

The Essentials – Part 4: Partnering with the Holy Spirit

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Good morning! Welcome to the fourth week of our series called The Essentials. We are visiting the core values of our church community. Last week Pastor Brian Flewelling said he wanted to bake a five-layer cake as he was talking about serving which I thought was distracting. We are building something, building a church, a building, a place for people to come and experience the love healing and hope of Jesus Christ. We are laying very specific blocks of belief down as the foundation of this church.

- Jesus our cornerstone
- Groups
- Serving
- The Holy Spirit

Picture bejeweled:

One of our hopes for this series is that you would not only be excited about our church and the things that are important to us and we think are important to the Lord. But that you would take the time to ask yourself a very personal question, “What do I value? What are the most important things in my life, and do they express themselves in my calendar, my budget, and in the relationships with the people around me?”

EMPOWERMENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We want to abide in the Holy Spirit and participate in his ongoing ministry, gifts, and power to grow as Jesus’ disciples and complete the mission he entrusted to us.

A couple of lists of gifts that come from the Holy Spirit:

1 Peter 4:10-11, Romans 12:6-8

We will be looking at the letter to the Corinthian church.

1 Corinthians 12

12 Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed.

i. Paul, in his letters, names three things he does not want Christians to be ignorant of:

- Don’t be ignorant of God’s plan for Israel (Romans 11:25).
- Don’t be ignorant of spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:1).

· Don't be ignorant about the second coming of Jesus and the eternal state (1 Thessalonians 4:13).

About the gifts, who they come from, love, community.

²You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. ³Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

i. Jesus made it plain, saying that when the Holy Spirit would come, *He will testify of Me* (John 15:26), and *He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you* (John 16:14). The ministry of the Holy Spirit is not to promote Himself or any man, but to glorify and represent Jesus. We can, therefore, trust that the true ministry of the Holy Spirit will be according to the nature of Jesus.

⁴There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

- in all of them – the gifts
- in everyone – all of you

Paul and Timothy

1. Do not neglect your gift.

1 Timothy 4:14-16

¹⁴Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

¹⁵Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. ¹⁶Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

2. The gifts or manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

- This is why the gifts of the Spirit cannot be understood outside of community and love for God and his people.
- Not for warm fuzzies, emotional experience.
- Not just to experience the power of God.
- Validate my ministry, self-important (insecurity).
- Increase attendance, increase giving.
- Not even so you can have a great story to tell (Jesus told people not to tell).
- Difference between seeking the presence of God and the power of God.
- Sometime people seek so hard after the power of God because they are uncomfortable simply being in the presence of God.

⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

3. He distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

Discernment – the power to know – wisdom, knowledge, distinguishing between spirits (1 John 4:1)

Demonstration – the power to do – faith, healing, miraculous powers

Declaration – the power to say – different kinds of tongues, interpretation of tongues, prophecy

Hebrews 2:4

This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. ⁴ God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

Teaching on the body, community.

¹² Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

Acts 2:38

And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Closing song Jireh explain

Hopewell network international speaker – Harvest- Missions

Extra notes

1 Corinthians 12

¹³ For we were all baptized by^[c] one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴ Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

¹⁵ Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. ¹⁹ If they were all one part, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” ²² On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, ²⁴ while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, ²⁵ so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts

should have equal concern for each other. ²⁶ If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. ²⁸ And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues^[a]? Do all interpret? ³¹ Now eagerly desire the greater gifts.

Love Is Indispensable

And yet I will show you the most excellent way.

13 If I speak in the tongues^[a] of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,^[b] but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸ Love never fails.