



The Promise of the Spirit

Part 4

May 2, 2021

Today I will be continuing our study while we seek to address and expound upon the Promise of the Spirit. Over the past few weeks, Pastor Beck and I have taught many things to push us to grow in our understanding of the Biblical Narrative as well dispel any misconceptions or misunderstanding concerning the Holy Spirit.

And I, over the past two Sundays, have specifically addressed some very detailed points: The Power of the Holy Spirit is Essential to our function as Christians, Quintessential to our development as follower of Christ, as well as fact that the Holy Spirit is a triune part of the God Head.

We further discussed how the Holy Spirit was involved in the creation story, was involved in the creation of the First Adam, was involved in the creation of the Last Adam (Jesus), as well as the Holy Spirit's involvement of the recreation of you. And last Sunday, I taught us about the importance of the Fruit of the Spirit, how the Fruit of the Spirit is the very Character of Christ being made manifest in us by way of the Holy Spirit.

We further discussed how the fruit is the ultimate demonstration of the born again experience as well as the fact that it is the Fruit of the Spirit that positions our lives in such a way that others will receive the Gifts of the Spirit that are made manifest through us by His Spirit.

And with last point in mind, we will focus our attention on the Gifts of the Spirit today found in 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, "Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. ²You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols; however you were led. ³Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit. ⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another Faith by the

same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.”

In verse 1, Paul makes it clear that he does not want us ignorant of Spiritual Gifts because they are important to the Body of Christ. “Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed.”

In verse 3, Paul gives us insight on how to discern, at a very fundamental level, those who have the Spirit of God versus those who have the Spirit of this world or the Anti-Christ Spirit. ³ “Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit.”

In verses 4-7, Paul provides us clarity to understand that the Gifts of the Spirit come from the same singular Spirit of God and that there are not many Spirits of God but rather one who gives a diversity of gifts to the body for the benefit of the Body. ⁴ “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”

Notice that the Gifts are of the same Spirit and that, though there are a variety of services, we are all doing it for the same Lord and King. And observe the end game of our Gifts and our Serving; **“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”**

Verse 8 - **according to the same Spirit**

Verse 9 - **by the one Spirit**

Verse 11 - **¹¹ All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.”**

Church family, if the Bible repeats a point three times in the span of 4 verses then it necessitates that we look deeper at this matter and pay attention to the point that these repeated points are seeking to enforce. Paul is requesting for us to understand that the Gifts of the Spirit are from One Source and that is the Holy Spirit; there are not individual spirits for each gift but rather one Spirit from which all gifts are given. Remember verse 11, **“¹¹ All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.”**

And in light of my sermon last Sunday, the Fruit of the Spirit are given from the Same Holy Spirit that the Gifts of the Spirit are made manifest by. To further add to this premise of the importance of our Fruits and Gifts; it is our Fruits that balance our eagerness for Spiritual Gifts hence the reason why Paul smacks the “Love Chapter” dead in the middle of 1 Corinthians 12 and 1 Corinthians 14.

He places it in this position to cause us all to balance our lives in so that we do not become consumed with seeking Gifts and not seeing the value of manifesting Fruit. Our Fruit is the counter balance on the scales of Spiritual Gifts and if we are out of balance then we are seeking an unjust weight. Proverbs 16:11 records, “A just balance and scales are the Lord's; all the weights in the bag are his work.” And the question that we must all ask ourselves today is are we balanced on the scales or are we out of balance?

The reason I pose this question is due to what the Writer of Proverbs goes on to annotate in Proverbs 20:23, “Unequal weights are an abomination to the Lord, and false scales are not good.” And if we are not judging ourselves and watching over our lives carefully, we are like this proverb notes, we are living our lives with unequal weights which are an abomination to the Lord and we are weighing our Fruit and our Gifts on false scales which are not good.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Church at Corinth in 2 Corinthians 13:5, “⁵Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the Faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? —unless indeed you fail to meet the test!” As a whole, we do not like hearing teaching like this because it forces us to reconcile that every one of our lives are out of order and out of balance somewhere; every one of us have areas of our lives that need correction and balance. And it is all the more important for us to see the value of Paul’s admonishment in 2 Corinthians 13:5 because if we want our Gifts to be Impactful then our Fruit needs to be Bountiful...

Now that I have laid a foundation on which to build my message today, I would like to share three specific points of insight concerning Spiritual Gifts that we all need to be aware of if we are to be balanced in our Doctrine and in our Manifestation of said Gifts. So with all of that said, Point #1...

1. The Gifts of the Spirit make you Powerful to fulfill a Purpose!

- a. 1 Corinthians 12:7, “⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”
 - i. The premise of the common good is the common good of all and not to the personal benefit of you. If you are constant variable in the manifestation of Spiritual Gifts then you are missing the point of Spiritual Gifts. The Gifts are given to point others to Christ and His Spirit; not point them to you! The Gifts are for Others!
- b. Jesus declared in the Book of Acts 2:8 the following statement, “⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
- c. Notice that Jesus said that we would be given Power by the Holy Spirit to be a witness and not a showboat!
- d. I have dealt with the Charis-maniac movement for many years now by observation as well as engagement and the one constant that I observe is the Lack of Scriptural Endorsement that I see with this modern day charismatic movement. We think the weirder the better and we call these super weird People to be Super Spiritual.

- e. You are not being super spiritual; you are being super irresponsible when you exalt the Gifts to a place of thinking that they can operate outside of the perimeters established within the discourse of Scripture.
- f. If your “gifts” violate the perimeters established by the Word of God and the Teachings of the Apostles then your gifts are apostate and demonic in nature. **PERIOD.** This is called Charismatic Witchcraft.
- g. As I stated earlier, the Gifts of the Spirit make your Powerful to fulfill a Purpose!
- h. Point #2...

2. The Gifts of the Spirit employ you, but are not for your benefit!

- a. The Gifts are not for your benefit but far too many are prostituting their anointing for the sake of worldly gain and elevation of status. We are seeing this in main line religion today, especially amongst the charismatic movement, and even amongst prominent leaders. They are sacrificing moral and biblical integrity for the sake of inclusion and church growth.
- b. If you seek to use the gifts to elevate yourself then you are in error and have fallen into the sin of the Devil.
- c. Is there a record found within the Biblical Text where this happened? Yes, there was a man who was cursed by the Apostles because he offered them money if they would give him the gift of the laying on of hands. Notice with me in Acts chapter 8...

d. Acts 8:14-24, “¹⁴ Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John,¹⁵ who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit,¹⁶ for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷ Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸ Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money,¹⁹ saying, “Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.” ²⁰ But Peter said to him, “May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! ²¹ You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. ²² Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. ²³ For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity.” ²⁴ And Simon answered, “Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may come upon me.”

- e. Notice that in the previous verses found in Acts 8 that Simon had been a sorcerer who had converted and had been water baptized; but even in spite of this, he saw a financial gain that would be made available to him if he could get the gifting of the laying on of hands then he could prostitute said anointing for personal gain.
- f. And Simon the Sorcerer is still around today in the modern day church. Wanting the Gifts of the Holy Spirit to build their own kingdoms rather than the Kingdom of Christ!

- g. Church family, hear me today! If we seek to use the Gifts of the Spirit to elevate ourselves or utilize it for personal gain by corruption and manipulation then we are in error and have fallen into the sin of the Devil.
- h. Again, the Gifts of the Spirit employ us, but they are not for our benefit!
- i. Point #3

3. The Gifts of the Spirit are to be a sign to others and not a merit badge for yourself!

- a. This is not the Boy Scouts and we are not a religious version of the Boy Scouts where we get awarded merit badges when we pass a test or meet a goal.
- b. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit should humble us and not instill pride; the Gifts of the Holy Spirit should be a reminder that we are not worthy to be used by God but He looks past our faults and uses us for His Glory in spite of our faults.
- c. You were gifted for Christ's Glory and not your own; never forget that! Our gifts to not establish a divine pecking order of those who are more powerful than others but rather to establish avenues of kingdom impact in the earth. To be a Witness unto His Glory and not a Showboat unto our own glory.
- d. May we all today approach the use of the Gifts of the Spirit soberly and with all purity all the while maintaining a reverence and holy fear of the Lord.
- e. The Gifts of the Spirit are to be a sign to others and not a merit badge for yourself! The Gifts are not about you; they are for everyone around you.