Holy Spirit. In fact there is no real ministry without the anointing. Peter preached this truth to the Gentiles gathered in the house of Cornelius just before they were all baptized with the Holy Spirit.

***... how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. Acts 10:38***

The most wonderful truth the early church recognized about the anointed ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ was that believers could minister in that same anointing. You are promised that same anointing with the accompanying signs and wonders because Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. God anointed those first believers with the Holy Spirit and they boldly went forth to preach the Gospel, heal the sick, mend the broken-hearted, and set the captives free. The church today desperately needs to have the same miracle ministry unleashed once again upon an unbelieving world.

What is holding God's people back from stepping out into the anointed ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ? King Saul rebelled and lost the anointing. Samson defiled Himself with Delilah and knew not that the Spirit had departed him. Israel, the church in the wilderness, saw all the miracles and still wanted to go back to Egypt. At Mount Sinai, the people of Israel depended too much on Moses and were not looking to God. Where are you looking? Do not look to any man! Do not confuse personality, appearance, loudness, style, emotional hype, egocentric preaching, or anything else with the real flow of the anointing of the Holy Spirit. In the end, it is going to be what comes from God and what flows from the very throne of God that is going to speak. He alone can light the church's candle with fresh fire and vision for such a day as this. All the more reason why you need to join with other believers in the church to seek the anointing of the Holy Spirit!

***Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, . . . 2 Corinthians 1:21***



8. What was the result of the anointing of the Holy Spirit being upon Jesus?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. What was the result of the anointing of the Holy Spirit being upon the early church?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. What is holding God's people back from receiving the anointing?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. Why should you and the church seek the anointing?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. For practical considerations regarding ministering under the anointing of God, please review the contents of Appendix 3. Why do you think that such practical items need to be taught and observed within the body of Christ?

## Appendix 1

### MOST RECOGNIZED CLASSIFICATIONS OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

#### CLASSIFICATIONS

Gifts of Christ	Functional Gifts	Gifts of the Holy Spirit <i>(Spiritual Charismata)</i>	Gifts Prioritized by God	Gifts of God <i>(Talents)</i>
Equipping Gifts	Motivational Gifts	Manifestation Gifts	God-Appointed	

#### SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 4:11-12	Romans 12:6-8	1 Corinthians 12:8-10	1 Corinthians 12:27-30	James 1:17
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#### GIFT LIST

Apostles	Prophecy	Word of Wisdom	Apostles
Prophets	Serving	Word of Knowledge	Prophets
Evangelists	Teaching	Faith	Teachers
Pastors	Exhorting	Gifts of Healing	Miracles
Teachers	Giving	Working of Miracles	Gifts of Healing
	Leading	Prophecy	Helps
	Showing Mercy	Distinguishing of Spirits	Administration
		Kinds of Tongues	Kinds of Tongues
		Interpretation of Tongues	Interpretation of Tongues

Used with permission from: Dr. Owen Weston, Spiritual Gifts: Your Job Description From God (Regent University), 1992), p. 22

## Appendix 2

### SUMMARY OF THE NINE MANIFESTATION GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

#### Categories by Function:

Three Revelation Gifts: (Those that reveal something)	*The Word of Wisdom *The Word of Knowledge *Discerning of Spirits
Three Power Gifts: (Those that do something)	*Faith *The Working of Miracles *Gifts of Healings
Three Vocal Gifts: (Those that say something)	*Prophecy *Different Kinds of Tongues *The Interpretation of Tongues

#### Definitions:

- ❖ **The Word of Wisdom:** *a spiritual utterance at a given moment through the Spirit supernaturally disclosing the mind, purpose, and way of God as applied to a specific situation. Acts 9:13-16; 8:26-29; 21:10-11; 27:10*
- ❖ **The Word of Knowledge:** *the supernatural Manifestation Gift that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ which consists of a revelation of facts about a person or situation, which is not learned through the efforts of the natural mind, but is a fragment of knowledge freely given by God, disclosing the truth which the Spirit wishes to be made known concerning a particular person or situation. Acts 9:10-12; 10:9-20; John 4:16-19*
- ❖ **Discerning of Spirits:** *the supernatural Manifestation Gift that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ which enables them to have supernatural insight into the realm of spirits (whether they are of God, Satan, or human). Isaiah 6:1-4; 2 Kings 6:15-17; Luke 10:17-18; Acts 16:16-18*
- ❖ **Faith:** *a unique form of faith that goes beyond natural faith and saving faith. It is supernaturally trusts and does not doubt with reference to the specific matters involved. Daniel 3; John 11; Acts 3:1-8*
- ❖ **Gifts of Healings:** *the supernatural Manifestation Gift that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ which enables them to serve as human intermediaries, through whom it pleases God to cure various illnesses and restore health supernaturally and is often used in conjunction with the Word of Knowledge and the Gift of Faith. Mark 1:41-42; 3:10; 5:27-30; 6:56; 9:25-27; Acts 5:14-16; 8:7-8; 9:17-18; 34-35*
- ❖ **The Working of Miracles:** *a manifestation of power beyond the ordinary course of natural law. It is a divine enablement to do something that could not be done naturally. 2 Kings 4:1-7; 6:6-7; John 2:7-11; Acts 14:3; 8:6; 19:11-12*
- ❖ **Prophecy:** *the supernatural Manifestation Gift that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ which enables them to receive and communicate a message from God to man through a divinely-anointed utterance. Numbers 11:16-30; I Corinthians 14; Acts 21:8-9*
- ❖ **Different Kinds of Tongues:** *the supernatural Manifestation Gift that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to speak naturally in an unlearned foreign and/or spiritual language in bringing an immediate message to God's people. Isaiah 28:11-12; I Corinthians 12:28-31; 14*
- ❖ **The Interpretation of Tongues:** *the supernatural Manifestation Gift that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ which enables them to make known in the vernacular the message of one who speaks in tongues. I Corinthians 12:30; 14:5, 13, 26-28*

## Appendix 3

### **PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR MINISTERING IN THE CORPORATE ANOINTING**

- Come under the authority of the leadership in the meeting. Flow with the corporate anointing. Don't force anything; don't flounder in any leading.
- Avoid stereotyping the anointing. An anointing can be sudden and forceful; it can be gradual and gentle. Go with what God is doing.
- When laying on hands under a strong anointing, do not push the person down. (But give grace to those who are ministering)
- Before praying for a person, have a helper/assistant ready. This person should have a light blanket or cover ready to place over the person. This provides for modesty and covering in case the individual does fall under the power of God.
- When in a mixed setting (both male and female members participating), all laying on of hands should be done with great wisdom and within a team context.
- Pray with your eyes open so that you can see what is going on. Observe and follow the anointing.
- Support the anointing and those anointed to minister. Assist them but do not seek to upstage or compete with them.
- Two, and at most three, should minister to an individual. Know what your role is in this. Are you to be out in front in this individual ministry time or providing a backbone of support for those ministering?
- Continue to pray for individuals on the floor. Things are happening in these lives; pray them through!