

# UNWRAPPING YOUR PRESENTS FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT

## Part Five

### I. REFRESHER ON THE FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

#### A. The initial and continual filling of the Holy Spirit:

1. What a Holy Spirit filled individual is: "A Holy Spirit filled person is a born again believer who is hungry and disciplined to study, understand and wisely implement what he is being taught from God's Word. This in turn, triggers rapid spiritual growth. (See *1 Pet. 2:2*) With a sense of urgency, he eagerly addresses anything that would hinder the Spirit from daily producing Christ's character in his life or Christ's ministry through his life. By faith, he places every area of his life under Christ's complete Lordship, so that ministry occurs through him, beyond what is humanly possible. (See *Rom. 6:16; 1 Cor. 6:19; Mt. 10:36-38; 17:20-21; Jn. 14:12*)
2. Characteristics of a Holy Spirit filled believer:
  - a. Christ-like character: (See *Gal. 5:22-23*)
  - b. Boldly sharing the Gospel and reaping: (See *Acts 2:4,41; 4:31; 5:14; 6:3, 7; 11:24*)
  - c. Constantly singing vibrantly to the Lord: (See *Eph. 5:18-19*)
  - d. Continually (always) being thankful for everything (absence of worry, disappointment, guilt, doubt, irritability, resentment, inferiority, jealousy, fears, etc.) (See *Eph. 5:18, 20*)
  - e. Being submissive to the authority figures in your life: (See *Eph. 5:18-6:9*)
3. Continual fillings due to the quenching of the Holy Spirit:

Quenching the Holy Spirit - the word used for quenching means to smother or extinguish the flame. Don't extinguish the influence of the Holy Spirit in your heart by willfully disobeying any absolute of Scripture. Although the Holy Spirit still indwells the believer, disobedience brings His "filling" work of assuring, understanding and applying Scripture, conviction, bold witness, eternal focus, power to break habits, resisting temptation, controlling the tongue, implementing marital, parental, occupational roles, the delivery of prayers, spiritual growth, and divine guidance to a complete standstill. Disobedience empties your life of the Spirit's influence while prompt confession begins the filling process all over again - therefore the need for numerous fillings. Prompt confession that re-ignites the flame triggering the Spirit's refilling, include acknowledging the sin (going my own way) has no justifiable cause, seeing it for how it has hurt God, asking for God's help to hate the sin the way He does, begging for his forgiveness with no thought of deserving it, and promptly establishing new patterns so it won't happen again. Quenching the Holy Spirit with unconfessed sin cripples the intended powerful testimony of the individual believer as well as the local church he attends. The powerless individual and his powerless local church must now resort to a carnal (fleshly) emphasis using entertainment to excite feelings and self serving church growth strategies that can be accomplished in the flesh. Quenched lives being empowered by the flesh, have replaced the vibrant supernatural work of the Holy Spirit which so graphically empowered the handicapped lives and churches (they were without the completed Word of God) throughout the book of Acts. (See *1 Thes. 5:19; 1 Cor. 3:1-3; 1 Pet. 3:7; Ps. 66:18; 1 Jn. 1:9; etc.*)

### II. THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT INTRODUCED: (See *1 Cor. 12*)

- #### A. Defining spiritual gifts: "Spiritual gifts are special abilities that allow me to function in the local church with ease and success. The Holy Spirit gives these gifts at the moment of salvation, with each born again believer having at least one. Since they are unconditional gifts, they cannot be lost but they can be ignored or misused by operating in the flesh."

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B. There are five reasons for the Holy Spirit giving believers spiritual gifts:

1. To exalt exclusively the person and work of Jesus Christ at the expense of self: (See I Cor. 12:3; Eph. 4:13-15; Jn. 15:26; 16:14)
2. For the local church to have all the necessary parts to function as an autonomous entity in any culture throughout the world: (See I Cor. 12:14-20)
3. To humble every member to take the initiative and be a participant rather than a spectator in serving each other in a local church, the way a physical body functions: (See I Cor. 12:20-24)
4. To force each member to sincerely need others and join with others in ministry embracing the fact that more can be done together in the local church than can be done individually: (See I Cor. 12:19-24)
5. To unify the local church for the sake of the proclamation of the Gospel in the community and throughout the world: (See I Cor. 12:25; Jn. 17:11b, 21-22)

C. Three different groups of spiritual gifts:

1. Service gifts: "Service gifts are the maintenance gifts that minister to others behind the scenes and are rarely publicly acknowledged. They repair what is broken and lubricate the moving parts of a local church so everything functions harmoniously. The majority of believers have at least one of these gifts, yet they are rarely discovered because they are not as glamorous as the support or sign gifts, and therefore carnally overlooked. Only someone who is filled with the Holy Spirit will value them in others and in themselves."
2. Support gifts: "Support gifts involve the ministry of the Scriptures. These gifts are given more authority and honor than most of the other gifts, so they have greater appeal to those carnally minded. They are public scriptural gifts that do the shaping and building of the local church. Once again, the balance of Scripture is on display. The Holy Spirit knew that for a local church to reach any level of maturity in drawing others to Christ, it would need a maintenance ministry done to existing parts (service gifts), while conducting an aggressive building ministry (support gifts), to expand and further equip the local church in effectively "reaching their world for Christ". Every local church must have both a maintenance ministry and a building ministry going on, or it will soon become a lifeless church of spectators."
3. Sign gifts: "Sign gifts were super-human abilities that altered the laws of nature. They were the most sought after gifts by those living in carnality, because of how it placed them in the spotlight with both believers and unbelievers. These gifts were given by the Holy Spirit so local church leaders could authenticate God's spokesman with the absence of the completed Word of God. Local church leaders could check out both the teacher and his message with these gifts being exercised. They, for the most part, were no longer needed after healthy local churches were multiplying, and God's Word complete in written form."

D. Admonishments regarding spiritual gifts:

1. Don't be "ignorant" concerning spiritual gifts. (See I Cor. 12:1)
2. "Stir up" (keep on stirring) your spiritual gifts as bellows do a fire. (See I Tim. 1:6) The idea is to follow through on your commitments so that your gifts will be practiced regularly, successfully, and joyfully. God will then be using you to glue this local church together, rather than fragmenting it. The key word here is "faithfulness". (See Ps. 101:6; Mt. 25:21, 23; I Cor. 4:2)
3. "Don't neglect" your spiritual gift. (See I Tim. 4:14) When you find out what your gifts are, be diligent to faithfully practice them week in and week out, so you will be the unifying enabler of your local church's ministry. You can't loose, outgrow or retire from implementing them, since they are purposely given by the Holy Spirit to equip you for a lifetime of service in a local body of believers.



### III. THE SIGN GIFT OF TONGUES TO AUTHENTICATE GOD'S SPOKESMAN:

- A. The spiritual gift of **tongues**: (See *I Cor. 12:28*)
1. The gift explained: "This gift gave an individual the ability to speak in utterances not otherwise known, as an exclusive sign to unbelievers. (See *I Cor. 14:22; Isa. 28:11-12; Mk. 8:12; Jn. 4:48*)
- B. The notoriety surrounding tongues today:
1. The ignorance of the Word and lack of maturity in Christians today: (*Heb. 5:11-6:3; I Cor. 14:20, 37-38*)
  2. The abundance of carnal pride and the absence of the filling of the Holy Spirit: (*I Cor. 14:4; 3:1-3*)
  3. The cultural tendency to promote the expression of emotions in the church service:
- C. Three different ways the gift of tongues was used:
1. Speaking fluently with an unlearned native tongue in a cross-cultural setting. (*Acts 2:8*)
  2. Praying alone in an unknown tongue: (*I Cor. 14:13-18*)
  3. Speaking in an unknown language in a church service: (*I Cor. 14:19-40*)
- D. The mandatory grid for speaking in tongues in a local church: (*I Cor. 14*)
1. It must always be interpreted by a man recognized by the congregation as having the gift of interpretation. (*I Cor. 12:30*) (See also *I Cor. 14:13, 27*)
  2. It was only to be used as a sign for the unbeliever, not the believer. (*I Cor. 14:22*)
  3. What was said must edify or build up the church family and not the individual speaking in the unknown tongue. (*I Cor. 14:26*)
  4. Only two or at the most three were allowed to speak in one service because of its unsettling impact on the lost people in attendance. (*I Cor. 14:23, 27*)
  5. Only one person could speak in an unknown tongue at a time. (*I Cor. 14:27*)
  6. If there was no one in attendance with the gift of interpretation, no one was to speak in an unknown tongue. (*I Cor. 14:28*)
  7. Women were never to be allowed to speak in an unknown tongue in the church service. (*I Cor. 14:34*)
  8. Speaking in tongues must always be done decently and orderly: (*I Cor. 14:40*)
  9. If the one speaking in the unknown tongue did not follow these Biblical mandates, it was spirit prompted but not by the Holy Spirit, and it was not to be allowed to take place in the service. (*I Cor. 14:29-33; I Jn. 4:1*)
- E. Tongues in their historical setting from the "Acts of the Holy Spirit":
1. The first passage – Acts 2:1-21: Two new concepts were introduced for the first time to the Jew only. They were –
    - a. The indwelling Holy Spirit had come as promised by Christ to begin the Church Age. (See *Jn. 14:16; 15:26*)
    - b. To introduce the concept that now salvation was open to the Jew and Gentile on the same footing. This gift would establish that all nationalities were to make up this church, with equal privileges, having all things in common.

2. The second passage – Acts 10:34-38: These same two concepts were revealed for the first time to a Gentile audience which was an amazing revelation to unbelieving Jews.
3. The third passage – Acts 19:1-7: These same concepts were revealed for the first time to John the Baptist's disciples who were sent out prior to Christ's death and would drastically impact how they would preach the Gospel from that moment on.

F. The use of speaking in tongues today: (*1 Cor. 13:8-10*)

1. Translating verse eight:
  - a. "Fail" – Katargeo: The Greek word means to be rendered inoperative, replaced by something better.
  - b. "Cease" – Pauo: The Greek word means to stop or come to an abrupt end. No pending event needed to take place. Church history confirms that this is exactly what took place.
2. Translating the ninth and tenth verse: These verses clearly state what is "in part" and what isn't "in part". Understanding this truth takes the pressure off misinterpreting the phrase "when that which is perfect is come".

IV. PRINCIPLES TO PERSONALLY APPLY:

(Together becoming "people of the Word" in principle AND in practice)

- A. When Biblically discussing the gift of tongues or for that matter, any of the sign gifts, keep Chapter 13 in its rightful place, between Chapter 12 and Chapter 14.
- B. When focusing on the gift of tongues, remember that it is the least of all the spiritual gifts, and it existed with one ultimate objective in mind, **unity**. (*See 1 Cor. 12:25-31*)