

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

(Lesson 1).

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Introduction:

The following points will be addressed as we go through this study. Though possibly not in order of that in which they appear below, all will be covered as they are extremely important characteristics associated with the nature, use, purpose and Manifestational presence and expression of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer.

- i. Understanding what we are discussing.
- ii. The origin and source of the giftings.
- iii. The variety of these gifts.
- iv. What they are and what they are not.
- v. Qualifications for expression.
- vi. Discerning from the Word of God just what these Gifts are.
- vii. How they function in the Church.
- viii. Qualifications for use.

There are approximately 25 giftings that we can locate in the Word of God that we attribute to being “Gifts of the Holy Spirit”, all of which are infact, as we have stated “gifts”. They are Gifts from God to each one of us and are contained within the very character of God Himself, imparted to us in the form of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

They are an enabling from God, delivered into our lives and made manifest by the Holy Spirit working through us. 2 Corinthians 4:1-7 tells us the calling that is upon our lives and the equipping, concluding in Vs 7 with ***“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the Excellency of the power may be of God and not of us.”***

These gifts fall into two main categories, but there are several that are in both because of their very nature, as we study them, we will identify them and see why they need to be in both categories.

- (a) The Motivational Gifts
- (b) The Manifestational Gifts.

All the Gifts are so clearly linked and portray in their character the unity that is in the healthy Body of Christ in that the manifestation of them cause's motivation and in the motivation they are manifest. So, they are in their unified expression an example of the unity expected in the Body of Christ, all so especially important for the complete, unhindered, smooth running of the perfect body.

(a) Understanding what we are discussing.

1. The Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity, making up the Third person of the Godhead.

- (i) The Father.
- (ii) The Son. *2 Corinthians 13:14; Matt 28:19.*
- (iii) The Holy Spirit.

2. The Holy Spirit is a Person.

(a) The Holy Spirit is as much a person as the Father and the Son and as a result He has personality (e.g. intelligence, feeling, will) and he has characteristics and He carries out personal actions.

(b) Some of His characteristics are: -

- (i) Love – *(Romans 5:5 The love of God is shed abroad by the Holy Ghost).*
- (ii) Grief – *(Eph 4:30 Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God).*
- (iii) Knowledge – *(1 Cor 2:11 ...knoweth no man but the Spirit of God)*
- (iv) Mind – *(Romans 8:27 ... knoweth what is the mind of the Sprit.)*
- (v) Will – *(1 Cor 12:11 ... The Spirit dividing to every man as He will.)*
- (vi) Goodness – *(Nehemiah 9:20 ...Thou givest also Thy good Spirit.)*

(vii) Intelligence – (*Nehemiah 9:20 ... Thy good Spirit to instruct them.*)

(c) Some of His actions are: -

(i) Comforts – (*Jn 14:16-17 “The Father will give you another Comforter.”*)

(ii) Prays – (*Rom 8:26 “The Spirit itself makes intercession for us”.*)

(iii) Teaches – (*Jn 14:26 “The Holy Ghost...shall teach you all things.”*)

(iv) Guides – (*Jn 16:13 “the Spirit of truth...will guide you.”*)

(v) Testifies – (*Jn 15:26 “the Comforter...the Spirit of Truth. shall testify”*)

(vi) Searches – (*1 Cor 2:10 “for the spirit searcheth all things.”*)

(vii) Creates – (*Ps 104:30 “Thy Spirit, they are created”.*)

(viii) Sanctifies – (*2 Thess 2:13 “sanctification of the Spirit”.*)

(ix) Imparts Life – (*Jn 6:69 “it is the Spirit that quickeneth.”*)

(x) Imparts prophecy – (*2 Pet 1:21 “holy men speak as moved by Holy Ghost.”*)

(xi) Seals Believers – (*Ephesians 1:13-14 “We are sealed with the Holy Spirit”.*)

(xii) Indwells Believers – (*1 Cor 6:19 “the Holy Ghost which is in you”.*)

(xiii) Liberates from Sin – (*Rom 8:2 “law of the Spirit...free...sin”.*)

(xiv) Imparts Power – (*Acts 1:8 “Ye shall receive power. the Holy Ghost.”*)

(d) Has the same divine attributes as the Father and the Son.

(i) Omnipotent – (*Luke 1:35 “power of the highest”*) All powerful.

(ii) Omniscient – (*1 Cor 2:10-11 “Searcheth all things”.*) All knowing.

(iii) Omnipresent – (*Ps 139:7-10 “whither got from thy Spirit”.*) All present.

- (iv) Omnitemporal – (*"For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night" (Ps. 90:4.)*
"But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day" (1 Peter 3:8.). Ever present present that is eternal in this state.

3. The Holy Spirit enables and equips the Church to function.

- (a) It is by the operation, the actions, the attributes, the influences, the wisdom, the anointing of the Holy Spirit that the Kingdom (2 Pet 1:11) and the part of the Kingdom called the Church, are able to function.
- (b) Not that the Holy Spirit operates out of His own direction, but He functions according to the directions of the Godhead, of which He is a part. Matthew 3:11 and Acts 1:5 advises us that it is the Lord Jesus Christ who “dispenses” the Holy Spirit and sheds Him forth upon His people.
- (c) The Main avenues of the operation of the Holy Spirit in the Church could be summarized as follows.
 - (i) Producing the 9 Fruit of the Spirit. (*Galatians 5:22-23.*)
 - (ii) Imparting the Gifts of the Spirit. (*1 Cor 12:7-11.*)
 - (iii) Anointing the 5 Ministry Gifts (*Eph 4:11.*)
- (d) How the Church needs to shake itself from its lethargy and carelessness and take hold of the incredible provisions that are available to it – provisions that can transform any church assembly from something that is asleep apathetic and dormant, without life – to a vital, vibrant demonstration of the presence of the Lord.
- (e) In this study we are going to take a glimpse at the gifts of the Spirit, gifts that equip us as a church to operate and function in the power provided, to the Glory of God and for the benefit of those we are called to serve.