



The Promise of the Spirit

Part 7

May 30, 2021

Today we will be wrapping our series “The Promise of the Spirit”. Over the past two months, the Preaching Pastors and I have taught many things to push us to grow in our understanding of the Biblical Narrative as we strove to dispel the misconceptions and misunderstandings concerning the Holy Spirit and the functions and purposes thereof.

It is my goal today to slow down and teach on Orderly Gifts, Gift Etiquette, and well-ordered Worship. The term Etiquette is defined as, “the customary code of polite behavior in society or among members of a particular profession or group.” And in 1 Corinthians chapter 14, the Apostle Paul lays out his expectations, his order of etiquette if you will, for the manifestation of Gifts and Worship within the confines of the Local Church.

Today I will teach with a very clear and concise outline of my expectations of order in this House based upon the Word of God as well as my expectation of how everyone in this church body is to conduct themselves when it comes to Gifts and Worship! Remember that it was the Apostle Paul who said in 1 Corinthians 14:33, “³³ For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.” Therefore, it would seem to reason that if we are doing anything that is breeding and/or creating confusion then we are not manifesting the Spirit of God but rather the spirit that is in this world. Remember, things that are powerful are always in order and if we are out of order then we are not powerful but rather pitiful.

Before we begin our study today of 1 Corinthians 14, I would like to provide a bit of insight and instruction on the matter of Spiritual Gifts, Spiritual Leaders, and Spiritual Manifestations. The Apostle John in 1 John 4:1-6 gives us some tremendous perspective when he penned the following, “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,³ and every

spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. ⁴ Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵ They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.”

There are three principles I want to teach us from this passage of Scripture before we move forward in our teaching today.

- Everyone has a spirit but not everyone has the Holy Spirit.
- We should hold Spiritual Leaders accountable for their words and deeds, by doing so, we are testing their spirit to see if they be of Christ.
- There is the Spirit of God and the spirit of the antichrist that is in the world and we must learn to discern the difference.
- If we rebel against Apostolic Doctrine and Apostolic Teaching then we are participating with the spirit of error and are apostate in our thinking.
- If a person’s spirit has not been tested then they are not to be received from.
 - “Well Pastor, no one is perfect and everyone deserves a second chance.” First off, I am not talking about perfection but I am talking about having Christian Character.

If a “spiritual leader” will lie, deceive, and manipulate to get what they want then are you so naïve to believe that they won’t lie, deceive and manipulate you as well?

Secondly, everyone doesn’t “deserve” a second chance, they earn the right to be given a second chance and if they are not repentant of their deeds then they are not worthy of being given a second chance. PERIOD.

1 Corinthians 14 is broken into two separate parts: Verses 1-25 is focused on Prophecy and Tongues; Verses 26-40 is focused on Orderly Worship.

1 Corinthians 14:1-40

1. The Genesis of our engagement with the Spirit of God is to Pursue Love and Earnestly desire Spiritual Gifts for the sake of building up the Church!

a. 1 Corinthians 14:1-5, “Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. ² For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit. ³ On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their up building and encouragement and consolation. ⁴ The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. ⁵ Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues,

unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.”

- b. If our motives are anything other than to build up the Church with our Love for one another and the manifestation of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in our lives then we are in error. The Holy Spirit was given to us in so that we might build His Church and not our egos.
- c. If we ever seek to use His Spirit to build our Kingdom then we are satanic in nature and commit the same sin as Lucifer at his fall. If we are no the Giver of the Gifts then we are in error to use the Gifts for our personal benefit alone.

2. The Manifestation of Tongues is Powerful but becomes Pointless if it is misused!

a. 1 Corinthians 14:6-9, “⁶Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching? ⁷If even lifeless instruments, such as the flute or the harp, do not give distinct notes, how will anyone know what is played? ⁸And if the bugle gives an indistinct sound, who will get ready for battle? ⁹So with yourselves, if with your tongue you utter speech that is not intelligible, how will anyone know what is said? For you will be speaking into the air.”

- b. Notice that the end game of speaking in tongues, notice I didn't say “praying”, speaking in tongues in a Church service is to be interpreted for others to benefit; not rather for the sake of your benefit of trying to prove your level of spirituality.

- c. Say it with me, “My gifts are for others; they are for We and not just for Me”
- d. If you feel that you have a message in Tongues, **DO NOT, I Repeat, DO NOT** stand up during the worship time and begin screaming in tongues. No one can hear you, it is distracting and it is out of order. Recall verse 9, **“So with yourselves, if with your tongue you utter speech that is not intelligible, how will anyone know what is said? For you will be speaking into the air.”**
- e. And it is all the more unintelligible if you do it during worship when the music’s volume is far greater than your ability to project your voice. Remember that a Word in Tongues is to be interpreted for the benefit of the Body; not to be manifested in so that you can try and impress others. Don’t get offended; this is what the Bible says. Many of us equate “Pentecostal expression” to a free for all of spiritual gifts and it turns the Church into ‘Saturday Night at the Apollo’ where everyone gets to have the microphone at least once. Again, that is not Biblical nor is it practical. I will provide more instruction on etiquette and protocol later in this message.

3. The Gifts of the Spirit are given to Impact others and not Input Confusion

- a. **1 Corinthians 14:10-12, “¹⁰There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning, ¹¹but if I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me.¹² So with**

yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.”

- b. Notice that this phrase of “building up the Church” is all throughout this passage of text because, again, the endgame of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit is to build up the Church; to build US up as a community of those who follow Christ!
- c. With this in mind, we learn a valuable truth based upon the account of the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11; you can’t build something that will last when no one is able to communicate and gain from one another. A language barrier will always lead to dissolution and separation.
- d. And it is Paul’s emphatic explanation of the Gift of Tongues specifically that is intriguing because notice how Paul is seeking to get us to understand that, though the gift is viable and necessary, it can breed confusion and frustration if it is not employed properly. If a gift is generating confusion in the Body then that gift is out of order. If God is not the Author of Confusion then stop blaming God and the Gifts on the confusion that you create; it’s not on Christ, it is on you. This is Bible.
- e. “Oh but Pastor, the Holy Ghost just comes over me and I can’t help but just be taken over by the Holy Spirit.” Nice try but that’s not Biblical at all. The Apostle Paul states emphatically in 1 Corinthians 14:32, “...the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets.”
- f. Simply put, by this he means that the Holy Spirit does not “take over” a person’s spirit to the point where that person loses restraint and self-control.

- g. The opposite is true; one of the nine fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23 is self-control thus anyone who is legitimately manifesting a spiritual gift can always decide when and how to start or stop manifesting said gift.
- h. The Holy Spirit doesn't manifest a greater level of the lack of self-control when it comes to the Gifts of the Spirit but rather increases the capacity to be far more self-controlled to ensure that the Gift is received and has an impact upon the hearers.

4. There is a difference between Speaking in Tongues and Praying in Tongues!

- a. 1 Corinthians 14:13-15, ¹³“Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret. ¹⁴For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. ¹⁵What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.”
- b. When you hear me say or anyone else say, “Pray in your prayer language” or “pray in the Spirit”, the instruction is to pray in tongues or as I refer to it as our “prayer language”.
- c. Praying in the Spirit is something that I would encourage you to do every day.
- d. A Word in Tongues or a Message in Tongues in a Church service requires an interpreter for the benefit of the Body being built up. But when you pray in the Holy Spirit, you are building yourself up in your Faith and in your Spirit man.

5. There must be a balance of Spiritual Gifts and Spiritual Development

a. 1 Corinthians 14:16-25, “¹⁶ Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say “Amen” to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying?¹⁷ For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up. ¹⁸ I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. ¹⁹ Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

²⁰ Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature. ²¹ In the Law it is written, “By people of strange tongues and by the lips of foreigners will I speak to this people, and even then they will not listen to me, says the Lord.” ²² Thus tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is a sign^l not for unbelievers but for believers. ²³ If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds? ²⁴ But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, ²⁵ the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.”

b. The Gifts of the Spirit are a part of demonstrating the Power of the Spirit of God to others who are not believers for the sake of their conversion and not their applause of you as a Super Spiritual Person.

- c. Paul is encouraging us to pursue the Gifts and the manifestation thereof however, Paul also goes on to say concerning our Spiritual Development, “²⁰ Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature.”
- d. Look at these two points as two sides of a scale: Spiritual Gifts versus Spiritual Development. The two need to be in tandem when it comes to the two having value in your life because there are far too many of us who are consumed with Gifts and have zero Spiritual Development whatsoever. Hence the reason why Paul instructs us to not be children, to not be immature, in our thinking but rather be mature in our thinking and our conduct.

(PASTOR BRAD, IF YOU WILL COME)

6. The Gifts of the Spirit are meant to be manifested in order with the Word and submission to the Authority of the House; which is the Pastor.

- a. 1 Corinthians 14:26-40, “²⁶ What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up. ²⁷ If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret. ²⁸ But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God. ²⁹ Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said. ³⁰ If a revelation is made to another sitting there, let the first be

silent.³¹ For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged,³² and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. For God is not a God of confusion but of peace. As in all the churches of the saints,³⁴ the women should keep silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be in submission, as the Law also says.³⁵ If there is anything they desire to learn, let them ask their husbands at home. For it is shameful for a woman to speak in church.³⁶ Or was it from you that the word of God came? Or are you the only ones it has reached?³⁷ If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord.³⁸ If anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized.³⁹ So, my brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues.⁴⁰ But all things should be done decently and in order.

b. It is the responsibility of the Pastor to be the enforcement of the Apostolic teaching and to ensure order and flow of the service.

c. ORDER:

- i.²⁶ What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.
- ii.³¹ For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged,³² and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.

- iii. ³⁹ So, my brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. ⁴⁰ But all things should be done decently and in order.

d. FLOW:

i. Proper Order:

1. Come to Pastor Beck or myself and submit your prophetic word to one of us. Or if you have a Word in Tongues.
2. We will then choose when and where in the service it will fit in the flow.
 - a. Principle of the Flow of a Service (Piano Keys)
 - b. Flow is about finding the right place to set the notes in place for the proper keys to be hit.
 - c. IF the wrong key is hit in the flow of a beautiful arrangement, the wrong key is what is wrong.
 - d. Thus if all things are to be done decently and in order then the manifestation of Spiritual Gifts will not be out of order with the flow of the service and the move of the Spirit.
3. If I choose to not allow you to present your gift then do not get offended; if you get mad and offended then it tells me that your “gift” is you and not the Holy Spirit.
4. ³⁹ So, my brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. ⁴⁰ But all things should be done decently and in order.