



LIFE GROUP NOTES
For week commencing: 14/07/2024

Holy Spirit

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit - Power

Life Group Activities

Use the Three Thirds structure for your gathering together.

Looking Back

- Mutual Care – How are you doing?

- Worship & Prayer
 - Worship
 - Pray
 - Communion

- Loving Accountability
 - How did you follow?
 - How did you fish? (Ask how many gospel shares in the last week)

- Vision Cast – Why are we meeting like this?
 - Talk about your vision for social events / outreach and how you will care and encourage one another.

Looking up

Discovery Bible Study The Gifts of the Holy Spirit - Revelation

The preaching notes are added at the end of the notes.

- Review and summarise the series on the Holy Spirit so far
- Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
- A reminder of last week's teaching, how would you describe:
 - Wisdom?
 - Knowledge?
- This week we spoke about the three "power" gifts. Can you describe:
 - The gift of Faith?
 - Gifts of Healings?
 - The gift of Miracles?
- How do you think that these gifts work together?
- Who are these gifts available to?
- When do you think that the Holy Spirit will impart these gifts for use in the church and in everyday life?
- Share stories of when you have seen any of gifts at work in your life.
- How are you going to apply this teaching to your life?

Looking Forward

- Practice – Practice the Three Circles or your People Map
- Set Goals:
 - Use C.O.S.T.
 - Connect – How am I going to connect with God this week?
 - Obey – How am I going to be obedient this week?
 - Share – Who am I going to share the gospel with or pray with this week?
 - Teach – Who can I encourage with this message this week?
- Pray together for the filling of the Holy Spirit

Preaching Notes for Reference

Gifts of Power

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

- Review the teaching so far
 - The coming of the Holy Spirit
 - The Person of the Holy Spirit
 - How to be Filled with the Holy Spirit
 - The Fruit of the Spirit – Part 1 – Love, Joy, Peace
 - The Fruit of the Spirit - Part 2 – Patience, Kindness, Goodness
 - The Fruit of the Holy Spirit – Part 3 – Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control
 - The Gifts of the Holy Spirit – Revelation Gifts, Wisdom and Knowledge.

- **Key theme:** Misunderstanding, misuse, and possible abuse of Spiritual Gifts in the Church in Corinth.
- What can we learn from Paul's response to this problem both individually and corporately?
- The text in 1 Cor 12: 1-11 reveals that the Apostle Paul addressed a problem in the Church in Corinth. Scholars believe they had fallen away from the teaching and revelation of God as they had misunderstood how to use their Spiritual Gifts or misapplied them or chose to abuse them.
- Whatever the reason Paul sought to correct it. The challenge for me and for us as a Church, is could this problem apply to us. If Paul was to visit our Church what would he say about me and about us as a Church? Some of us may confidently say I know these Gifts and use them correctly and can even testify about it. Others might be more like me and may declare that I do not fully understand them or confidently know how to apply them.
- Maybe those who are confident in how to use and apply these Spiritual Gifts can share their testimony of this fact, so it can be an encouragement and a teaching opportunity for the congregation. Shall we pray on this before we explore the Power Spiritual Gifts of Faith, Healing and Miracles???
- It may be useful to see the use of Spiritual Gifts as central to our daily aim to extend the Kingdom of God here on earth as desired in the Lord's Prayer. They present the believer with a great opportunity to demonstrate the love and power of God to the lost and to act as an encouragement to the Church.
- THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: RECAP
 - Gifts: blessings to us that are not earned
 - Manifested: we can perceive and experience them
 - They are Available to all believers, but believers do not have all of them at one time as they're given depending on God's sovereign will. The Holy Spirit determines when and who receives this Gift, which seems to mean He gives them to us when He sees fit. In this way,

there may be a moment when He gives us the gift of faith and at another time we can get the gift of healing.

- This relieves us from the pressure to try and always operate in the same Gift at all times as we do not have this authority, this belongs to the Holy Spirit. So, if we are led to give a prophetic word this does not mean we are automatically a Prophet. I believe our focus is to always make ourselves available to be used by the Holy Spirit to build up his Church, help others and bring Him Glory as He gives us the means to fulfill His will.
- Supernatural – we can't achieve amazing outcomes by our natural efforts.
- **Faith**
 - The gift of faith may be defined as the special gift whereby the Spirit provides Christians with extraordinary confidence in God's promises, power, and presence so they can take heroic stands for God and His work in the world.
 - Examples:
 - For supernatural protection. - Daniel 6:22-23, Acts 12:5-6, Luke 4:30.
 - To proclaim the word of the Lord boldly and with authority. – Acts 27:21-26, 1 Kings 17:1
 - That God will act according to His word. Hebrews 11.
 - Martin Luther King final speech on April 3, 1968, at the Mason Temple (Church of God in Christ Headquarters) in Memphis, Tennessee : (The Mountain Top Speech) where He shared that to continue his stand against racial injustice, poverty and the war in Vietnam would cost him his life, but God had encouraged him by allowing him to see His glory. On the following day, King was assassinated. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gC6qxf3b3FI&t=131s>
- **HEALING**
 - We are human agents for the supernatural healing of diseases and infirmities to the glory of God. Healing comes from God (Exodus 15:6) used under the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit to bring wholeness to the individual in our soul, body & spirit. The purpose of Healing.
 - To alleviate physical suffering
 - To cleanse the soul
 - To release emotions (healing from the pain and oppression of emotions like anxiety, stress and worry).
 - To edify the believers
 - To be a sign to unbelievers
 - To glorify God
- **Why does God not heal everyone?**
 - This may be a good question to explore with your life Group and try and form a healthy theology on Healing. Encourage further reading of a document by Phil Moore: https://thinktheology.co.uk/pdf/A_Healthy_Theology_of_Healing_%28Phil_Moore%291.pdf
- **MIRACLES**
 - A miracle is something that is humanly impossible but divinely simple. Difficulty always has to be measured by the capacity of the agent that is doing the work. When God is the agent doing the work, talk of difficulty is absurd.
- **Can anyone recall examples of miracles by the following:**

- Moses
- Jesus
- Peter (Acts 20:7-12) - Eutychus fell asleep whilst Paul was talking and fell 3 stories to his death. Paul held him in his arms and he came back to life. A humorous story because we know the outcome, but if it happened now who could bring a dead person to life?
- Do we know how to use our spiritual Gifts of power?
- If not, then why not?
- If so are we using it correctly or as God would like?
- **Let's read 1 Cor 12:1-11 and study how Paul answers similar questions apparent in the use of spiritual gifts in the Church Corinth.**
 - The Church in Corinth was not using their spiritual Gifts for the blessing and welfare of others, but rather for significance, status and selfish gain, including trying to use Jesus as an idol to gain an advantage in business, politics and even athletic competition (D.A. Carson: New Bible Commentary pp.1180 alludes that the "curse Jesus" reference in verse 3 could be translated as "Jesus be a curse" which relates to the pagan practice of using an idol/god as a curse against an opponent.
 - Other forms of abusing spiritual gifts could include: self-promotion, manipulation and control, false teaching, emphasising certain gifts over others leading to feelings of superiority and inferiority amongst members of the Church (1 Cor 12:22-25), seeking financial gain by charging for healings or other manifestations of spiritual gifts, seeking to impress or entertain others rather than the edification of others and glorification of God, lack of accountability to Church leadership promoting potential harm of misuse.
- **Why would the Church in Corinth get it so wrong???**
 - Did they adopt a worldly understanding of Gifts believing they were mainly for their own benefit, like a Birthday or Christmas Gift?
 - Paul corrected them by teaching the opposite: as the Gifts were to build up the Church and others for the Glory of God (verse 7). To do this we must seek to know God, desire His spiritual gifts (1 Cor 14:1) encourage our brothers and sisters, and make Him known to the lost. 1 Cor 13 speaks of love being our main inspiration, motivation and focus, especially love for others.
- **Paul's teaching encourages us to experience other blessings from our Spiritual Gifts:**
 - These Gifts are a demonstration of God's love for us (James 1:17) "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." Every good gift you receive is because God loves you. His love for you is so great that he looks for every opportunity to give you a gift.
 - We gain a sense of Purpose as we seek to help others (verse 7). There's scientific evidence that having a sense of purpose maintains health and well-being across our lifetime, promotes greater resilience, perseverance and hope for the future.
 - We enjoy the act of Giving and Receiving, the blessings of generosity experienced by the giver and receiver (Psalm 37:3-4) promote the feel-good hormone of dopamine and creates greater connection and compassion for others.

- The Holy Spirit blesses us with the faith needed to receive and not reject these Gifts and equips us with the ability to use them (Hebrews 13:21, 2 Timothy 3:17).
- **How do I know which Gift God has given me access to use???**
 - A good starting point is SERVING
 - “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace” (1 Peter 4:10).
 - Confirmation from others you serve with can also give light to our spiritual giftedness. Other people who see us serving the Lord can often identify a spiritual gift in us that we might take for granted or not recognize.
 - Prayer is also important. The one person who knows exactly how we are spiritually gifted is the gift-giver Himself—the Holy Spirit. We can ask God to show us how we are gifted in order to better use our spiritual gifts for His glory.
- **TESTIMONY TIME**
 - Matthew 5:16 says, “Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” God has commanded us to be a light for Him, no matter the circumstance or the story. By sharing our testimonies, we reveal the Light of Jesus to those living in darkness and encouragement to our brothers and sisters in Christ.
 - Can you testify to the Spiritual Gifts of FAITH, HEALING and MIRACLES in your life? Can you bear witness to the work of the Holy Spirit in using these Gifts?
 - What impact would it have on your relationship with God if you desired and used the Gifts of the spirit for others and to glorify Him?
 - What impact would it have on our Church if every week we testified to the amazing work of the Holy Spirit within us as we use the Gifts of the Spirit?
 - How could our use of the Gifts of the Spirit build up the Church?
 - How could our use of the Gifts of the Spirit bring the lost to repentance and salvation?

The 3Thirds Discipleship Model		
Look back	Look up	Look forward
<p>1. Mutual care: How are you doing?</p> <p>2. Worship: Praising God in a simple, relevant way.</p> <p>3. Accountability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Follow:</i> How did you obey the lesson from last time? ◦ <i>Fish:</i> Did you pray with anyone who was in need? ◦ Did you share your story and/or Jesus' story? ◦ Did you find a person of peace? <p>4. Casting vision for reaching lost people and making disciples.</p>	<p>5. New lesson: Enough Biblical content to obey and pass it on.</p> <p>Use the Discovery Bible Study Method:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Read the Bible Story b. Ask them to re-tell the story in their own words c. Ask four questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. What does this story tell us about God? ii. What does this story tell us about people? iii. Is there a command to obey or an example to follow or a promise to live by? iv. How does this apply to my life? 	<p>6. Practice the lesson until everyone is confident and competent to apply the learning. e.g. Retell your story, Jesus' story, or this week's story.</p> <p>7. Set goals</p> <p>Goals for personal growth, sharing the gospel, and training others.</p> <p>C.O.S.T. Connect Obey Share Teach</p> <p>8. Pray and Share Communion</p>
<p>1/3 of your time (e.g. 30 mins)</p>	<p>1/3 of your time (e.g. 30 mins)</p>	<p>1/3 of your time (e.g. 30 mins)</p>