



Life in the Spirit is written by:

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Life in the Spirit

Jesus told His disciples before He was crucified:

“I will pray [to] 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

The Spirit of Truth is the Holy Spirit. It is another name for the Holy Spirit.

For, the Holy Spirit guides us into all truth. John 16:13

As born-again believers, we have the Holy Spirit dwelling in us.

Or do you not know that your bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?
1 Corinthians 6:19

Therefore, God tells us that we are to *Live by the Spirit* and *Walk by the Spirit*:

Those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who *live according to the Spirit*, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, to be spiritually minded is life and peace.
Romans 8:5-6

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

Living in the Spirit and *Walking in the Spirit* are two ways of saying the same thing. It means to be led by the Holy Spirit fully in all areas of your life. This is our goal and what God has directed us to do. Because only through the Holy Spirit can we have the abundant life that is promised to us:

The thief does not come except to steal, kill and destroy. I have come that they might have life, and that they have it more abundantly. John 10:10

It is the Spirit who gives life. The flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit and they are life. John 6:63

This study is designed to introduce you to the Holy Spirit, encourage you to become closer to the Holy Spirit and yield your whole life to Him, in every possible way. It will show you the truth about the baptism in the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues. It will also teach you about the ministries of the Holy Spirit, spiritual gifts, anointing's, callings, and other work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers and in the church.

Chapter 1

You Must Know the Holy Spirit as a Person

It is futile to try to understand the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit without first knowing Him as a person. You see, the Holy Spirit is a person. He is not simply a force or an influence or some mystical power.

Because He is a person, the Holy Spirit thinks, feels, communicates, perceives and responds, just like a real person. The Holy Spirit has a unique personality, with His own intellect, emotions and will.

The Holy Spirit wants to be your intimate friend and constant companion as well as the source of God's power in your life. He longs to have fellowship with you and bring you into the presence of God.

The more you understand the Holy Spirit as a Person, the more you will be able to appropriate His power and anointing and presence in your life.

Many people know about the Holy Spirit and His gifts. But most do not know Him. Many seek His power and His gifts, but do not seek Him. You will never really walk in the gifts, anointings and callings of the Holy Spirit if you do not know Him and love Him.

If you want to go deep with God, you must cultivate a relationship with the Holy Spirit. This is because it is the Holy Spirit who reveals the deep things of God to us. You cannot begin know the deep things of God without the Holy Spirit.

Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those who love Him. But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. Even so, no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. 1 Corinthians 2:9-11

But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to them, because they are spiritually discerned.
1 Corinthians 2:14

Since you are taking this course, *Life in the Spirit*, you are obviously interested in going deeper with God. Or, at least you are curious. So, let us digress a bit before we delve into a discussion about the personality of the Holy Spirit. We need to look at the first step in how

to get the Holy Spirit in your life, with all that goes along with this: supernatural power, miracles, signs, wonders, healings, and much more.

You Must Have a Heart Surrendered to God and Be Hungry for God

The first step to experiencing the Holy Spirit fullness in your life is you must have a burning passion for Him and for His power. David was passionate for God and his heart always cried out for more of God:

God you are my God.
Early will I seek You;
My soul thirsts for You;
My flesh longs for You,
In a dry and thirsty land,
Where there is no water.
So I have looked for You in the sanctuary,
To see Your power and Your glory.
Psalm 63:1-2

Jesus said that if you wanted the living water (the Holy Spirit), you needed to thirst:

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying,
“If any man 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.”
John 7:37-38

You must have a starvation in your heart that causes you to search and search until you experience in your own life the presence of the Holy Spirit, the power, the miracles the wonder of God. The Holy Spirit responds to hunger. The longing and desire of people for the Holy Spirit draws him closer and closer.

The Holy Spirit manifests His power and presence to those who long for His touch. Many people are spiritually dry. But only those who are truly thirsty for His presence will be filled to overflowing. Only those who yield their lives to the Holy Spirit will experience His power in their lives.

You must welcome the Holy Spirit in your life. He will not barge in. He must be invited. The Holy Spirit does not dwell where He is not wanted. If you do not want more of Him, He will not give you more. You must welcome the Holy Spirit into every area of your life. You do this by allowing Him to do His work in you and through you.

Total surrender is the key. There is no greater way to express our love to God than to surrender to the Holy Spirit every day, in every way. You surrender through prayer, humility, brokenness and obedience. You surrender by giving your will and ways over to God and by allowing God to have His way in every part of your life.

This is what Jesus was talking about when He told His disciples that they must take up their cross and follow him:

Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.
Luke 9:23-24

The cross is a symbol of brokenness, humility and total surrender. It is a place where our plans and purposes die and make way for God's plans and purposes.

Paul understood this and told the Corinthians in his letter to them:

I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Jesus Christ, *I die daily*.
1 Corinthians 15:31

This is a process that starts with our accepting Jesus as our Lord and Savior, our becoming born-again Christians. When we are saved, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in us. When we become baptized in the Holy Spirit we receive a much greater measure of the Holy Spirit, who begins to overflow in us. The process then continues as we turn over our lives to the Holy Spirit, day-by-day. As we yield to Him, the Holy Spirit changes us into the very image of Jesus Christ.

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as 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

The time it takes to be transformed depends a great deal on our willingness to surrender to the Holy Spirit. Quick and total surrender means faster transformation. Holding back and refusing to surrender in certain areas prolongs the process. The Holy Spirit does not force you to yield. You must humble yourself to God and surrender.

Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time. 1 Peter 5:6

The Holy Spirit is not made available to just some, but not others. Anyone can have the Holy Spirit in His fullness – but the issue is: can you surrender all to Him?

“So I say to you, ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find. Knock and it shall be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks, it will be opened. If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg will he offer him a scorpion? 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 11:9-13

We suggest if you sincerely want to live life to its fullness in the Holy Spirit and want allow the Holy Spirit to be your intimate friend and constant companion, you pray a prayer of surrender and invitation, such as:

“Lord Jesus, I give you my entire life, my mind, my heart, my dreams, my emotions, my thoughts, my possessions, my family, my career, my future, my all and all. I surrender to you now spirit, soul and body. Do with me as you will. My life is in your hands.

Lord Jesus, I am thirsty for the fullness of Your Holy Spirit. I will yield my life daily to the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit, I want to know you. I want You to be in my life, leading me and guiding me and showing me the way to Jesus. Holy Spirit, I open myself up to you now and ask that you fill me and change me in any way you desire. I am yours Holy Spirit, have your way with me.”

Chapter 2

Getting to Know the Holy Spirit

As we stated earlier, the Holy Spirit is not some impersonal force or energy. He is the third Person of the Trinity. Because He is a Person, like Jesus is a person, the Holy Spirit has a personality and we can get to know Him as a friend. So, we will now take a look at some of the characteristics of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is God

He is Omnipresent = everywhere at the same time

Where can I go from your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence. If I ascend into heaven, you are there. If I make my bed in hell, behold you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me and Your right hand shall hold me. Psalm 139:7-10

He is Omniscient = He all knowing.

The Holy Spirit knows everything about God and about you.

Oh Lord you have searched me and you know me. You know my sitting down and my rising up. You understand my thoughts afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down. You are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O Lord, you know it altogether. You have hedged me behind and before; and laid your hand upon me. Psalm 139:1-5

He is Omnipotent = Holy Spirit is all powerful

He is the power source of the Godhead. He was there at creation, hovering over the face of the waters. Genesis 1:2.

He was there when life began. The Holy Spirit was the breath of life in Adam. Genesis 2:7

The Holy Spirit power raised Jesus from the dead. Romans 8:11

The power of the Holy Spirit is behind miracles, signs and wonders. Romans 15:19

Holy Spirit is Eternal

Hebrews 9:14 calls Him "Eternal Spirit". He was, is and always will be.

Because He is God, He never changes. He is the same yesterday, today and forever.
Hebrews 13:8

The Holy Spirit Has a Will of His Own

The Holy Spirit has an intellect and will of His own. He is constantly at work in the earth, putting together plans to fulfill the promises and purposes of God. For instance, with regard to spiritual gifts, the Bible tells us:

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

The Holy Spirit has a will for your life and the life of every believer. The Holy Spirit will direct us as to His plan for us, if we will listen. When Paul wanted to go to Asia to preach the Gospel, the Holy Spirit stopped them because this was not His will for them. Instead the Holy Spirit wanted them to go to Macedonia:

Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. After they had come to Mysia they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the Gospel to them.
Acts 16:6-10

If you will yield your life to the Holy Spirit and listen to Him, you will hear His plan and His will for you, also.

The Holy Spirit Has Emotions

He is a person with feelings and a heart. The Holy Spirit is love, because God is love.
1 John 4:8

The Holy Spirit can at times be happy and at times sad. He can be wild and funny and he can be quiet and subdued. Just like any person, depending on the circumstances, the Holy Spirit shows His emotions.

The Holy Spirit Can Be Grieved

Because He is a person and has emotions, the Holy Spirit can be grieved. To grieve means to cause pain, sorrow, to offend. We are told not to grieve the Holy Spirit:

Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Ephesians 4:30

In Ephesians 4:27-31, the Apostle Paul tells of some of the things that grieve the Holy Spirit: Giving place to the devil, stealing, corrupt words coming from your mouth, bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, evil speaking, malice. Instead, in order to please the Holy Spirit, we are to:

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another just as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32

The Holy Spirit Speaks

God is not a dumb idol, who cannot speak, like the gods made of wood and stone. I Corinthians 12:2. In other words, the Holy Spirit can and does speak to us on a regular basis. He has a will and plan for us and He will communicate this to us directly and through others, through the gift of prophecy, word of wisdom, etc. We will study the spiritual gifts in a later chapter.

The Holy Spirit is the voice of the Father and the Son. Without the Holy Spirit, we cannot hear the voice of God. Jesus said:

My sheep hear my voice, and know them and they follow Me. John 1:27

The way we hear the voice of our shepherd Jesus is through the Holy Spirit. If we resist the Holy Spirit, we will have trouble hearing the voice of God.

The Holy Spirit Can Be Lied To

When the early church was just starting, people sold property and gave the proceeds to the church, to benefit everyone. One couple, Ananias and Sapphira, sold their land and

brought part of the proceeds to the church, but told Peter that they brought all of it. Peter told them:

Why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God. Acts 5:3-4

The result of lying to the Holy Spirit in this case was that they both died suddenly. This is not to say that each time one lies to the Holy Spirit that death results. In this instance, the church was just starting and God had to make sure it got off on the right foot. Therefore, iniquity simply could not be allowed. It does show, however, that the Holy Spirit takes what you say with regard to Kingdom business very seriously. The Holy Spirit is very sweet and kind. But He also brings judgment where necessary.

The Holy Spirit Can Be Resisted

One of the ministries of the Holy Spirit is to convict people of their sin and draw them to Jesus. (John 16:8) But people often resist the Holy Spirit. They reject the Gospel of Jesus Christ and refuse to allow the Holy Spirit to work in their lives. Stephen told the Pharisees before he was stoned:

You always resist the Holy Spirit, as your fathers did, so do you. Acts 7:51

God keeps trying to reach people, but eventually, it can become harder and harder to hear the Holy Spirit calling. At some point, it can become too late. It is very dangerous to keep resisting the Holy Spirit. Eventually, God may not listen to you when you call.

Therefore it happened, just He proclaimed, they would not hear Me, so when they called out, I would not listen to them, says the Lord of Hosts.
Zechariah 7:13

In these times, we see many departing from God, just as the Bible prophesied:

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own consciences seared with a hot iron.

1 Timothy 4:2

Our consciences become seared/hardened by our continually resisting the Holy Spirit. At some point, good becomes evil and evil becomes good and we no longer hear the Holy Spirit telling us truth and drawing us to Jesus. The Holy Spirit is patient, but His patience has a limit.

The Holy Spirit Can Be Quenched

The Bible tells us to not quench the Spirit. 1 Thessalonians 5:19

Quench means extinguish. It is like pouring water on a fire that has started burning. Believers can quench the Holy Spirit when we do not allow the Holy Spirit to move in our lives, churches and ministries and do as He desires with us.

The Holy Spirit Can Be Blasphemed

The Pharisees watched Jesus cast out a demon from a man who was blind and mute and the man was healed. The crowds were amazed and wondered whether Jesus could be the Messiah. The Pharisees on the other hand accused Jesus of casting out demons by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons. In other words, the Pharisees attributed the miracles of Jesus to the working of Satan. Jesus responded:

Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but blasphemy against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven men. Matthew 12:31

The Pharisees were not ignorant and uniformed. They knew full well that Jesus came from God. In their jealousy and anger they accused Jesus of working by satanic power. This is blaspheming the Holy Spirit. It was done knowingly, intentionally and maliciously.

The Holy Spirit is a Person of Action

The Holy Spirit is always working and moving. It is up to us to get moving with Him. When the Pharisees rebuked Jesus for healing on the Sabbath He told them:

My Father has been working until now, and I have been working. John 5:17

In order to manifest the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in your life, take action. Pray, worship, minister, witness. Do something. But don't just talk about doing something for God. Do it. And the Holy Spirit will respond. Remember, the Jordan River did not separate and allow the children of Israel to pass through until they started moving.

The Holy Spirit is Like the Wind

The wind cannot be tamed. Neither can the Holy Spirit. The wind is powerful and mighty, as is the Holy Spirit. The wind cannot be seen, but its effects are evident. The same is true of the Holy Spirit. Although you cannot see Him, when He is present, you know it. When the Holy Spirit is present in your life, you will know it and others will also.

The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from or where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit. John 3:8

Just as the wind is unpredictable, so is the Holy Spirit. This is why some churches do not like the Holy Spirit to be in charge. You are never quite sure where He will take you, although it will always be awesome.

Conversely, even though He is unpredictable, the Holy Spirit brings order. God does not bring confusion.

God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints. 1 Corinthians 14:33

Holy Spirit led services are not chaotic and confused. The Holy Spirit will direct, guide and control the service, if allowed. The same is true with your life. A Holy Spirit led life is not chaotic and confused. The Holy Spirit brings order and peace into your life.

Holy Spirit Makes God the Father and Jesus Real

The more we know the Holy Spirit, the more we know Jesus and Father. The Holy Spirit never exalts Himself, He always glorifies Jesus.

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

Everything the Father has He has given to His Son Jesus. And everything Jesus has the Holy Spirit will reveal and give to us. So the only way to receive is through faith in Jesus Christ and by way of His Holy Spirit. John 16:14

If you want to get closer to Jesus, get closer to the Holy Spirit. He is your Helper and will show you the way to a more intimate relationship with Jesus. The same is true for the Father. If you desire to be closer to the Father and know Him better and feel His love

stronger, become more intimate with the Holy Spirit. He will show you the heart of the Father and bring you closer to Him than you ever thought possible.

In closing, there are so many other characteristics of the Holy Spirit that we could talk about right now. But this will suffice for now for you to become better acquainted with Him. As we move on into this study, you will learn more about the Holy Spirit, His ways, His personality and His ministries.

Chapter 3

The Presence, Anointing and Power of the Holy Spirit

We can experience the Holy Spirit with:

1. His Presence.
2. His Anointing.

The presence of God must come first. It precedes the anointing. The presence of God is the Holy Spirit Himself. The presence is the glory of God, the Holy Spirit.

The anointing of God is the awesome power of God. You must have the presence of God in your life before you can experience the anointing/power.

The Presence

To have the presence of God requires surrender and abandonment of self. It requires that you have a hunger for God; that you thirst after Him. We talked about this in the first chapter. The Holy Spirit will bring the presence of God in the lives of those who are seeking after Him with their whole hearts.

And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with your whole heart. Jeremiah 29:13

The presence brings:

- Freedom from sin – you have victory over that which previously defeated you.
- Righteousness – you walk after the Spirit and His ways
- A whole mindset change – you think differently. You have the mind of Christ
- Peace – Even in the midst of turmoil
- Healing for body – Infirmities and demons flee in the presence of God
- Total death to self and total life to God
- Intimacy with the Father – A new passion for the Father
- Jesus becomes real to you – You find that you become closer and closer to Jesus

The voice of God is in the presence of God. If you do not have the presence of God in your life, you will find it difficult to hear God. For, the Holy Spirit brings the voice of God to you clearly.

The presence of God comes when you are baptized with the Holy Spirit. With this come spiritual gifts and your prayer language (tongues). But the gifts will only be fully manifested when you have the anointing/power, as we will discuss later in this chapter.

Our greatest desire should not be for spiritual gifts, but for the presence and anointing of God. The presence changes you forever. The anointing changes you and others forever.

The presence of God in your life brings the fruit of the Spirit. The fruit is the personality of God. It describes the Holy Spirit. He is all these things.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, and self-control. Against such there is no law.
Galatians 5:22

The fruit must come before the anointing. No fruit – no anointing. God is much more interested in developing your character (fruit) than your anointing. Make it your priority to manifest the fruit of the Spirit every day in every situation. As you do, God will trust you and increase you and empower you.

The fruit of the Spirit is connected with the presence of God. The gifts and ministry of God is connected to the power/anointing of God.

The Anointing

The anointing is the power of God. It brings the manifestations we can see – healing, deliverance, miracles.

With the anointing comes more responsibility. But it is a must if you want to be a minister unto God. You can have the presence of God, intimacy and fellowship as a believer, without having a ministry. But when you step into ministry, you need power to fight demons, sickness and all the powers of darkness. You cannot accomplish this without the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

When you have the anointing, all confusion will vanish. You will be transformed forever. You will see things from a heavenly perspective, rather than an earthly one. Your spiritual eyes become opened to the spiritual realm. You begin to know the Holy Spirit, intimately, as a person. He becomes your best friend and confidant. When we are emptied of ourselves we can know His presence. Only then can we experience His power- the anointing of Holy Spirit.

The anointing, comes through paying the price and the price is prayer. A simple pattern for prayer is as follows:

First repentance
Then your soul thirsting for God
Praise and thanksgiving,
Worship. No more about you. It is all about Him.
Then receiving from God, from His presence
No talking, just receiving. You are drinking from Him.
You are not asking; you are loving and seeking.
This is a quiet place, getting still God and worshipping Him in the quiet place
Here is where the anointing comes. And it is a daily experience.

Everyone must make the decision to pay the price – and pray. This puts you into a battle, usually with yourself: I'm too tired. I do not feel like it. Tomorrow. Later. Distractions. But you must press in and seek God – pay the price.

No relationship means no anointing. And relationship comes by way of prayer.

As you begin to experience the presence of God and the anointing of God, He will test you, stretch you and perfect you. Will you be faithful in a little? The anointing will increase as you continue on with God. He gives you a little and watches you, as you are faithful and humble, he increases you and gives you more.

The anointing is also greatly dependent upon your obedience. Obey God and it increases, disobey and it decreases.

There Are Three Levels of Anointing By the Holy Spirit (*"The Anointing" by Benny Hinn*)

1. The Leper's Anointing = Salvation - Comes by Accepting Jesus.

In Biblical times, lepers were kept outside the camp until sacrificial blood was applied to them. A leper represents incurable sin. We are like lepers before we are saved, covered in sin. This sin can only be cured by God, through the Blood of Jesus. Jesus was the Lamb of God who takes away our sin. When we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior and become born-again, we come under the blood of Jesus and the Holy Spirit enters our life.

This anointing first came when:

Jesus said to them, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you". And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit".
John 20:21-22

This is the initial anointing of the Holy Spirit, one that all believers carry. It carries with it a minimal level of power to overcome sin and press on to higher levels in God. This anointing is permanent and cannot be lost unless you willfully walk away from God.

2. The Priestly Anointing = The Presence of God - Comes by Fellowship with Jesus.

This anointing comes initially when we are baptized with the Holy Spirit. The presence of God on our lives will then continue to increase as we get closer and closer to God.

When we are baptized in the Holy Spirit we are immersed in the Holy Spirit, filled to overflowing:

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If any man 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."
John 7:37-38

The presence of God will change you forever. You will never be the same again. The presence leaves you thirsting for more and more of God. You become Christ-centered instead of me-centered. Jesus will become your all-in-all.

This priestly anointing came at Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit fell on the disciples after Jesus was resurrected and taken back to heaven.

When the day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Acts 2:1-4

As discussed in Chapter One, the presence of God comes when we surrender fully to God and hunger and thirst for Him. It is here where the gifts of the Spirit are imparted and we

receive power for ministry and victorious Christian living. The fruit of the Spirit should also flow from us and make it evident to all that we have been with Jesus.

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus. Acts 4:13

The priestly anointing is not a one-time anointing, like the anointing of salvation. Under the Old Covenant, the priests were anointed every day with oil. Remember, oil signifies the Holy Spirit. You see, we need the presence of God every day. We need a touch from the Holy Spirit every day. We need to commune and fellowship with God every day.

3. The Kingly Anointing = The Power Anointing - Comes by Obedience to Jesus

This anointing is one of explosive power. It is a position of high authority in God, over demons, sickness, and all works of the devil. If you are moving into ministry for the Lord, you should be seeking this anointing.

You see this anointing in Acts, after Peter and John were released from prison for preaching the Gospel:

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 4:31

After this anointing, the Bible tells us that:

With great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. Acts 4:33

Through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. Acts 5:12

And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes, both men and women. Acts 5:14

They brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing might fall on some of them. Acts 5:15

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 5:16

This is the anointing carried by those men and women of God who are traveling the world for Jesus performing great signs, wonders and healings and bringing multitudes into the Kingdom of God. You know the names of some of them: Reinhard Bonnke, Benny Hinn, and Billy Graham. Katherine Kuhlman, Oral Roberts, William Branham carried this anointing and had awesome ministries during their lifetimes.

The Kingly anointing brings awesome power for ministry. So, how do we get it:

A. Prayer

Again, we are in a war, usually with ourselves. Distraction, Fatigue, Excuses. Time with God, intimacy and fellowship must become a top priority.

B. Repentance – daily

This means repenting and forsaking that which God shows you is displeasing to Him. This is not sin consciousness. This is allowing God to search you at all times and bring to your attention those things which must be dealt with. It is a daily matter because we do not change to the image of Jesus Christ instantaneously. We move from glory to glory, day by day, week by week, year by year, becoming more and more like Jesus all the time. It is a wonderful process and a very satisfying one if you cooperate with God and do not fight Him along the way.

Repentance is not being sorry for what you did. It is turning away from it:

He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy. Proverbs 28:13

This is a good definition of repentance. First confessing the sin and then forsaking it, never doing it again, by the grace and power of God.

You will not move to the Kingly anointing if you have secret sins or will not allow God to deal with you on sin issues in your life. God does not expect us to be perfect, but He does expect us to have a perfect heart, like King David, one that is humble and repentant.

The Kingly Anointing can be lost through disobedience. For example, King Saul lost this anointing through sin and rebellion. If God loses His trust in you, He may remove this power anointing from you. You can be restored to God through repentance, but there is a price to be paid for disobedience and you may never have the power ministry that you previously had.

C. Obedience to God - every day, in every way.

Hearing and obeying the voice of God is central to having this anointing. God must be able to trust you. You must hear the voice of God in prayer.

My sheep hear My voice and I know them and they follow Me. John 8:27

You must withdraw from distractions to pray and hear God. The devil uses distraction perhaps more than any other tool against Christians in this area.

You must not do all the talking. Talk, then listen, listen, listen. In general, most Christians talk way too much and listen way too little.

As you talk with God, seek His will, His desires and His direction for you and your ministry.

I do not seek My own will but the will of My Father who sent Me. John 5:30

Then obey, without delay.

And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him. John 8:29

D. Humility

God will not anoint with power someone who will not give all the glory to Jesus Christ. This is key. Do not take the glory, not one ounce for yourself. All of it goes to the one who paid the ultimate price for it, Jesus Christ.

Finally, the anointing you receive will match your calling. It will fit perfectly with what God has for you to do. Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers will be given an anointing specific for their ministry calling. Those who are singers and musicians, Sunday school teachers, ushers, intercessors, etc. will receive an anointing to fit their calling. Those who are serving God in the secular world will receive an anointing perfect for their calling.

You do not have to be a Benny Hinn to receive the power anointing. God does not play favorites. If you meet the conditions, you can walk in the same power as those men and women you see on television, ministering to thousands

Conclusion

We as Christians need to always be moving forward. If you are not moving forward, you will eventually go backward. The first step is salvation, of course. But then there is so much more for us in the presence and anointing of the Holy Spirit. Unfortunately, most Christians are not even aware that there is more for them than their initial salvation. So, they languish and dry on the vine. But for those who hunger and thirst after more of God, He is there, waiting to bless you with His glorious presence and empower you with His anointing. Just keep asking, keep pressing and keep praying. Then, watch what God does in your life.

Chapter 4

Baptism in the Holy Spirit

There is a great deal of confusion and misunderstanding concerning the baptism with the Holy Spirit and the baptism with water. This lesson lays out the sequence of events that led up to the baptism with the Holy Spirit. It also explains both the baptism with water and the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

The Baptism with Water

John the Baptist was the forerunner before Jesus, preparing the way for Jesus' arrival. Isaiah prophesied about John's coming. (The voice of one crying in the wilderness; prepare the way of the Lord; make His path straight. Is 40:3)

In those days there appeared John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying **repent** for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. Matthew 3:1-2

The Amplified Bible explains repent as:

Think differently
Change your mind
Regretting your sins
Changing your conduct

John the Baptist said, I indeed baptize you in water, because of repentance (that is because of your changing your minds for the better, heartily, amending your ways and with abhorrence of your past sins) but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy or fit to take off or carry; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Matthew 3:11

John had the authority to baptize with water, for the repentance of sins. The baptism of water was an outward sign of an inward change, of repentance.

Jesus' Holy Spirit Baptism

Jesus was the first person to receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit. Jesus came to be baptized by John the Baptist.

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. Matthew 3:16

The Spirit of God is the Holy Spirit. When Jesus came up out of the water, the Holy Spirit entered Him and He received power and began His ministry.

When Did the New Covenant Begin?

After Jesus was crucified and arose from the dead, He appeared to His disciples.

So Jesus said to them, "Peace be with you! As My Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." John 20:21-22

Up until this time, the disciples walked with Jesus, and believed in Him. After Jesus' death and resurrection, the disciples:

- Became born again (received salvation)
- Received a measure of the Holy Spirit, but were not baptized with the Holy Spirit
- Were relieved of the Law of Moses (Old Covenant) and began living under the New Covenant with Jesus.

Baptism with the Holy Spirit

In Acts, Jesus spoke about the promise of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus while being in the company of His disciples and eating at the table with them, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait for what the Father had promised, of which you have heard Me speak. For John baptized with water, but not many days from now you shall be baptized with (placed in, introduced into) the Holy Spirit. Acts 1:4-5

So even though in John 20:22, Jesus breathed on the disciples and gave them the Holy Spirit, they did not receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit. They were to wait for this in Jerusalem.

The Spirit was poured out on the Day of Pentecost

The prophet Joel foretold the day that the Holy Spirit would be poured out:

And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters will prophesy. Your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. And also on My menservants and maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. Joel 2:28-29

Joel's prophesy was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost

And when the day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Holy Spirit gave them utterance. Acts 2:1-4

- This pouring out of the Holy Spirit was not just for the disciples, but is for all who seek it. It is for us today.

Baptism with Water is not Baptism with the Holy Spirit

In Acts 8, we are given an example of the baptism with Water followed by the baptism with the Holy Spirit. Philip the Evangelist went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Christ (the Messiah) to them:

And when they believed the good news about the Kingdom of God in the name of Jesus Christ, as Philip preached it, they were baptized, both men and women. Acts 8:5, 12

- They were baptized with water, not the Holy Spirit.

Now when the Apostles of Jerusalem heard that the country of Samaria had accepted and welcomed the Word of God they sent Peter and John to them. They came down and prayed for them that the Samaritans might receive the Holy Spirit. For He had not yet fallen on any of them. But they had only been baptized in the name of Lord Jesus (with water). Acts 8:14-15

Then the Apostles Peter and John laid their hands on them, one by one, and they received the Holy Spirit. Acts 8:17

- When the Apostles laid hands on the people, they were baptized with the Holy Spirit.

As you can see from these Scriptures, the baptism with water and the baptism with the Holy Spirit were two separate events. They did not take place at the same time. The believers were converted, and baptized in water, but still needed to receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

You Can Never Have Enough of the Holy Spirit

Back in Acts 2:1-4, we saw how the Holy Spirit came upon the group in a powerful way as they waited in the upper room. Yet in Acts 4:24-31, we see that this group was meeting and praying together - and they received a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit!

When meeting together and when they had prayed, the place in which they were assembled had shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and they continued to speak the Word of God with freedom and boldness and courage. Acts 4:31

So we see that there is a baptism with water, a baptism with the Holy Spirit and fresh fillings (additional anointings) of the Holy Spirit. You can never have enough of the Holy Spirit!

Why Do We Need the Baptism with the Holy Spirit?

We need the baptism with the Holy Spirit to give us power to do the ministry of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit gives you power.

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 ends of the earth. Acts 1:8

After the disciples became born again in John 20:21-22, they were still not endowed with power to undertake the Great Commission. They did not preach the Gospel. The Apostles did not perform miracles until after Pentecost. They needed the Holy Spirit power to do this.

- Upon receiving the baptism with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, there was no stopping the disciples. Peter immediately began preaching about Jesus and 3000 were saved and added to the church. See Acts 2:14-41
- Also, many signs and wonders and miracles were performed by the Apostles. Acts 2:43

Jesus did not begin His ministry until He was baptized with the Holy Spirit. He did not do any miracles or healings until He received the power of the Holy Spirit.

Many of us desire to serve the Lord. We want to preach the Gospel. We want to see signs and wonders and miracles. In order to fulfill our calling, we must have the Holy Spirit. We must be baptized with the Holy Spirit, with fire and power.

How to Receive the Baptism with the Holy Spirit

The procedure to receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit is not difficult:

Ask for the Holy Spirit:

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

- Ask God to give you the Holy Spirit.

Thirst for the Holy Spirit:

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 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

- God does not force Himself on anyone. He desires that we seek after Him. He desires that we want more of Him. If you do not want more of the Holy Spirit, so be it, God will not make you receive. However, if you earnestly seek after more, He will bless you with the Holy Spirit.

Surrender your life to God:

I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. John 15:5, 7

- Here, to abide is to continue with, to endure with, and to surrender. If we surrender our life to Jesus, then He will pour out the Holy Spirit in us.

It is not required that someone lay hands on you to receive the Holy Spirit. If you are surrendered to the Lord and are thirsting after God and His Spirit, you just need to ask God for the baptism with the Holy Spirit. However, it is most common for people to receive the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands. Holy Spirit filled believers can impart the baptism with the Holy Spirit for other believers. This was the procedure used by Peter and John with the new believers in Samaria in Acts 8:17

Conclusion

All believers should seek after the baptism with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gives us power to live a victorious Christian life. In addition, those called to minister for the Lord Jesus, are not fully equipped without the baptism of the Holy Spirit. God wants to empower you. All you need to do is seek, ask and surrender.

Chapter 5

A Lesson on Tongues

There is confusion in the church today regarding tongues. We hope we can clarify this for you in this short lesson on tongues.

The first thing we need to understand is that when we speak of tongues, that there is the gift of tongues and praying in tongues or praying in the Spirit.

The Spiritual Gift of Tongues

God tells us of the nine Spiritual Gifts in 1 Corinthians:

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 prophesy, to another discerning of spirits, *to another different kinds of tongues, to another interpretation of tongues*. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. 1 Corinthians 12:8-11

As we can see, one of the Spiritual Gifts is tongues and another is interpretation of tongues. These two gifts work together. When these gifts are operating in a church, God will give a message to a group of people through the person who has the gift of tongues. The message will be given, and it is given in an unknown language. The person with the gift of interpretation of tongues will provide the interpretation for all of those present. As with all of the gifts, the gift of tongues is for the profit or good of all. (1 Corinthians 12:7)

Paul tells us that we should not forbid the gift of tongues from operating in the church, but that it should be done in good order:

If anyone speaks in tongues, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn and let one interpret. 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

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 Spiritual Gift of Tongues is a very important gift because it is a sign to unbelievers. "Sign" means an *indication, miracle, token, sign or wonder*.

Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe, but to unbelievers.
1 Corinthians 14:22

So the Gifts of Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues shows the unbeliever that God is real and is present. This is why it is important that we allow these gifts to operate in our churches. We should not be fearful that it will scare unbelievers away if tongues are allowed. For, it is a gift especially designed to bring unbelievers to the Lord.

Like all Spiritual Gifts, not everyone has been given the gift of tongues or the gift of interpretation of tongues. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 12:11 that the Holy Spirit distributes to each of us the gifts He desires. We are not all given these gifts. It is important for pastors to discern those people in his congregation who have been gifted with these gifts so he can encourage their operation in the church.

Praying in the Spirit

The second type of “tongues” is praying in tongues or praying in the Spirit. We hear about this in several places in the New Testament. All Spirit-filled believers should have the ability to pray in the spirit (pray in tongues).

In Acts, we are told of the pouring out of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost:

And there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Acts 2:3-4

Here, those waiting in the upper room all received the baptism with the Holy Spirit and all began to pray in tongues.

When Paul baptized the believers at Ephesus with the Holy Spirit: They spoke with other tongues and prophesied. Acts 19:6

These verses refer to praying in tongues, not the Spiritual Gift of tongues. All who were baptized in the Holy Spirit spoke or prayed in tongues and there is no reference to interpretation of tongues or spiritual gifts.

Remember, we are spirit beings who for the time-being reside in a physical body. Our heavenly Father is also a spiritual being. We can therefore communicate spirit-to-spirit, so to speak. This is praying in the Spirit or praying in tongues. Praying in the Spirit by-passes our soul (our mind and intellect). With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can pray in the Spirit, directly to God:

Likewise the Spirit also helps us in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groaning which cannot be uttered. Romans 8:26

When we do not know what to pray, we can pray in the Spirit and He will know what to pray and will pray for us just what is necessary.

In Ephesians we are directed by God to pray in the Spirit:

Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all taking the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, *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 6:14-18

In the book of Jude, Jude wrote to believers, he referred to them as “the Called”. He tells us:

But you (believers) building yourself 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

So God is telling us that we should pray in the Spirit to build our faith and increase ourselves in the love of God.

Praying in the Spirit/in tongues has been fought hard by the devil. He knows how powerful it is when we can communicate spirit-to-spirit with God. Satan cannot understand our prayers and so cannot plot against them. Praying in the Spirit builds our faith, increases our love and empowers us to advance the Kingdom of God. No wonder Satan does not want you to pray in the Spirit.

How Receive Your Prayer Language

Some of you are now saying, I would like to have this ability to pray in the Spirit. How can I begin? First, you must be baptized with the Holy Spirit. As you can see from the scriptures included in this lesson, praying in tongues is one of the most common signs that one has become baptized in the Spirit.

There are some common misconceptions about praying in tongues. One is that it will automatically take place without any participation on your part. In fact, you must get your

mouth and vocal cords moving and then the Holy Spirit will pray through you. This usually means you have to start making some words as you are being filled with the Holy Spirit. Open your mouth and say something, even if it is something like, la, la, la, or da, da, da. This will get the process started and the Holy Spirit will begin to advance and perfect your prayer language.

Do not be discouraged if at first your prayer language sounds very simple and consists of only one or two syllables. This is how it starts for most people. Keep praying in the Spirit and watch how God will change and expand your language over time.

Do not let the devil tell you that you are just making up those words. It is almost a certainty that when you get started, the devil will lie to you and tell you that you are not praying in tongues, that you are just making it all up. Rebuke the devil and do not listen to his lies. He tries this with everyone because he does not want you to pray to God in the Spirit.

If you have not received your prayer language so you can speak to God from your spirit to His, receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit so that you can begin to use this important weapon. If you have trouble, get some help from Spirit-filled friends to get you started. Then keep practicing using your prayer language. You will find that it propels you spiritually and increases your prayer life in a big way!

Chapter 6

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The Bible lists the various gifts of the Holy Spirit in several places:

Supernatural Gifts/Sign Gifts (1 Corinthians 12)

Word of Wisdom	Faith	Different Kinds of Tongues
Word of Knowledge	Gifts of Healing	Interpretation of Tongues
Discerning of Spirits	Working of Miracles	Prophecy

Ministry Gifts/Five-Fold Ministers (Ephesians 4)

Apostles	Evangelists	Teachers
Prophets	Pastors	

Other Spiritual Gifts (1 Corinthians 7 and 12 and Romans 12)

Helps	Exhortation	Mercy
Government/Administration	Giving	Celibacy
Teaching	Leading	Missionary

All these gifts are available today for believers. Some people believe that the gifts stopped operating after the death of the apostles. This is not true:

I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus, that you were enriched in everything to Him in all utterance and all knowledge, even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 1:4-7

This tells us that we are to come short in no gift as we wait for the return of Jesus. Now, more than ever the church needs spiritual gifts to advance the Kingdom of God. We are living in evil days and the church needs to have all the weapons available to us to do the work of God. The Spiritual Gifts have been given for just that purpose: To enable the church of Jesus Christ to fully complete our assignments.

A Scripture often used to argue that after the Church was established in the New Testament that some of the gifts were no longer needed is:

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. For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.
1 Corinthians 13:8-10

People argue that when God's Word – the Bible, was written it was the perfect revelation of God and so there was no longer a need for prophecy, tongues or interpretation of tongues. There are problems with this argument. First, if tongues and prophecy are no longer needed, then knowledge is no longer needed either, as this is mentioned in the same verse. No one argues that we no longer need knowledge.

In addition, that which is perfect has not yet come, which is the Kingdom of God under Jesus Christ when He returns to earth. This Scripture refers to the time when Jesus returns, puts down all opposition and establishes His perfect and eternal Kingdom. Until then, the church needs the Spiritual Gifts for the same reasons that the early church needed them:

For the equipping/perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry and for the edifying of the Body of Christ - - until we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:12-13

Nine Supernatural Gifts of the Spirit/Sign Gifts - Introduction

- To start our study into the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, we will look at the nine gifts listed in 1 Corinthians Chapter 12.

Paul was writing to the church at Corinth to correct them and give them guidance in operating in the Spiritual Gifts:

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant. There are different ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. 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 12:1, 4-11

- These gifts can be broken down into three categories.

Revelation Gifts

Word of Wisdom Word of Knowledge Discerning of Spirits

These gifts are a means by which God reveals things that man cannot know by his own physical senses. God tells us things through these gifts that can only be known by divine revelation.

Power Gifts

Gift of Faith Gifts of Healings Working of Miracles

These gifts get things done. Through these gifts God imparts supernatural power that man does not normally possess.

Vocal Gifts

Different kinds of Tongues Interpretation of Tongues Prophecy

These gifts bring God's anointing and blessing to the church. These gifts edify, exhort and comfort the church. They are all accomplished by a believer speaking a message from God and so they are referred to as "vocal gifts".

Even though these gifts have been broken down by category, do not try to hold fast to categories. Many of the gifts work together and look a lot alike. Sometimes it is hard to say which gift is working and at times several are working to accomplish God's purposes. The categories are used to help you to understand the gifts, and are not a hard and fast rule.

These nine Supernatural Sign Gifts cannot be obtained by natural talent, education or ability. They operate by supernatural power of God. These gifts are referred to as "sign gifts" because they show the manifestation (demonstration) of the Holy Spirit in our life. When these gifts are operating in our lives, it is abundantly clear to others that the Holy Spirit is with us.

The gifts are not given to make us feel good or to put on a show. They are given to profit all:

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.

1 Corinthians 12:7

In other words, the gifts are to be used to bring others to Jesus and then to disciple them to become mature and able to walk in their gifts and callings. This is what it means to build up the church. The church is all of us believers. So the gifts build us up and equip us to do the work of God.

▪ Spiritual gifts are given to believers. The gifts usually start to manifest after we are baptized in the Holy Spirit. The gifts are just that, gifts. They cannot be earned. We do not receive gifts because we are good. We receive them because God gives them to us. The Holy Spirit gives them to whom He decides, when He decides.

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

Furthermore, the gifts are given without repentance (KJV). That is, God gives them and does not ever take them away:

For the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable. Romans 11:29

▪ Spiritual gifts do not necessarily depend on the believer's character. God gives gifts even to those who are immature, lazy, etc. Just because someone is operating in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit does not make him super-spiritual. Remember Balaam's donkey?

And when the donkey saw the Angel of the Lord, she lay down under Balaam, so Balaam's anger was aroused and he struck the donkey with his staff. Then the Lord opened the mouth of the donkey and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you that you have struck me these three times?"
Numbers 22:27-28

Since we see that even a donkey can be used by God, we cannot assume that every person used by God is mature and completely right with God. This is true for all of us. Just because God is using you, do not jump to the conclusion that you have arrived and do not need further maturing and training. Spiritual Gifts do not change a person's character or nature. They are given to bless others.

But it is also important to know that lack of character will impede the working of the gifts. Therefore, the Fruit of the Spirit should be cultivated alongside the gifts. We should be pressing into the presence of God and the Word of God and seeking deliverance and healing. This is what will bring change to our character and increased Spiritual Fruit.

▪ The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are weapons of our warfare. They are not sweet little things that we can play around with whenever we are bored. The gifts are mighty and powerful and help expand the Kingdom of God here on earth.

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare not carnal, but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity, to the obedience of Christ. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

- The Bible says you should earnestly desire Spiritual Gifts.

But earnestly desire the best gifts. 1 Corinthians 12:31

Earnestly desire means *covet, desire, be jealous over, zealous*. This tells me that if you want God to give you gifts, you should desire them with great intensity. You should press in and seek God for them and be a person of action, using what God has already given you. For, the parable of the talents tells us that if we use what we are given by God, He will give us more. (See Matthew 25)

Some people do not believe in Spiritual Gifts and others do not want them. Fine; God will not force Himself on anyone and will not compel people to serve Him. God is looking for people with a loyal heart for Him and a desire to serve and please Him.

For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.
2 Chronicles 16:9

The reason we have set the lessons on Spiritual Gifts after the lessons on the Presence and Anointing of God is that you should seek the Presence of God first. His Gifts are wonderful, but you will find that God will bless you abundantly with gifts and power as you grow closer and closer to Him. This close intimate relationship with God comes through time in prayer, fasting and worship. Show yourself to be loyal and hungry for God and He will show Himself strong for you, in many ways, including Spiritual Gifts.

- Two elements must be present for the gifts to function properly: Unity and Love

Unity:

A church with division and controversy will not flow well in the gifts of the Spirit. Jesus prayed that His disciples would be as one:

Now I am no longer in the world but these are in the world, and I come to You Holy Father; Keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be as one as We are. John 17:11

The early church moved in the power of the Holy Spirit in part because they had unity:

When the day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with *one accord* in one place. Acts 2:1

So continuing daily with *one accord* in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,

praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved. Acts 2:46-47

The Body of Christ must learn to flow together. No one is more important or less important than the others. We must work together, as one, to defeat the kingdom of darkness. For, Jesus told us that a kingdom divided cannot stand.

Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. Matthew 12:25

When the church is unified, it is a kingdom united and it will stand against the devil with much success. However, when a church has division and is not unified in vision, purpose and plans, it will not flow in the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit and will not be effective against the devil and his kingdom.

Love:

Paul tells us that the gifts must flow through you in love. Without love, the gifts will not profit you.

Though I speak with the tongues of men and angels, but have not love, I become a 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. 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

God says that when it comes to exercising the Spiritual Gifts, the most important thing to Him is that you do it because you love people.

And now abide faith, hope, love, these three, but the greatest of these is love.
1 Corinthians 13:13

You cannot manifest the true Gifts of the Spirit and the heart of God without an atmosphere of love. If you have a spirit of envy, jealousy, bitterness, selfishness, etc., the gifts will not function properly and they will not profit you. Someone else might still get blessed, but you will not. If you are not manifesting the Fruit of the Spirit, especially love, work on this with God as you seek Spiritual Gifts. God is so much more concerned about your character than your gifting. When your character is proven, then God will surely trust you with all of His Gifts and Power.

The next lesson will focus more specifically on each of the nine Supernatural Gifts of the Spirit.

Chapter 7

The Gifts of the Spirit – Revelation Gifts

We will now look at the Three Revelation Gifts from 1 Corinthians 12.

· Word of Knowledge · Word of Wisdom · Discerning of Spirits

1. Word of Knowledge

The Word of Knowledge is revelation from God pertaining to persons, places, situations – past and present. It pertains to what exists, whether it is in the past or in the present. God is all-knowing and with this gift He imparts to us a small portion of His knowledge.

Biblical Examples of Word of Knowledge:

- The Woman at the Well

Jesus went to a city of Samaria and spoke with a woman who was drawing water from the well. As their conversation progressed:

Jesus said to her, “Go and call your husband, and come here.” The woman answered and said, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You have well said, ‘I have no husband’, for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.” The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive you are a prophet. John 4:16-19

And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him (Jesus) because of the word of the woman who testified, “He told me all that I ever did.” John 5:39

As you can see from this example, the gift of Word of Knowledge is used to bring sinners into the Kingdom of God.

- Peter and Cornelius

Peter was given an elaborate vision of unclean animals on a sheet. The crux of the vision was that God was telling Peter that the Gospel of Jesus Christ was for everyone, not just the Jews. Peter, being a Jew, had avoided contact with Gentiles. However, God was about to use Peter to bring salvation to an entire household of Gentiles, thus starting the evangelization of the world outside of Judea.

While Peter thought about the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Behold three men are seeking you.” Acts 10:19

Peter was given a Word of Knowledge about men who had come from the home of Cornelius (a Gentile) to speak to Peter about coming to preach the Gospel to them. God told Peter in advance that they were coming and even how many were coming. This was coupled with a Word of Wisdom on what to do about the request to go to the home of Cornelius.

- Ananias is sent to Saul of Tarsus:

After Saul was blinded by Jesus on the way to Damascus, he fasted and prayed and had a vision of a person who would come and heal him. Meanwhile:

Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, "Ananias", and He said, "Here I am Lord." So the Lord answered him, "Arise and go to the street called straight and inquire at the house of Judas, for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hands on him, so that he might receive his sight. Acts 9:10-12

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

Here, a Word of Knowledge was given to both Ananias and Saul, thus confirming to both of them that the word and instructions had come from God.

The Word of Knowledge is used often in ministry situations. For Example:

- The Lord may reveal a disease or infirmity that a person has. This lifts their faith to be healed. It also confirms to the minister how to pray.
- Revelation may come as to past abuse and other hurts that the Lord was to heal in a person's life.
- God may tell someone something about themselves to convince the person that God is real and cares about them.

The Word of Knowledge is sometimes coupled with the Word of Wisdom, where God gives revelation as to certain facts about a person or situation, and then gives a Word of Wisdom on how to proceed.

2. Word of Wisdom

The Word of Wisdom is revelation from God to man pertaining to the future. God is revealing something that has not yet happened. Word of Wisdom is a tiny portion of God's vast wisdom over a situation, supernaturally imparted by the Holy Spirit.

A Word of Wisdom is not the same as the wisdom God provides to every believer. We are told that:

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. James 1:5

This wisdom is given to us to live everyday life. If you need God's wisdom for a situation, you simply need to ask and God will give it to you, liberally. The Word of Wisdom is a spiritual gift that the Holy Spirit gives to some, as He determines.

Biblical Examples of Word of Wisdom:

- The Calling of Peter:

When He (Jesus) had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." And when they had done this, they caught a great deal of fish, and their net was breaking. Luke 5:4-6

As a result of this, Peter and his brother left their fishing nets and followed Jesus.

- The Entry into Jerusalem:

Then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to me. And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them, and immediately he will send them.'" Matthew 21:1-3

The instructions to the disciples included a Word of Wisdom on what precisely to do to acquire transportation for Jesus to enter Jerusalem. When the disciples got to Jerusalem they found the situation to be exactly as Jesus told them it would.

- Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." Acts 8:26

Here, specific instructions to Philip, an evangelist, on what where to go resulted in a very influential official of kingdom of Ethiopia receiving Jesus. To this day, Ethiopia has a large Christian population.

3. Discerning of Spirits

The Gift of Discerning of Spirits is revelation from God concerning good and bad. It gives revelation as what spirit is involved, evil spirits, the spirit of man or the Holy Spirit. This revelation is for the present, not the future. It is the divine ability to see the presence and activity of a spirit that motivates a person, whether good or bad.

Discerning of Spirit is not "Discernment". There is no gift named "discernment". Discerning of Spirits allows a person to know what spirit is in operation. It takes us beyond our five senses and what they can tell us and gives us direct revelation from God as to the spirit involved. Discernment, on the other hand, could include what you see, hear and know from prior experience.

The Gift of Discerning of Spirits exposes false doctrines, lies and hidden motives. It can help a church choose the proper leadership and is invaluable in ministry to others. It exposes evil spirits and their manifestations. And it can confirm that a word spoken is from the Holy Spirit.

Discerning Evil Spirits

Jesus operated powerfully in discerning of spirits and knew when an evil spirit was operating:

Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." And He laid hands on her, and immediately she was made straight and glorified God. Luke 13:10-13

When the Pharisees objected that Jesus healed on the Sabbath, He replied:

So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound, think of it, for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?" Luke 13:16

Jesus discerned a spirit of infirmity operating which caused this woman's back problems. After He cast out the demon, the woman was healed.

The Apostle Paul discerned a spirit of divination when ministering in Philippi:

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 to come out of her." And he came out that very hour. Acts 16:16-18

So, even though the girl was speaking something that was true, Paul discerned that it came from an evil spirit, a spirit of divination.

Discerning the Spirit of Man/The Heart of Man

Jesus was not deceived by people. He could see right into a person, by revelation from the Holy Spirit, and knew their intents, desires and motivations.

Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the great signs which He did. But, Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men, and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man.
John 2:23-25

Jesus would often discern the thoughts of the Pharisees, who were outwardly religious, but inwardly corrupt.

Then the Pharisees went and plotted how they might entangle Him in their talk. And they sent to him their disciples, with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are true, and teach the way of God in truth, nor do You care about anyone for You do not regard the person of men. Tell us, therefore, what do you think? It is lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" But Jesus perceived their wickedness and said, "Why do you test me, you hypocrites?" Matthew 22:15-18

▪ Jesus and Nathanael

Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, and said to him, "Behold, and Israelite, indeed, in whom is no deceit." John 1:47

This scripture is not speaking of a spirit other than Nathanael's own spirit. Jesus knew by revelation that was without deceit (craftiness, trickery).

- Paul and the Crippled Man

And in Lystra a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting, a cripple from his mother's womb, who had never walked. This man heard Paul speaking. Paul observing him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, said with a loud voice, "Stand up straight on your feet!" And he leaped and walked. Acts 14:8-11

Paul did not discern the Holy Spirit or evil spirits, but he discerned something in the spirit of the man - faith to be healed.

The Holy Spirit

Finally, the Gift of Discerning of Spirits will reveal the presence of the Holy Spirit. It is very important, for instance, that we are able to discern the Holy Spirit when we meet together as a church. We need to know when the Holy Spirit is moving and how He is moving. We must be able to discern the Holy's Spirit's desires for a service so we can move with Him. Unless we discern the Holy Spirit, we will miss so much of what God wants to do.

The 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 3:8

The Holy Spirit is like the wind. We cannot see Him but by we can know He is present and where He is moving. Then we must also be like the wind, and move with the Holy Spirit,

laying our plans and programs aside so that God can have His way.

In addition, the Holy Spirit will confirm to us, by the Gift of Discerning of Spirits that we are hearing from Him as someone is preaching, teaching, prophesying, etc. We will discern that the person is truly speaking from the heart of God.

The next lesson will deal with the power gifts: faith, gifts of healings and working of miracles.

Chapter 8

The Gifts of the Spirit – Power Gifts

There are Three Power Gifts:

- Gift of Faith
- Gifts of Healing
- Working of Miracles

1. Gift of Faith

The Gift of Faith is a special faith that supernaturally achieves what is impossible through human effort. This is miraculous or divine faith. No human strength or effort is involved. God does it all. This is faith that comes instantly and supernaturally, as a gift from God.

The Gift of Faith is different from the faith that is available to all believers. God says that He has given a measure of faith to all:

For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. Romans 12:3

This is the type of faith necessary to become saved and to live life as a believer. We all must have this kind of faith because without faith, it is impossible to please God. Hebrews 11:6

There is also the fruit of the Spirit called faithfulness. This fruit of faith or faithfulness is continuing dependability and faithfulness. It means one is reliable and trustworthy. This fruit is part of our character as a believer and we need to cultivate it and allow it to grow in our lives.

The Gift of Faith is different. It is over and above faith that gets things done. It allows God to work through man, and achieve what cannot be done by our own strength and effort. God is the source of the faith imparted to man, and so what can be achieved has no limits whatsoever.

The Gift of Faith often operates through the spoken word. Since we are created in the image of God, and we have God dwelling in us, when we speak in faith, we will have the same result as God would have if He spoke it Himself. There are two ways of speaking words in faith:

- Decree = Speak to something on behalf of God
- Prayer = Speak to God on behalf of something

Look at the following Scripture to illustrate this:

Now in the morning, as He (Jesus) returned to the city, He was hungry. And seeing a fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it but leaves, and said to it, "Let no fruit grow on you ever again." Immediately the fig tree withered away. And when the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, "How did the fig tree wither away so soon?" So Jesus answered and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' it will be done. And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive. Matthew 21:1-22

Here, Jesus spoke to the tree on behalf of God and the tree did what Jesus told it to do. Jesus also explained that if you ask God anything, with faith, it will be done for you.

In the Book of Mark, this story is told, with one addition.

Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. And Peter, remembering, said to Him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away." So Jesus answered and said to them, "*Have faith in God.*"

Have faith in God is more correctly translated *Have the Faith of God*. This is divine Faith. If we have the Faith of God, miraculous faith, then anything we speak to must obey and anything we ask in prayer we will receive.

Furthermore, we need only "mustard seed" size faith to accomplish the impossible:

So the Lord said, "If you have the faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea and it would obey you." Luke 17:6

When you have the Faith of God, it is quality, not quantity that matters. With the Gift of Faith God imparts just a small portion of His vast faith to us, and it is enough to move mountains.

Biblical Examples of the Gift of Faith

- Elijah proclaims a drought:

And Elijah the Tishbite, of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the Lord God of Israel

lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word." 1 Kings 17:1

As a result of this declaration, there was no rain for 3½ years.

Notice that in James we are told that Elijah persevered in prayer both to stop the rain and then to start it again.

And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit. James 5:15-18

This scripture shows us that what we decree in faith comes from our relationship with God. We do not come up with our commands arbitrarily. They come from God. We pray and receive the will of God and then we decree it with the Faith of God and it must come to pass.

- Jesus calms the sea:

Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. And a great windstorm arose and the waves beat into boat so that it was already filling. But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" Then He arose and said to the sea, "Peace be still!" And the wind ceased and there was great calm. But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" Mark 4:35-40

Here you see the Gift of Faith and Working of Miracles in operation as Jesus speaks a command in faith and the wind and sea obey.

- Paul and Elymas the Sorcerer:

Now when they had gone through the island to Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew whose name was Bar-Jesus, who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. This man called for Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. But Elymas, the sorcerer, (for so his name is translated,) withstood them seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. Then Saul, who is also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him and said, "O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of

the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord? And now, indeed the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you shall be blind, not seeing the sun for a time. And immediately a dark mist fell on him, and he went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand. Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had been done, being astonished at the teaching of the Lord. Acts 13:6:12

In this case, judgment was proclaimed against the sorcerer by Paul, operating in the Gift of Faith.

- Woman with Issue of Blood:

In this story, we hear of a woman who had an issue of blood for 12 years. She had spent all the money she had on doctors and had gotten worse.

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. Mark 5:27-29

When Jesus felt that power had gone out from Him he sought out the woman:

And He said to her' "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction." Mark 5:34

The Gift of Faith has power over creation, death and all the works of the devil including demons, sickness and disease.

2. Gifts of Healing

A healing relieves one of illness, disease or injury. A healing may take place that we cannot see or perceive in any way. The healing can take place right way or can be a gradual healing that takes place over time. A miracle, on the other hand is usually instantaneous and it produces a change that goes beyond a healing.

An example of a healing would be a person who has a bulging disc in his back. There is prayer for healing and the disc, without any surgical intervention, is healed. The bulging disappears and the disc is normal, with the person being relieved of pain. Something that was injured is healed and brought back to its original condition.

An example of a miracle would be a person who is born missing several discs in his back, resulting in back problems and pain. A miracle takes place and the missing discs grow back by the power of God. Something that was not there appears.

It is not always easy to differentiate between a healing and miracle and it is not really all that necessary to do so. Either way, it is the power of God bringing wholeness, healing and restoration to a person.

As with the other spiritual gifts, the Gifts of Healing are within God's control. At times in Jesus' ministry many were healed and at times only a few or maybe just one was healed. For instance, when Jesus came to the Pool of Bethesda he encountered a great multitude of sick people. But Jesus only healed one man, who had been paralyzed for thirty-eight years. The rest were not healed. John 5:3-9

Jesus said He was always under the direction of His Father. When he was questioned later about the miracle at the pool, Jesus said:

Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do, for whatever He does, the Son does in like manner.
John 5:19

Again, this gift manifests through a relationship with God. The minister knows the voice of God and knows who to pray for and when to pray for them.

Biblical Examples of the Gifts of Healing

▪ Jesus Heals a Great Multitude:

And He came down with them and stood on a level place with a crowd of His disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear Him and be healed of their diseases, as well as those who were tormented with unclean spirits. And they were healed. And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed them all. Luke 6:17-19

Here we see an instance where everyone was healed. At times, there is a certain atmosphere in a service that causes the Gifts of Healing to rise to such a level that many, or even all are healed. When this happens, it is a matter of being at the right place at the right time. If you are present, you will be healed, because of the corporate faith and the anointing for healing that is manifesting.

Jesus Healing in Nazareth

Then He went out from there and came to His own country, and His disciples followed Him. Mark 6:1

Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them, and He marveled because of their unbelief.
Mark 6:5-6

In this story, we see that there can be an atmosphere that hinders healing and miracles. If there is an atmosphere of unbelief, it will stifle the Holy Spirit and result in few or perhaps no supernatural healings.

- Paul Heals on the Island of Malta

As the Apostle Paul was sailing to Rome the ship ran into a strong storm and was shipwrecked on the Island of Malta:

In that region there was an estate of the leading citizen of the island, whose name was Publius, who received us and entertained us courteously for three days. And it happened that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and dysentery. Paul went to him and prayed, and he laid his hands on him and healed him. So when this was done, the rest of those on the island who had diseases also came and were healed. Acts 28:7-9

Healing was an important part of the ministry of Jesus and His apostles. Healings confirm the power of God and supremacy of the Kingdom of God over the kingdom of darkness. We need to pray for this gift to be present in our churches, as it is greatly needed for evangelism and for the care of the Body of Christ.

3. Working of Miracles

The Gift of Working of Miracles is a supernatural intervention by God in the ordinary course of nature. It is God working through a person or instrument to do something that cannot be done by human effort. The Greek for miracle is *dunamis* which means power, explosive power. So, it is really the Gift of Working of Power, God's supernatural dynamite power.

With the Gift of Faith, we do not do anything, God does it all. With the Gift of Working of Miracles, we are involved to a great extent. It is the power of God surging through us causing the supernatural. The Gift of Working of Miracles requires obedience to revelation from God. It normally requires movement or action of some kind on our part.

Often the laws of nature are turned upside down. Seas are parted. Time stands still or speeds up. The dead are raised. Organs are created. Things that cannot possibly happen, happen!

Biblical Examples of Working of Miracles:

▪ Jesus Turns Water into Wine

Now there were six water pots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. Jesus said to them, "Fill the water pots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. And He said to them, "Draw out some now and take it to the master of the feast." And they took it. John 2:6-8

When the master of the feast tasted it, he told the bridegroom that he had obviously saved the best wine for last. Somewhere between the pots being filled with water and master of the feast tasting it, the miracle happened and the water turned to wine.

▪ Feeding the Five Thousand

In John 6:5-14 we read of one of the times when Jesus fed a multitude with a small quantity of food. In this miracle, the disciples had only five loaves of bread and two fish. Jesus had the people sit down in groups, gave thanks for the food and distributed the food to His disciples and the disciples distributed to the people. When it was all over, everyone was fed, with twelve baskets of food left over. The multiplication of the food was an example of the Gift of Working of Miracles. Each time the bread was broken and the fish divided, a miracle took place.

▪ Naaman Healed of Leprosy

Naaman, the commander of the army of the king of Syria came down with leprosy. He was told by a Hebrew slave to go and see the prophet Elisha to be healed. When he arrived at the home of Elisha, a messenger told him to go and wash in the Jordan River seven times and that his flesh would be restored and he would be made clean. Naaman thought the instructions were nonsense but his servant talked him into doing it anyway. So Naaman went to the Jordan River and dipped in it seven times. When he came up the last time, his leprosy was gone. 2 Kings 5:1-19

Notice that Naaman did not have an abundance of faith. He almost missed his miracle because of his pride. His servant, however, had great faith. So, when Naaman obeyed the instructions given to him by the messenger of the prophet, he received his miracle. Sometimes the faith of others will carry us through to our miracle.

▪ The Parting of the Red Sea

As Moses and the children of Israel fled from Egypt, they came up to the Red Sea. The army of Pharaoh was fast approaching. Something had to be done fast:

And the Lord said to Moses, Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward. But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea. Exodus 14:15-16

Then Moses stretched his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and waters were divided. Exodus 14:21

The rod and hand of Moses were used by God to perform the miracle of parting the sea.

- Deliverance is a Miracle Ministry:

Jesus spoke about deliverance in the Book of Mark:

Now John answered Him, saying, "Teacher, we saw someone who does not follow us casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow us." But Jesus said, "Do not forbid him, for no one who works a miracle in My name can soon afterward speak evil of me." Mark 9:38-39

- Jesus Restores a Man Born Blind from Birth

Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. . . When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva. He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to him, "Go and wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing. John 9:1, 6-7

Once again, we see that obedience to revelation from God results in a miraculous healing. Jesus obeyed what He heard from His father. The blind man obeyed the instructions from Jesus. It is important to note that people rarely receive a miracle just by sitting passively. When God tells you to do something, don't sit there and try to figure it out. Just obey and expect results.

As you can see from these few examples, the power gifts often work together. For instance, the Gift of Faith is usually operating with the Gift of Working of Miracles and the Gifts of Healing. The minister, acting in faith, communicates what he has heard from God. As the person begins to move in accordance with the revelation, his faith begins to build and gets stronger as he continues. And the miracle is made manifest. As one healing or miracle take place, faith begins to build in others, and more healings and miracles take place.

We need to pray for these gifts to manifest themselves powerfully in our churches. Only when the awesome power of God is demonstrated will we see the masses come to the Lord.

Chapter 9

The Gifts of the Spirit – Vocal Gifts

· Prophecy

· Different Kinds of Tongues · Interpretation of Tongues

1. Prophecy

The Gift of Prophecy is the ability to speak a message given by the Holy Spirit in a language understood by the speaker. It is a supernatural utterance that comes from a person anointed to speak a word from God to the Body of Christ.

In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul tells us that prophecy is for believers:

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 14:22

The purpose of prophecy is to edify, exhort and comfort the hearer of the prophetic message. This is why Paul said we should desire especially to prophesy:

Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.
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.
1 Corinthians 14:1-3

Edify - means to build up or strengthen.

Exhort - means to encourage.

Comfort - means consolation, solace, relief, support, reassurance.

Prophecy builds up a person or a church, they do not tear down. True prophets and prophetic ministers bring edification to the church body. They do not bring division, destruction or condemnation. A prophetic message, even if it brings correction, will bring edification and comfort. It will not be negative and judgmental.

A prophetic word always makes a person better off, not worse. If God gives a prophet or prophetic minister a word about a problem or sin issue in someone's life, God will also give them the solution or answer to the problem. Prophecy is not just to point out a person's

problems or defects. Really, people already know what is wrong with them. Prophecy makes a way out for them, a way to a better life. For instance, a prophetic word can provide revelation concerning a stronghold that is hindering a person or church. It will then also include the strategy for victory.

Prophecy can give a word in season to believers who are spiritually, emotionally and physically worn out.

The Lord has given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary. Isaiah 50:4

Prophecy gives individuals and churches encouragement and perseverance to hold out during times of persecution, trouble or hardship. God is able to give a word of comfort and encouragement that speaks life right into the spirit of the person that gives them the strength, faith and endurance to hold fast.

Prophecy discloses the secrets of the heart, which causes the person to worship God. See 1 Corinthians 14:24-25. Prophecy will always cause you to draw closer to God. It will never draw you away from God.

Revelation is given by prophecy to the church so it can fulfill its unique call. Each local church has a unique destiny and purpose. Prophecy is used to release, impart and activate churches into their ministries and callings.

Each person is also has a unique destiny and purpose. Prophecy is used for impartation and activation of gifts, callings, anointings, and blessings to individuals.

Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy, with the laying on of hands of the presbytery. 1 Timothy 4:14

Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 2 Timothy 1:6

For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established. Romans 1:11

Prophecy calls people into their destinies, purposes callings. An example of this is when the prophets and teachers at Antioch were directed by God to separate from them Paul and Barnabas, lay hands on them and send them out for the work they were called to do.

See Acts 13:1-3

When you receive a word of prophecy, God has spoken to you and it is established in the spiritual realm. The word, if we receive it, becomes part of our spirit. And then that word carries with it the power to bring it to pass, to make it happen. This is why the gift of prophecy is so powerful and why the Apostle Paul emphasized its importance.

2. Different Kinds of Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues

These two gifts operate together, and so we will discuss them together in one section.

The gift of diverse or different kinds of tongues (hereinafter referred to as simply “Tongues”) is the ability given to a person to receive and communicate a message from God in a language not understood by the speaker.

The Gift of Interpretation of Tongues is the ability given to a person to understand and communicate the meaning of the message spoken in Tongues. When the Gift of Tongues is coupled with the Gift of Interpretation of Tongues, the result is like Prophecy – a message to the church in a language that is understood.

The Holy Spirit gives a person ability to receive and speak the message and the person interpreting it the ability to understand it. It all comes from the Holy Spirit. None of it is done by our human understanding. So the language of the message will not be understood by either the person receiving it or interpreting it. The understanding comes by way of the Holy Spirit.

Two Different Kinds of Tongues

There are two ways that tongues will manifest. For the sake of discussion, we will refer to these as:

1. Personal
2. Corporate

Personal:

This is the prayer language that is available to every believer upon his baptism in the Holy Spirit. Paul talks about this in his first letter to the Corinthians:

For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to man but to God, for no one understands him, however in the spirit he speaks mysteries.

1 Corinthians 14:2

This is not referring to the Spiritual Gift of Diverse Tongues, because it says no one understands him. In Diverse Tongues, the person with the Gift of Interpretation of Tongues most definitely understands the speaker. This is the manner in which the message is delivered to the church.

In personal tongues, we are speaking spirit to spirit to God. It is our spiritual prayer language which bypasses our mind and operates through our spirit. This tongue does not edify others, because it is between the person and God. It does however edify the person and builds up his most holy faith:

But you beloved, building up your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.

Jude 1:20

Praying in the Spirit is what is referred to as praying in tongues. This is your personal prayer language with God. This is not the Gift of Tongues. We should all seek to have the baptism of the Holy Spirit so we can have this personal, spiritual prayer language with God.

Corporate:

Corporate Tongues is a message from God given in an unknown language to the Body of Christ. This is the Gift of Different Kinds of Tongues. This is the Gift of the Spirit we are speaking about in this lesson when we discuss Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues. The purpose of the Gift of Tongues and Interpretation is for public ministry – to edify, exhort and comfort the church.

The Gift of Tongues can be in a language known to man (but unknown to the speaker) or it can be in a language not known to man. When the message is given, a person will be present who has the Gift of Interpretation of Tongues so that the message can be interpreted for the people who are present.

An example of this is a time when we travelled to Ecuador with a team from our church. The pastor of the church in Ecuador spoke no English and we spoke no Spanish. Gary received a message in Tongues and spoke it forth. It was neither in English or Spanish. The pastor through our interpreter told everyone that he heard Gary speaking in a spiritual language, but that he understood it. So, the language barrier was overcome by God, by use of the Gift of Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues.

Interpretation of Tongues

As stated above, purpose the Gift of Interpretation of Tongues is to speak the meaning of a message that comes in an unknown language. The interpretation is not an exact translation. The interpretation will give the essence of the message. It will tell us what God want us to know. It is not an exact word for word interpretation of what God said. The message in tongues might come forth with many words, and the interpretation just a few. Or it may be just the opposite.

The Interpretation of Tongues requires a measure of faith. You may not get the entire interpretation at once. You may start out with a few words, and as you speak these in faith, God gives the remainder.

Protocol for the Gift of Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues

Paul sets forth some guidelines in his letter to the church at Corinth for the use of these gifts.

Paul says that if Tongues is in operation, we should have the Interpretation of Tongues.

If anyone speaks in tongues, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn and let one interpret. 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

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

The reason there must be an interpreter is so that the church is edified. If no one understands the message, then the only person edified is the speaker. And the Gifts of the Spirit are for the profit of all, not just the one manifesting the Gift.

If a message comes forth in tongues and there is no interpretation:

It may be that no one is present with the Gift of Interpretation, or
There is someone present, but for whatever reason, they will not come forth to speak the word.

You are not required to determine if there is a person with the Gift of Interpretation present before a message in Tongues is allowed to be given. God does not always manifest the Gift of Interpretation until the message in Tongues in given. If no one comes forth with an interpretation, the service should just continue on. It may be that the interpretation will come later, or perhaps not at all. But we want to encourage Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues because God wants these Gifts to operate in the church. Paul confirmed this when he said not to forbid tongues:

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 14:40

The Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues has been fought hard by Satan. Perhaps no other gift is more controversial than these. However, the Bible clearly tells us not forbid Tongues and so we should not be afraid of these gifts, but embrace them, along with all of the others.

3. Protocol for the Vocal Gifts

Paul set forth some protocol with regard to spiritual gifts so that there would be order in the church:

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

Even though the vocal gifts are manifested according to the will of the Holy Spirit, the person must exercise control over when, where and if the words are spoken. Paul told the Corinthian church with regard to tongues:

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

As to prophecy, Paul said:

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 may be encouraged. 1 Corinthians 14:29-31

Even though we receive a message from God in tongues or in prophetic utterance, we must follow the order of the church in giving these messages. We remain in control of how these gifts are manifested:

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 14:32-33

What Paul meant by this was that the Holy Spirit is a gentleman who does not impose His will on us. The Holy Spirit does not work against our own self-control. So, if a message in tongues or a prophetic word drops in your spirit, it is under your control whether to speak it or not. If you feel compelled to speak and believe you cannot stop yourself, this is not God. This is some other spirit.

All gifts should work together in good order, for the building up of the Body of Christ. Everyone speaking at the same time does not edify anyone. This is why we must set forth rules and protocol for these types of gifts. This way, God is glorified and the Body of Christ is encouraged and edified.

Chapter 10

Other Spiritual Gifts Gifts of Helps and Governments

And God has set some in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

1 Corinthians 12:28

There are eight gifts under helps and Governments which we will discuss in this chapter:

Helps

Exhortation

Mercy

Governments/Administration

Giving

Celibacy

Teaching

Leading/Shepherding

Missionary

Helps

The person with this gift has the God given ability to help others so they can operate in their gift more effectively without needing affirmation for the work they do. The service to God is affirmation enough.

This is a gift God wants us to covet.

1 Corinthians 13: 1-2 tells us we can have all these other gifts but if we do not have charity (love) which drives/motivates helps, we are sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal. We are considered nothing without this gift.

The Person with Helps Gift:

- Does things to free up other members of the body so that they can operate in their gifts without needless distractions.
- Is happiest when given an opportunity to serve. For example, cleaning the church, repairing a church member's car without pay, taking meals to shut-ins, greeting visitors to the church, etc.
- Does not desire recognition, just the opportunity to do for others.
- Has a deep understanding that their reward is from God not man.
- Quickly recognizes when someone is in need materially, emotionally, spiritually. Is hypersensitive to another's need for discretion and is therefore a person who can keep information confidential.
- Helping others is this person's way of exhorting others.

Governments/Administration

To ***govern*** is to conduct the policy, actions and affairs of a group of people. They regulate a group of people or a person. It means to rule, control, manage, direct or steer.

To ***administrate*** is to work in an administrative capacity; to supervise; to be in charge; to set things in order. Therefore; this person has a God given ability to govern a body of believers for the work of the Kingdom.

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

1 Corinthians 14:33 For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

The person with Governments/administration Gifts:

- Has a keen eye for detail; is detail oriented
- Has a desire to set things in order
- Is able to manage projects and people

Mark 3:13-14 And he goes up into a mountain, and calls to him whom he would; and they came to him. And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach...

Luke 10:1 After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place...

Titus 1:5 That you should set in order the things that are wanting.

Gift of Teaching

The gift of teaching is the special ability to counsel or challenge others toward a healthy relationship with Jesus Christ. Do not confuse the gift of teaching with the Five-Fold Ministry of Teacher. Many will have the spiritual gift of teaching, but not be called as a "Teacher" in the five-fold ministry.

This gift is often used to instruct the church in general or a Christian follower in the Word of God and into making God honoring choices.

The Person with the gift of teaching:

- Does not avoid conflict although they hate conflict
- Feels a deep responsibility to encourage or redirect a person who is straying from the truth.

- Quickly learns that they need to give the Holy Spirit an opportunity to do His work of conviction and sanctification

Sensitivity and tact must be properly developed or the person with this gift will not be appreciated. It is important for this person not to let “how” they communicate (their technique) get in the way of “what” they communicate. Exhortation needs to be done carefully and lovingly. Being too “wordy” or not using enough words can also cause confusion and or frustration for the person receiving the message. The person with this gift should operate under the direction of the Holy Spirit to avoid these mistakes.

Exhortation

The gift of Exhortation is the special ability to motivate people usually the church as a whole. Many times the exhorter will encourage those going through difficult situations to persevere and to rely on God to see them through. Exhortation works with the gift of mercy in people who comfort and encourage the Body of Christ through difficult times.

Exhortation is also used to assist people to make God-honoring choices. It is necessary that the person with this gift first develop sensitivity and tact before operating in this gift to avoid tactlessly hurting people’s feelings if not more damage than good can be done.

Just like the prophets of the Old Testament, the exhorter may be called upon by God challenge the people to remain faithful. This service in the body of Christ, although not always appreciated, is crucial to the spiritual health and vitality of the church.

People with the gift challenge and encourage those that may be taking a wrong path away from the Lord.

In Acts 14:22 the Apostle Paul exhorted the disciples to remain true to the faith.

In Acts 11:23 Barnabus encouraged the people of Antioch to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.

Again, in 1 Thessalonians 2:12 the Apostle Paul described his ministry among the Thessalonians as encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

People who possess the gift of Exhortation may experience conflict as they work to assist others to stay faithful to God and His Word. The exhorter may hate conflict but they will not avoid it because of their obedience to God.

The gift of Exhortation is always expressed in a “personal appeal” even when the exhortation is given to the church as a whole. The purpose is to assist people to draw nearer to God and increase the trust and faith in God. The person with this gift should give the Holy Spirit an opportunity to do his work of conviction and sanctification.

Gift of Giving

The **gift of giving** is a special enablement by God to a person to give sacrificially of their finances, time and talent to the work of God. This person may also have the gift of faith or stewardship. The person feels compelled by the Holy Spirit to give in excess of tithe. This is different from a belief system that you must give over and above your tithes and therefore give out of obedience to the rule of the house.

In 2 Corinthians 8:1-7 Paul affirmed the Macedonian church as a whole with this gift of giving out of their poverty.

Leadership/Leading

This is the ability to lead people to accomplish God’s visions and goals. This gift often works with the gift of administration.

The Person with Leading Gift:

- Knows when a quiet word can spur others on; when to challenge and when to support; when to coach and when to give space.
 - Takes initiative in starting new ministries or new direction
 - Others trust their character, ability, skills level and judgment
 - Are willing to step forward and be responsible for task or ministry
 - Able to inspire others
- Romans 12:8 ... he that exhorteth do so with simplicity and he that ruleth with diligence and he that sheweth mercy with cheerfulness. *This supports the above statement about the exhorter as well as the leader and the next topic of mercy.*

Gift of Mercy

The **gift of mercy** is the God given ability to feel and express compassion and sympathy for those in crisis and provide them with the correct help and support.

The person with the gift of mercy:

- Demonstrates the ability “to walk in another’s shoes” and feel pain and burdens they carry.
- Desires to make a difference in the lives of hurting people without being judgmental.

- May have difficulty evaluating the intentions of others and at times appears naïve.
Matthew 15:32 – Jesus said, “I have compassion on the multitudes.”
Acts 9:36 – Spoke of a woman named Dorcas, who was full of good works and charitable deeds.

Gift of Celibacy

The gift of celibacy is the divine gift to remain single and enjoy it. The person with this gift is able to remain unmarried and not suffer sexual temptation. This allows the person to serve the Lord wholly without marital or parental responsibilities. It allows the person to be more effective in their gifts.

This is a true gift and should not be confused with widows or those who are divorced. Just because a person is a widow or divorced does not mean they have this gift. However, once a person become single again after being married, he/she may ask the Lord the give them the gift of celibacy so they can serve the Lord without distractions. In addition, some who have married actually possess the gift of celibacy and once they become single, the gift manifests and they are able to remain joyfully single.

For there are eunuchs who were born thus from their mother’s womb, and there are eunuchs who were made so by men and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven’s sake.

Matthew 19:12

Missionary

Missionary means to be sent into another culture. It is the ability of a person to use their gifts to minister in another culture.

The person with missionary gift:

- Has an intense spirit of unease that there is a multitude of unsaved people in the world
- Adapt themselves to different surroundings by being culturally sensitive and aware
- The ability to reach out to people of different ethnicities, language and cultures
- Can establish meaningful relationships with people of other nationalities or cultures
- Desires to minister to unreached people in other communities or countries

Chapter 11

Five Fold Ministry

God is not the author of confusion and He desires that His church operate in order and peace. (1Corinthians 14:33) Therefore, He sets forth leadership for each local church:

And He gave Himself some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-12.

These are referred to as the fivefold ministry or offices of ministry. Each of these fivefold ministries are an extension of Jesus Christ. They are not spiritual gifts. They come directly from Jesus, the head of the Church.

In the past century, God has been restoring each of these offices to the church. Pastors have been in place for some time, starting with the Protestant Reformation. Teachers and evangelists were restored during the mid-1900s. The office of the prophet was restored after this around the 1980's. Finally, the apostle was restored just before the turn of the century, in the 1990's. God has been setting things back in order in His church in preparation for His end-time revival. Each office is essential for the proper functioning of the church.

The Apostle

The Greek for apostle is *apostolos* and is translated as *a messenger* or *one that is sent*. This means that God specifically gives apostles assignments and "sends" them out empowered to complete the assignment.

The Apostles Paul and Barnabas were "sent" out from Antioch:

Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen, who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then having fasted and prayed, they laid hands on them, and sent them away. So being sent by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. Acts 13:1-3

The apostle is a foundational minister that establishes God's work and people and then governs or leads them to perfection. One of the primary callings of the apostle is to plant churches and ministries. Much of the Apostle Paul's work involved evangelizing an area and then starting a church, which he then oversaw and managed. As part of this mandate, the

apostle places other fivefold ministers in these churches that he plants to carry on the work of the church. So, the apostle puts together his team of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, as God directs him for each church.

The apostle is considered the leader or the head of the church. (In these times, he is probably also referred to as the pastor or senior pastor) This is not to state that the apostle is somehow more important than anyone else, but that he is called by God to be in charge. God is a God of authority and each of us must submit to authority. There is no authority except from God. Romans 13:1-4.

As God's set leader of the church, authority vests in the apostle and flows down from there to the other five-fold ministry offices. From there it flows to the other leaders and ministers in the church. Finally, the apostle receives direct revelation from God on vision for the church. As the oil flowed from the head of Aaron and down his beard, so the revelation from God flows from the apostle to the others set in the church. Psalm 133:2

The Prophet

The prophet is the second listed in the fivefold ministry offices. Prophets, like the other five-fold ministers, are called and set by God; they are not set by man. God said to Jeremiah:

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations. Jeremiah 1:5

The prophet is a special mouthpiece for God. He has been gifted to hear God and communicate God's mind to the church. God gives revelation regarding His plans, purposes and strategies to the prophet.

Surely the Lord does nothing unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets. Amos 3:7

God reveals by revelation His mysteries to the apostle and prophets. Ephesians 3:1-5 So, the prophet works in conjunction with the apostle to lay the proper foundation for the church.

Now therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. Ephesians 2:20

Prophets reveal God's heart to His people, giving guidance to individuals and the body. They give revelation and often interpretation, application and timing.

The Evangelist

The evangelist's primary calling is to bring in the lost into the Kingdom of God. The evangelist has a passion to preach about Jesus and bring people to salvation. In order to fulfill this assignment, God bestows on the evangelist supernatural power to perform miracles, healings and other signs to the unbeliever. The ministry of the evangelist is explosive with God's power anointing and brings great change and joy to those who come in contact with him.

Then Philip went down to a city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. And there was great joy in that city.

Acts 8:5-8

The ministry of the evangelist is part of the church, but much of what he does is outside the church walls. Evangelists are not only those we see with big ministries on television. Many who are called by God as evangelists will minister in their local communities, neighborhood and places of work. God needs evangelists everywhere, as they are the ministers who most effectively bring the lost to salvation.

The Pastor

The office of pastor is a part of the fivefold ministry and so pastors are called and set by God. Those who are in the office of pastor without God's calling have acted out of order. There are a number of people who are pastors of churches whom God has not called. This has caused many problems for the church. If you are called by God to be a fivefold minister, then God will gift you and grace for the task. If you have not been called by God, then you will have to complete the assignment on your own gifts and talents. This is not a good place to be.

The pastor is called to be a shepherd of the flock, the members of the local church body. The pastor carries supernatural love and compassion for the people of God. The heart of the pastor is to love and care for the members of the church. The ministry of the pastor is to care for those who are sick and hurting. Consequently, pastors carry an anointing for healing and deliverance. They also have an evangelistic anointing to bring in the lost and then to love and nurture them.

A person called as pastor is not necessarily called to lead a church, although he might be. We tend to call all of the men and women who lead churches, pastor. In reality, some are not called to the office of pastor. They are other five-fold ministers. Do not confuse the title, "pastor", with the calling to the fivefold ministry office of pastor.

Teacher

The five-fold ministry office of teacher is part of the apostolic team set by God to lead the church. The office of teacher is more than someone who leads Sunday school or who facilitates a Bible study. The teacher is gifted by God to take the revelation received by the apostle and prophet and communicate it in a way that all in the church will understand. The teacher is a divine communicator. The prophet receives much communication by God, but he is not necessarily a good communicator. In fact, he may not really even understand the meaning of all that he hears from God. The teacher is anointed to understand and communicate this understanding to the people.

This is not to state that the teacher does not receive revelation from God on his own. He often will. However, the revelation received by the teacher will be consistent with the vision and revelation received by the apostles and prophets. They work together as a team.

All fivefold ministries are vital to the proper operation of the church. Without these ministries in place, it is very difficult, if not impossible, for the church to fulfill its assignment in the Kingdom of God. All of these ministries work together for the common goal of building up the church, perfecting the saints and advancing the Kingdom of God.

Conclusion

We hope you have enjoyed this Life in the Spirit manual. As Christians, we can have no greater joy than to live a life in tune and harmony with the Holy Spirit. He is the Godhead who is here with us day by day, minute by minute and second by second. He wants to be your best friend, your comforter, your teacher and confidant. He is the power and awe that is so needed in the church today. Holy Spirit, we give you honor and praise and glory!!

Prayer of Salvation

If you have not received Jesus as your Lord and Savior, now is the time! You too can have the Holy Spirit dwelling in you. Speak the following prayer from your heart, out loud:

I acknowledge that I am a sinner and that I need a Savior. His name is Jesus. I now repent of my sins. I turn my back on sin and turn towards God. I now break covenant with the things of the world and come into covenant with the Kingdom of Heaven and its King, Jesus. I state right now that I will no longer live for myself, but I will live for Jesus. I receive forgiveness of sin and eternal life. I am a new creature today, in Jesus name.

Today, I believe in my heart and confess with my mouth that Jesus is Lord. Jesus is MY Lord. I believe that Jesus is the Messiah. I believe that Jesus died for my sins and arose from the dead after three days. Today, I receive Jesus as my Savior and as my Lord.

If you prayed this prayer from your heart, you have been moved from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of God. You belong to Jesus. The Holy Spirit is now dwelling in you and will be with you to help you grow closer to Jesus. It is time for you to find a church to help raise you up in the ways of God. Do not waste any time on this. Find a good Bible based church and be faithful and diligent in your attendance and in serving Jesus and the church.

We take this opportunity to speak a blessing over you. We pray that God bless you and keep you. That He make His face shine upon you and His countenance be lifted to you. We pray that God give you His peace, the peace that passes all understanding.

Apostle Gary and Jean Wilson
And all the family at Isaiah 61 Ministry Center