

The Holy Spirit

Session # 2 / Wednesday, June 27, 2007

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- Brief review of last week's introductory study on the Holy Spirit.
- Short Video from International Correspondence Institute

From that video clip, you have been introduced to the initial concept in this study which is this: **THE CHURCH IS THE BODY OF CHRIST AND EACH MEMBER OF THE BODY MUST FUNCTION IN THE WAY CHRIST, THE HEAD OF THE BODY, WANTS IT TO.** Here is a simple outline based on the following scripture:

Ephes. 1:15-23 (New Living Testament)

Ever since I first heard of your strong faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for Christians everywhere, [16] I have never stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, [17] asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. [18] I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the wonderful future he has promised to those he called. I want you to realize what a rich and glorious inheritance he has given to his people.

[19] I pray that you will begin to understand the incredible greatness of his power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power [20] that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. [21] Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else in this world or in the world to come. [22] And God has put all things under the authority of Christ, and he gave him this authority for the benefit of the church. [23] And the church is his body; it is filled by Christ, who fills everything everywhere with his presence.

OUTLINE

We are ALL members of HIS BODY

Christ is the Head

Believers are the Body

Every member is IMPORTANT

Every member is part of the body

Every member has a particular function

1 We are not to compare ourselves with others
2 Comparison displeases God
3 Comparison discourages people
4 We are to be faithful WITH GIFTS FROM GOD
5 We are to recognize the gifts
6 We are to use the gifts
7

From the writings of Dr. Robert L. Brandt, author of Spiritual Gifts / ICI Course

As a member of Christ's body, you have a spiritual ministry to perform. In equipping you for the work, God has given you a gift and possibly more than one gift. Every member has at least one gift. Almost every place in the Bible where gifts are mentioned it is stated that they are for every member.

These gifts are not given to us by our parents or by our teachers. *No human being has the power to give them.* Also they are not the talents we have come by naturally.

TALENTS are abilities with which people are born. Different people have different natural abilities. They are not the same as spiritual gifts. Many unbelievers have talents. These are not spiritual gifts.

A SPIRITUAL GIFT COMES FROM ONLY ONE SOURCE – GOD. James 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

We are to use the gifts God has given us! The Bible gives a simple rule which applies to all of God's gifts. Matthew 10:8 **Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.** Sometimes believers fail to use their gifts. Sometimes they use them selfishly and without love. The purpose is not fulfilled in either case.

Therefore, it is the believer's duty to (1) use each gift for its intended purpose, and (2) permit love to govern its use. 1 Peter 4:10 **As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.**

The Bible uses the word stewardship when speaking of man's duty. *Stewardship means looking after the things of another.* As believers we receive the stewardship of spiritual gifts. That is, we are to look after the gifts given to us and use them to further our Lord's kingdom. And there is a clear rule for stewards: 1 Cor. 4:2 **Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.** Faithful use of spiritual gifts brings glory to the Giver and blessing to the body.

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1 KNOWING ABOUT THE GIFT OR GIFTS GOD HAS GIVEN TO YOU
2 Hebrews 11:6 **But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that**
3 **cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that**
4 **diligently seek him.**
5
6

7 Faith is at the very heart of all spiritual gifts - and their USE. The fact that they are
8 spiritual, that is - of the Spirit, shows the need for faith. Faith makes us believers. Faith
9 also makes us USEFUL as believers through the gifts.
10

11 So how do we get this faith? Through the power of the Word! Romans 10:17 **So**
12 **then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.** By our diligent
13 study of the Word of God, the Bible, we receive knowledge of God and that builds our
14 faith!
15

16 CATEGORIES OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

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18 I must be careful in what I teach you here for some of the gifts “run together” or can
19 “branch out into other groupings.” In a very real sense, spiritual gifts are closely related
20 to each other. However, it will help us in our study if we can visualize the spiritual
21 gifts listed in Scripture under three basic headings:
22

23 I. Gifts of Ministry Ephes. 4:7 and 11

24 **But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of**
25 **Christ. [11] And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists;**
26 **and some, pastors and teachers;**
27

- 28 1. Apostles
 - 29 2. Prophets
 - 30 3. Evangelists
 - 31 4. Pastors
 - 32 5. Teachers (usually associated with pastoral teaching)
- 33

34 II. Related Ministry Gifts These gifts are listed in Romans 12 and I
35 Corinthians 12. They may not be as easily recognized as those in category 1; however
36 that does not mean they are not important. In every case they meet a special need in the
37 Body of Christ.
38

- 39 1. Ministering
- 40 2. Teaching (lay member teaching)

3. Exhorting (Encouraging)
4. Giving
5. Ruling (church polity or government)
6. Showing mercy
7. Helps

III. Gifts of the Spirit (I Cor. 12)

1. The word of wisdom
2. The word of knowledge
3. Faith
4. Gifts (notice it's plural) of healing
5. Working of miracles
6. Prophecy
7. Discerning of spirits
8. Tongues
9. Interpretation of tongues

GOD'S GIFTS OF MINISTRY TO THE LOCAL CHURCH

As already intimated, these five gifts of the Holy Spirit are: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers. Some scholars believe that pastors and teachers should actually be listed as pastor/teacher, one ministry combining the two aspects.

APOSTLES

There are two kinds of apostles. First there was that special group of twelve men who walked with Jesus. When one of them, Judas, betrayed his Lord and lost his place in the Kingdom, he was replaced by another. Acts 1:26 **And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.**

To qualify for this group, the apostle had to be one who had actually traveled with Jesus during His three years of ministry. This causes a lot of speculation. Was not Paul also an apostle? Yes, I think he was. Some commentators think the early Christians were out of line in choosing Matthias who appears to have dropped out of sight after his selection and that they should have waited to put Paul in that position. One thing is sure: we will one day know! There will be twelve foundation stones in the New Jerusalem on which are written the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb (Rev. 21:14). All speculation will end when we see those foundations!

1 However, in our day we still have apostles. Many preachers on television call
2 themselves “apostles.” Are they? God knows. The word *apostle* actually means “to
3 send away” or “to send forth.” It is my fervent belief and understanding that many of
4 our present-day missionaries are apostles.

6 PROPHETS

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8 This ministry gift has two main functions: (1) Foretelling and (2) forthtelling.
9 Foretelling involves predicting the future. This is a rare manifestation and one that
10 involves putting the “foreteller” on the reviewing stand for all to see. It’s also very
11 risky. In the Old Testament, those who claimed prediction capabilities and who were
12 proved wrong in their foretelling were stoned to death. (I suspect that if we held the
13 same plan today, stones would be flying in a lot of places.) Forthtelling means speaking
14 with divine inspiration. One who expounds the word of God is, in effect, a prophet.

15
16 I have known - and now know - a number of present-day apostles and prophets. I hold
17 them in awe and they have contributed largely to the ministry I now have.

18 EVANGELIST

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21 An evangelist is one who announces the good tidings of salvation primarily to
22 unbelievers. His or her ministry is followed by many coming to know the Lord as
23 Savior. Billy Graham is a key example of evangelism. It seems to me that his
24 ministry has been low-key for years, with little of the demonstrative preaching that
25 attended his earlier years or that we see on the part of many television preachers. Yet
26 tens of thousands respond to his invitations to be saved. I have had pastors tell me they
27 were going to resign their church, go on the road and be an evangelist. No, I don’t think
28 so. An evangelist is not a “pastor who travels.” I have very little of this ministry gift in
29 me which is why we so often utilize evangelists and other ministries here. An
30 evangelist is NOT a pastor - and vice versa. My friend Benny Hinn calls himself a
31 pastor. He is not. He is an evangelist.

32 PASTOR / TEACHER

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35 I believe that a true pastor must have a teaching aspect to his or her ministry. Ephesians
36 4:11-12 makes it clear that our PRIMARY role as pastors is to prepare people for the
37 work of ministry. Several books in the New Testament are called “pastoral epistles.”
38 They are I and II Timothy and Titus. They were written directly to pastors about their
39 roles and functions.

1 A pastor is the under-shepherd of the flock. He must love the people, the flock. He
2 must lead the flock. No church will ever rise for long above the leadership level of its
3 pastor. The pastor protects the flock. The pastor/shepherd wants his sheep to produce
4 more sheep.

5 6 OTHER MINISTRY GIFTS EXPLAINED 7

8 1. THE GIFT OF MINISTERING. In Acts 9:36-41 we receive the story of Dorcas
9 who had the gift of ministering. “She spent all her time doing good and helping the
10 poor.” (Vs. 36) A talent of some sort totally given to the Lord can become a gift of
11 ministering. I think of so many in this congregation who are helpers not only in the
12 church but outside the walls, such as the many who minister in our nursing home ministry
13 which touches nearly 800 people every week. **THE PURPOSE OF THIS GIFT IS TO**
14 **MEET THE NEED OF PEOPLE BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE BODY OF**
15 **CHRIST.**

16
17 2. THE GIFT OF REACHING Romans 12:7 **Or ministry, let us wait on our**
18 **ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching...** Teaching here means showing how
19 to do certain things. The difference between the pastor-teacher and the gift of teaching
20 is that the pastor-teacher is related to a leadership responsibility. The gift of teaching,
21 however, is not limited to church leaders. Both women and men can be teachers. I
22 owe an enormous debt back to my childhood to people who were great teachers.

23
24 3. THE GIFT OF EXHORTING In II Timothy 4, Paul’s last will and testament
25 written from the death cell beneath Nero’s prison, the apostle wrote so poignantly, “Only
26 Luke is with me.” Exhorting means to encourage. To be there when no one else is.
27 To lift people instead of knocking them down.

28
29 4. THE GIFT OF GIVING Romans 12:8 “Whoever shares with others should do
30 it generously.” By the “gift of giving” we mean the gift of God which enables a
31 believer to freely and generously give of what he has to meet the needs of other people
32 and God’s work. The gift of giving relates to our money, but it also relates to such
33 things as time, strength and talents.

34
35 5. THE GIFT OF RULING Again Romans 8 is a key chapter. This gift of ruling is
36 given to certain members of the Body of Christ for leading the body, presiding over it and
37 directing its activities. Think of what an army would be like without generals and
38 other officers. In our own Assemblies of God fellowship, we have at the top of the
39 organizational chart: Our General Superintendent Thomas Trask, an Assistant General
40 Superintendent, an Executive Secretary and an Executive Treasurer. We also have an

1 Executive Director of United States Missions and an Executive Director of World
2 Missions. That group of six men is also known as The Board of Administration.
3 Those six meet every other month with 11 other elected officers known as the Executive
4 Presbytery. The seventeen serve as the “official board” of the Assemblies of God
5 fellowship in America. I have had the privilege of serving on that board for the past 12
6 years. Then, in this country, the Assemblies have 58 districts. Our churches in Lee
7 County are in the Peninsular Florida District Council (everything south of the Suwanee
8 River) with about 330 churches. We have a District Superintendent, an Assistant
9 Superintendent (a position I’ve held for 14 years), a Secretary and Treasurer. There are
10 17 sections in our district (we are in Section 14) and each section is led by a Presbyter.
11 In our case in Section 17, our presbyter is Pastor John Baschieri, long-time Senior Pastor
12 and Founder of Lehigh Acres New Life Assembly. In local congregations we have
13 church boards. In our own congregations here they are known as the “church councils.”
14 We use that nomenclature here because it fits with the whole “ladder” of responsibility:
15 The General Council of the Assemblies of God, the Peninsular Florida District Council,
16 the Section 14 Council and now our own Church Council.

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18 This August some 30,000 pastors and delegates will meet in Indianapolis for our semi-
19 annual General Council. Elections of officers will be one of the ingredients of this time
20 together.

21
22 6. THE GIFT OF SHOWING MERCY (Again - Romans 12:8) Mercy means
23 “compassion.” To have a fellow-feeling with another. Throughout the Gospels we read
24 that Jesus would see multitudes of people and be moved with compassion toward them.
25 Barnabas is another (his story is in Acts) who showed his compassion and empathy with
26 others. We might never have heard of the Apostle Paul had it not been for Barnabas’
27 compassion on this man that most of the church in Jerusalem actually “wrote off.” It is
28 one thing to FEEL compassion; it is quite another to SHOW compassion or mercy.

29
30 7. THE GIFT OF HELPS I Corinthians 12:28 “In the church God has
31 put....those....to help others.” This gift is given by the Holy Spirit to assist believers in
32 the body of Christ with the ability to help the leaders and the church in general with their
33 work. A good example of this is those faithful people who gather here one morning
34 every week to count and post the offerings. They are often year for hours at a time - all
35 without pay. I honestly don’t know what we would do without them. I think of the
36 TV camera personnel who stand for hours at a time filming our services while you can sit
37 comfortably in those new cushy concert seats. God bless them all. And how about
38 those who prepare communion for several thousands of people each month? Thank you,
39 thank you to you all.

1 Time will not permit our getting into I Corinthians 12 to discuss what we normally call
2 the Gifts of the Spirit: the Word of Wisdom, the Word of Knowledge, Faith, the Gifts of
3 Healing, the Working of Miracles, Prophecy, Discernment, Tongues and Interpretation of
4 Tongues.

5

6 That section will be our entire next study when we meet again on Wednesday, July 11th.
7 Next Wednesday is the Fourth of July and it's a holiday we will spend with family
8 members.