Pastor Rob Goyette- 11.08.2026.

“The 9 Gifts of the Holy Spirit”

Summary

What does it look like to say yes to something bigger than ourselves, something we cannot produce on our own? That question sits at the heart of this message, which draws us into a rich exploration of the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit found in 1 Corinthians 12. We are reminded that we are not the source of these gifts but the stewards of them, and that distinction changes everything. Just as a fire requires tending, the graces God places within us demand our attention and cooperation. The message draws on 2 Timothy 1:6-7, where Paul urges Timothy to fan into flame the gift of God, making the sobering point that neglect can diminish what God has freely given. The Spirit's gifts are not trophies to display or theological concepts to store away. They are living realities meant to manifest for the benefit of everyone around us. We are challenged to ask ourselves honestly: what has God placed within us, and what are we doing with it? This is not a message about religious performance but about a genuine partnership with a God who longs to work through ordinary people in extraordinary ways.

Small Group Study Guide – The 9 Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Overview

This session explores the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit as described in 1 Corinthians 12, the importance of stewarding what God has given us, and the posture of heart required to receive and walk in the things of the Spirit. Drawing on the example of Mary's response to the angel Gabriel, we are challenged to move from passive belief to active partnership with the Holy Spirit.

Key Takeaways

- **We are stewards, not sources.** The gifts of the Spirit cannot be manufactured or worked up through human effort. They are given by God and entrusted to us to steward faithfully.
- **Gifts require tending.** Just as a fire needs fuel, the graces God gives us can diminish if we do not value and actively cultivate them. As Pastor Rob said: "Fan into flame the gift of God."
- **The nine gifts fall into three categories:**
  - Revelation Gifts: word of wisdom, word of knowledge, discerning of spirits
  - Speaking Gifts: prophecy, tongues, interpretation of tongues
  - Power Gifts: faith, gifts of healing, working of miracles
- **Faith and love work together.** The gifts operate by faith, but faith works through love. Spiritual gifts exercised without love produce nothing of lasting value.
- **God uses multiple means to impart gifts:** spontaneous sovereign moments, the laying on of hands, and simply remaining faithful and present near the graces you are called to carry.
- **Mary's posture is our model.** Her response — "Be it unto me according to your word" — represents the heart posture God is looking for: receptive, trusting, and willing to take the next step.

Discussion Questions

Opening Question

Go around the group and share briefly: Is there a spiritual gift — either in yourself or someone you have observed — that has always intrigued or stirred you? Why?

Section 1: Ignorance and Awareness

1. Pastor Rob referenced 1 Corinthians 12:1, where Paul says he does not want believers to be uninformed about spiritual things. Why do you think ignorance about spiritual gifts is so common, even among long-time believers? What has contributed to that in your own experience?
2. Have you ever been taught something about the Holy Spirit or spiritual gifts that you later had to reconsider in light of Scripture? What was that process like?
3. Pastor Rob described the pneumatic nailer versus the hand-driven nail as an illustration of working in our own strength versus working with the power of the Spirit. Where in your life do you feel like you are still swinging the hammer when God may have something better available?

Section 2: Stewardship and the Call to Fan the Flame

4. Pastor Rob said: "We are not the source of God's gifts, but we are the stewards of them." What is the practical difference between thinking of yourself as a source versus a steward? How does that shift in thinking affect the way you approach your gifts?
5. 2 Timothy 1:6-7 calls believers to fan into flame the gift of God. What does it look like practically to fan a spiritual gift into flame? What are some ways a gift can go dormant, and what can reignite it?
6. Pastor Rob asked: "When was the last time you threw a log on your calling?" Take a moment to reflect honestly. What is one specific thing you could do this week to tend the gifts or graces God has placed in your life?

Section 3: How Gifts Are Received

7. Pastor Rob described three ways gifts are imparted: spontaneous sovereign moments, the laying on of hands, and proximity to someone who carries what you are called to. Have you experienced any of these? Share with the group if you are comfortable.
8. The story of Elisha refusing to leave Elijah's side illustrates a holy persistence in pursuing what God has called you to. Is there a grace, a calling, or a spiritual gift you have been pursuing — or perhaps given up on too quickly? What would it look like to press in again?
9. Pastor Rob shared a personal story of leaving an altar too early and missing a prophetic moment because of impatience. Can you relate? What tends to pull you away from moments where God may be working slowly or quietly?

Section 4: Mary's Model — Receiving, Carrying, and Bringing Forth

10. When the angel appeared to Mary, her first response was fear and logical questioning: "How can this be?" Pastor Rob noted that our minds constantly tell us why things cannot happen. What is the "how can this be" question that most often limits your faith when it comes to your calling or gifting?
11. Mary's yes to God resulted in her carrying something that was meant to bless the entire world. Pastor Rob said: "Your destiny is already in God's heart. The question is, will you accept it?" How does that statement land with you personally?
12. Pastor Rob distinguished between receiving, carrying, incubating, and bringing forth. Where do you find yourself in that process right now? Are you still waiting to receive? Are you carrying something but hesitant to bring it forth? Talk through this honestly with your group.

Section 5: Love as the Foundation

13. Pastor Rob made clear that he has no interest in a church full of spiritual gifts but lacking love. Why is it so important that love remain the foundation for everything related to the gifts of the Spirit? What happens when gifts operate without love?
14. Pastor Rob noted that 1 Corinthians 12, which deals with spiritual gifts, is sandwiched between a chapter on communion and the great love chapter in 1 Corinthians 13. What does that structure suggest about the context in which spiritual gifts are meant to function?

Practical Applications

Choose one or more of the following to put into practice before your group meets again:

1. **Identify your stirring.** Spend time this week in prayer asking God to show you what gifts or graces He may have placed in you. Pay attention to what stirs you, what excites you, and what draws your attention when the Spirit is moving.
2. **Fan the flame.** Choose one specific spiritual discipline — prayer, Scripture study, worship, praying in tongues — and commit to doing it more intentionally this week as an act of tending what God has given you.
3. **Say yes.** If there is a calling, a next step, or a prompting from the Lord you have been hesitant about, write down Mary's words — "Be it unto me according to your word" — and pray them over that specific area of your life each day this week.
4. **Stay present.** Identify one opportunity this week — a church gathering, a prayer meeting, a moment of ministry — where you might normally check out or leave early, and choose instead to remain and be available to what God may be doing.

5. **Pursue proximity.** If there is someone in your church or community who carries a gift or grace you sense God calling you toward, make a point to spend time with them, serve alongside them, or ask them to pray for you.

Closing Prayer Focus

As you close your time together, invite group members to pray Mary's prayer aloud together:

"Be it unto me according to your word."

Then allow a few minutes of quiet or open prayer for group members to surrender specific areas of their lives — gifts, callings, fears, and questions — to the Lord. If anyone would like prayer for the activation or renewal of a spiritual gift, encourage others in the group to gather around them and pray.

Looking Ahead

In the coming weeks, the sermon series will move through the nine gifts of the Spirit one by one, with biblical examples and practical insight into how each gift operates. Come prepared to engage, ask questions, and remain open to what the Holy Spirit may want to stir in your life.

Main Points – The 9 Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Title: Fanning the Flame: Receiving, Carrying, and Manifesting the Gifts of the Spirit

Sermon Summary:

This sermon calls believers to move beyond ignorance regarding the gifts of the Holy Spirit and into active, faith-filled stewardship of what God has given them. Drawing on 1 Corinthians 12, Pastor Rob walks through the nine gifts of the Spirit, framing them within three categories: revelatory gifts, speaking gifts, and power gifts. He emphasizes that believers are not the source of these gifts but are called to be faithful stewards of them, fanning them into flame rather than allowing them to grow dormant. Using the account of Mary's encounter with the angel Gabriel as a central image, the sermon presents a compelling picture of how a posture of humble surrender -- "be it unto me according to your word" -- opens the door for the Holy Spirit to come upon a person and bring forth something that blesses not only the individual but the entire body of Christ. The sermon also reinforces that the gifts operate by faith, and that faith itself works through love, making love the essential foundation for any genuine expression of spiritual gifting.

Key Points:

- There is a distinction between God being with us (universal presence), in us (salvation), and upon us (the baptism of the Holy Spirit), and many believers stop at salvation without pursuing the fullness of what God offers
- The Greek word pneumatikos, often translated as "spiritual gifts," literally refers to spiritual things empowered by the breath or Spirit of God, pointing to a power beyond natural human effort
- Believers are not the source of spiritual gifts but are stewards of them, and stewardship requires active tending -- fanning the flame -- lest the gift diminish or go dormant
- The nine gifts of the Spirit fall into three categories: revelatory gifts (word of wisdom, word of knowledge, discerning of spirits), speaking gifts (prophecy, tongues, interpretation of tongues), and power gifts (faith, gifts of healing, working of miracles)
- All gifts operate by faith, and faith works through love, making love the non-negotiable foundation and motivation for any exercise of spiritual gifting
- Gifts can be imparted in multiple ways: sovereignly as in Acts 2, through the laying on of hands, or through proximity to someone who carries a particular grace
- Mary's response to Gabriel -- "be it unto me according to your word" -- is presented as the model posture for receiving one's spiritual destiny: surrender, trust, and willingness to carry and bring forth what God places within
- The manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good, meaning unexpressed or unactivated gifts represent a loss not just for the individual but for the entire community
- Identifying one's gifting is often connected to what stirs or excites the spirit, just as John the Baptist leaped in the womb when he came near the grace he was destined to serve

Scripture Reference:

- 1 Corinthians 12:7-11, which lists the nine gifts of the Spirit and affirms they are distributed by the Holy Spirit according to his will
- Luke 11:11-13, where Jesus compares earthly parents giving good gifts to children with how much more the heavenly Father gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask
- 2 Timothy 1:6-7, where Paul urges Timothy to fan into flame the gift of God given through the laying on of hands, and affirms that God has not given a spirit of fear but of power, love, and self-control
- Romans 12:6, affirming that gifts differ according to grace and are to be exercised according to the proportion of faith
- Galatians 5:6, establishing that faith works through love, grounding the exercise of gifts in the character of God
- Luke 1:26-56, the account of Gabriel's announcement to Mary and Mary's visit to Elizabeth

Discussion Questions – The 9 Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Pastor Rob describes his own encounter with the Holy Spirit as a childlike moment of surrender rather than a moment of theological certainty — in what ways might intellectual pride or the need to understand everything first become a barrier to receiving what God wants to give you?

The sermon draws a distinction between being the source of God's gifts and being a steward of them — how does understanding yourself as a steward rather than a source change the way you approach the gifts God has placed in your life?

Paul's exhortation in 2 Timothy 1:6 to fan into flame the gift of God implies that a genuine gift from God can grow dim through neglect — what specific habits or attitudes might cause a spiritual gift to diminish, and what practical steps can you take to tend it?

The nine gifts of the Spirit are not just personal blessings but that the whole community suffers when they go unactivated — do you agree with this claim, and if so, what does that mean for how seriously we should take the discovery and development of our individual gifts?

Mary's response to the angel, 'be it unto me according to your word,' is presented as the posture of faith that allowed the miraculous to take place — what fears or doubts most commonly prevent people from offering that same kind of open surrender to God's calling?

The sermon uses the analogy of pneumatic nail guns versus hand-driven nails to illustrate the difference between human effort and Spirit-empowered ministry — in what areas of your spiritual life might you still be relying on your own strength when God has provided a better way?

Elisha's refusal to be discouraged or turned away from following Elijah until he received the double portion is held up as a model of persistent pursuit of God's gifts — how does the culture of instant gratification described in the sermon work against this kind of tenacious spiritual hunger?

Pastor Rob places the chapter on spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12 between the themes of communion and love, calling it a 'gift sandwich' — what does it mean practically for a community to pursue spiritual gifts while keeping love as the governing motive and communion as the relational foundation?

The story of Alan Milberger being healed of Vietnam trauma during an unscripted moment in a worship service raises the question of how much we try to control or predict the way

God moves — how do you personally balance a desire for order and discernment with genuine openness to the unexpected work of the Holy Spirit?

The sermon suggests that what stirs and excites you spiritually may be an indicator of your calling and the gifts God has placed within you — reflecting on your own life, what spiritual things cause something to 'leap' inside you, and what might that be telling you about your assignment?

Scriptures – The 9 Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Here is a list of all scripture references mentioned or clearly alluded to in the sermon:

Directly Cited

- Luke 11:11-13
- 1 Corinthians 12:1
- 2 Timothy 1:6-7
- Romans 12:6
- Galatians 5:6
- 1 Corinthians 12:7-11
- 1 Corinthians 11 (referenced as context surrounding chapter 12)
- 1 Corinthians 13 (the love chapter, referenced as context surrounding chapter 12)
- Acts 2:1-4
- Acts 10 (Peter preaching, people filled with the Holy Spirit mid-sermon)
- Luke 1:26-56 (the Annunciation and the Visitation)
- 2 Kings 2:1-15 (Elijah and Elisha, the double portion)
- Acts 19:6 (laying on of hands and receiving the Spirit)

Alluded To or Paraphrased

- Hosea 4:6 (my people perish for lack of knowledge)
- 1 Peter 3:15 (be ready to give an answer for the hope within you)
- James 2:17 (faith without works is dead)
- James 4:14 (where no wood is, the fire goes out -- Proverbs 26:20)
- Proverbs 11:30 (he that wins souls is wise)
- Daniel 12:3 (those who lead many to righteousness shine like stars)
- Revelation 3:20 (Jesus knocking at the door)
- 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (having gifts but not love amounts to nothing)
- Acts 19:11-12 (special miracles by the hands of Paul, handkerchiefs)
- Jeremiah 1:6-7 (Jeremiah called as a youth, arguing with God)
- John 14:17 (the Spirit is with you and will be in you)
- Acts 1:4-5 (wait for the promise of the Father, baptism of the Holy Spirit)
- 1 Kings 18 (context for the Elijah and Elisha narrative)

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide - The 9 Gifts of the Holy Spirit

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Day 1: Do Not Be Ignorant of Spiritual Things

Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Devotional: God's desire is not that His people stumble through life unaware of the spiritual resources He has made available. The gifts of the Spirit are not reserved for a select few religious professionals. They are given to the body of Christ for the common good of all. Just as a skilled contractor who refuses pneumatic tools labors harder for lesser results, a believer who ignores the Spirit's gifts works beneath their calling. Ask yourself today: what has God made available to you that you have not yet received, valued, or explored? Begin with a humble and open heart.

Personal Reflection: Are there areas of your spiritual life where ignorance, fear, or religious tradition has kept you from receiving what God freely offers?

Practical Application: Set aside ten minutes today to read 1 Corinthians 12 in its full context. Write down every gift mentioned and ask the Lord honestly which ones He may be stirring within you.

Day 2: Fan Into Flame What God Has Given You

Reading: 2 Timothy 1:6-7

Devotional: Paul's instruction to Timothy is both tender and urgent. He does not say the gift disappeared. He says fan it into flame, implying it had grown dim. A fire left untended does not suddenly explode into brilliance. It quietly fades. The gifts of the Spirit require stewardship. God gives freely, but He also watches to see what we do with what He gives. The Spirit of God within you is not a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a mind submitted to His control. Whatever grace God has deposited in your life deserves your attention, your faith, and your care.

Personal Reflection: Have you allowed a gift, calling, or spiritual sensitivity that God once stirred in you to go quiet? What caused the fire to dim?

Practical Application: Identify one spiritual gift or calling you believe God placed in your life. Commit to one intentional act this week that fans that gift into greater flame, whether through prayer, study, service, or seeking counsel from a trusted believer.

Day 3: Faith Working Through Love

Reading: Galatians 5:6 and 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

Devotional: The gifts of the Spirit are powerful, but they are never meant to operate apart from love. Paul makes a sobering declaration: even the most extraordinary spiritual gifts, exercised without love, amount to nothing of lasting value. Faith is the engine that activates the gifts, but love is the fuel that gives them meaning and direction. God is not looking for impressive spiritual performances. He is looking for hearts so saturated with His love that the gifts flow naturally as expressions of genuine care for others. Before you ask God to use you in greater ways, ask Him to deepen your love.

Personal Reflection: Is there someone in your life toward whom it is difficult to extend love? How might unresolved offense be limiting the flow of God's Spirit through you?

Practical Application: Read 1 Corinthians 13 slowly and prayerfully. Replace the word "love" with your own name each time it appears. Let the gaps between the text and your current reality become an honest prayer before God.

Day 4: Be It Unto Me According to Your Word

Reading: Luke 1:26-38

Devotional: Mary's response to the angel's announcement is one of the most powerful statements of surrender in all of Scripture. She did not have all the answers. She did not understand the full scope of what was being asked of her. She had every natural reason to question and resist. Yet when the angel clarified that the Holy Spirit would come upon her and that nothing would be impossible with God, she released her own understanding and said yes. That yes changed the course of human history. Your yes to God's calling may feel small by comparison, but it is no less significant to the purposes He has prepared for your life.

Personal Reflection: What is God asking you to say yes to that your natural mind keeps reasoning away? What would it look like to release control and trust the Holy Spirit to accomplish what He has promised?

Practical Application: Write out the words "Be it unto me according to your word" somewhere visible today. Let them serve as a repeated declaration of surrender each time doubt or fear arises in your thinking.

Day 5: Receive, Carry, and Bring Forth

Reading: Luke 1:39-45 and Acts 2:1-4

Devotional: Mary did not simply receive the word and sit still. She arose and moved toward the next step God placed before her. When she arrived at Elizabeth's home, something remarkable happened. The grace within Mary stirred the grace within Elizabeth, and even the unborn John leaped in response to what he was destined to serve. This is a picture of what happens when Spirit-filled believers come together in faith and expectation. What God has placed within you is not meant to remain hidden. It is meant to be carried faithfully, incubated with prayer and patience, and ultimately brought forth for the benefit of those around you. The world is waiting.

Personal Reflection: What next step has God been placing before you that you have delayed out of uncertainty or fear? Who in your life might be stirred and encouraged simply by you taking that step?

Practical Application: Take one tangible next step this week in the direction of what you believe God has called you to. It does not need to be large. Faithfulness in small things is how God prepares us for greater ones. Share what you are sensing with a trusted believer and invite them to pray with you.