

Engaging the gifts of the Spirit

Title: Anointed for service

Text: Isaiah 61:1-11; Luke 4:18-19



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17th July 2016

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“As you come to him, the living Stone [Jesus Christ]... you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ... you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession.” (1 Peter 2: 4,5,9 NIV)

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.” (Luke 4:18-19 NIV)

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you”

(Acts 1:8a NIV)

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Isaiah 61

¹The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to [:]

1. proclaim good news to the poor.
2. He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted,
3. to proclaim freedom for the captives and
4. release from darkness for the prisoners
5. ² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour and
6. the day of vengeance of our God,
7. to comfort all who mourn, ³ and
8. provide for those who grieve in Zion—
9. to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes,
10. the oil of joy instead of mourning, and
11. a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

12. They will be called oaks of righteousness,
13. a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendour.
14. ⁴ They will rebuild the ancient ruins and
15. restore the places long devastated;
16. they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.
17. ⁵ Strangers will shepherd your flocks;
18. foreigners will work your fields and vineyards.
19. ⁶ And you will be called priests of the LORD,
20. you will be named ministers of our God.
21. You will feed on the wealth of nations, and in their riches you will boast.

22. ⁷ Instead of your shame you will receive a double portion, and
23. instead of disgrace you will rejoice in your inheritance.
24. And so you will inherit a double portion in your land, and
25. everlasting joy will be yours.
26. ⁸ "For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness
27. I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them.
28. ⁹ Their descendants will be known among the nations and
29. their offspring among the peoples.
30. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the LORD has blessed."
31. ¹⁰ I delight greatly in the LORD;
32. my soul rejoices in my God.
33. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and
34. arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness,
35. as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and
36. as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
37. ¹¹ For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

¹ (Isaiah 61:1-11 NIV; verse separation, underline, numbering and sectioning have been added)

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Seven examples of what the Holy Spirit releases into our lives:

1. _____ (61:1) – giving the ability to proclaim the Good News of Christ through your testimony, the inspiration of the Scriptures, revelation through supernatural insight and spiritual gifts.
2. _____ (61:1) – compassion and care to help those who are broken hearted because of sorrow, disappointment, or loss. Being a carrier of freedom, joy, light and healing.
3. _____ (61:1) – delivering those who have been held captive by fear or oppression and seeing them set free. Having the keys of the Kingdom which open and unlock dungeons that have kept people from reaching their God ordained potential.
4. _____ (61:3) – being able to swap sorrow and pain for joy and gladness, gaining a spirit of praise in place of an environment of mourning. Interceding for the prodigal, the orphan and widow, the marginalised and the grieving; seeing them breakthrough into newness of life.
5. _____ (61:4) – rebuilding those places that have been desolate or demolished. Being a restorer of hope, rebirth, and life.
6. _____ (61:7) – receiving a double portion of the blessing of God that re-establishes the expectation of the inheritance gifted from heaven.
7. _____ (61:9) – the anointing and filling of the Holy Spirit becomes an example to others of someone who is blessed by God. The expression of the gifts of the Spirit (i.e. 1 Corinthians 12 - 14) alongside the outworking of the fruit of the Spirit (i.e. Galatians 5:22-23) draws people to Jesus.

|| Series Notes: Engaging the gifts of the Spirit

Topic: Anointed for service (Isaiah 61:1-9; Luke 4:18-19)

We are undertaking the task of encouraging you to discover, develop and deploy the inherent gifts of the Holy Spirit found residing in your life. They may be sitting idle in the back cupboard of your life. You may get them out from time to time. Jesus is calling us to be people who are actively engaging the gifts of the Holy Spirit every day.

“Every person who receives Jesus as their Saviour has received the Holy Spirit who is now dwelling inside of them. You cannot come to Christ without the Holy Spirit drawing you to Him. The Holy Spirit brings us to Christ, He glorifies and magnifies Christ (ref: John 16: 5-16).

There is a difference though between the indwelling Holy Spirit and the overflowing Holy Spirit. For example: In John 4 Jesus tells the woman at the well that the water He had to give her was like a fountain of living water leading to eternal life (ref: verses 1-14). Then in John 7 He speaks of the Holy Spirit who would be given at a later time and again refers to this fountain of living water now as a river flowing out of their inner being (ref: John 7:37-38).

Jesus distinguishes between coming to receive eternal life from the well of salvation – and rivers of living water flowing out of us toward others through the overflowing power of the Holy Spirit.” (refer notes from “The power of a prayer language” 10th July 2016; J.Jung)

Last week we spoke about the benefits that we receive when we use our supernaturally gifted prayer language. Speaking in tongues. Luke records in the Book of Acts that on the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit released a supernatural gift of tongues to the newly formed church that continues to be evident today.

- This prayer language wasn't simply to prove that the Holy Spirit had come – the overwhelming love of God in their hearts would have been enough for them to know God's presence and acceptance.
- This new prayer language wasn't just a sign of the power of God – that mighty rushing wind and tongues of fire would have been enough if that's what they were looking for.

I believe this gift of speaking in tongues was given to us as a supernatural resource to counter the culture of a fallen world, in which we live. Speaking in tongues engages my life into the world of heaven lifting us to a different eye line, a different perspective of the events going on around us.

I do believe speaking in tongues is an evidence of the Holy Spirit's overwhelming presence on our lives. I do believe it is available to everyone who seeks it. I do believe it is a vital piece of our believer's armoury and available weaponry against the snares of our enemy, the devil.

If you know you have the gift of tongues – use it. It isn't a passive gift.

- it enables you to speak to God the yearnings of your heart;
- it unveils the mysteries of heaven through times of revelation and insight;
- it edifies your life by building up your faith;
- it helps you pray intentionally into the unknown; and
- it lifts you to new dimensions of His presence through empowered praise.

If you want the gift of tongues – ask for it, it's that simple, and these benefits (and more) become yours. It is time to engage the gifts of the Spirit.

Today I want to explore **what the Holy Spirit wants to use you for** as you go about your everyday duties. How does He want you to engage the gifts of the Spirit through your everyday life? What do those gifts look like?

If you have given your life to Christ, then you have been ordained into His service. The Holy Spirit now resides within you to empower you with the *dunamis* or explosive power of heaven (ref: Acts 1:8). You have been anointed for His service. The Apostle Peter powerfully declares your new identity like this:

|| “As you come to him, the living Stone [Jesus Christ]... you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ... you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession.” (1 Peter 2: 4,5,9 NIV)

If you have given your life to Christ then you have been ordained as a priest, who now serves the purposes and plans of the Most High. You have been called to active service. The equipment He gifts to you to perform your duties comes in the form of the Holy Spirit residing within you, filling you with a supernatural, dynamic power.

Throughout my Christian journey I've always been a little intimidated by the definition of the “gifts of the Spirit”. They've always seemed out of reach, probably meant for someone else more capable, and often difficult to work out how they fit into my practical brain. I grew up in an environment where the gifts of the Spirit predominantly occurred within the confines of a Sunday service which always appeared to be difficult to emulate on a Monday at work.

When I graduated from my theological studies, part of the ceremony had me (along with my fellow graduates) recite the verses from Isaiah 61 that Jesus boldly declared in the Synagogue at Nazareth when he began His ministry. Jesus stood up and read out loud:

|| “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.” (Luke 4:18-19 NIV)

These verses became our launch pad. “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me” is an incredible declaration of faith, a commissioning statement, made by all who follow Christ (not just ordained ministers!).

I began to realise that the dynamic power we receive from the Holy Spirit requires a naturally supernatural lifestyle. If I am to engage the gifts of the Spirit in my everyday life then I need to recognise that the Holy Spirit is going to breathe on my naturally occurring skills, but He will also gift me supernatural abilities I could never possess with my own efforts (ref: 1 Corinthians 12:11).

[refer to the handout] When I read the original prophetic declaration of the eleven (11) versus of Isaiah 61 that Jesus quoted from; I find several things incredibly important:

1. There are at least **37 separate things** contained in those verses that are anointed by the Holy Spirit for us to engage in.
2. It is only **because** the Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon us!

I want you to look down that list of 37 things [of the handout] that I’ve arbitrarily arranged from Isaiah 11, and see if there are some things there that you are currently engaged already, highlight them. Now I want you to look again and allow the Holy Spirit to nudge you to highlight some areas that you would love to have operating through your life.

Isaiah 61 starts with the premise that all of the proceeding verses were only possible because of the anointing of the Holy Spirit being upon the person. We know that the Holy Spirit lives within us. It is the evidence of being a believer in Christ. The Holy Spirit is our guarantee for the promised inheritance (ref: Ephesians 1:13-14).

The Spirit of the Lord is therefore upon you! And just like Jesus, the Holy Spirit is anointing you to engage your life to the service and extension of the Fathers household.

So how do we take those 37 things, plus a myriad of other supernatural giftings listed in the New Testament, and begin to allow them to be outworked through our everyday lives?

Isaiah’s prophetic insight gives at least seven (7) examples of the work of the Holy Spirit through our lives that you could connect to those things you’ve highlighted. The Holy Spirit brings:

1. **|| ENLIGHTENMENT** (61:1) – giving the ability to proclaim the Good News of Christ through your testimony, the inspiration of the Scriptures, revelation through supernatural insight and spiritual gifts.

1 Corinthians 12:7-11 highlights:

- **Gifts of revelation:** message of wisdom, knowledge, the ability to distinguish between spirits.
- **Gifts of power:** faith, healing, miraculous powers.
- **Gifts of divine communication:** prophecy, interpretation of tongues.

2. **ENCOURAGEMENT** (61:1) – compassion and care to help those who are broken hearted because of sorrow, disappointment, or loss. Being a carrier of freedom, joy, light and healing.

Luke 10:25-37 is the story of the Good Samaritan. The man who went out of his way to care for stranger who had been beaten, robbed and left for dead. He paid for his care out of his own pocket and saw the stranger restored and healed.

3. **ESCAPE** (61:1) – delivering those who have been held captive by fear or oppression and seeing them set free. Having the keys of the Kingdom which open and unlock dungeons that have kept people from reaching their God ordained potential.

Jesus said: if the son sets you free, you will be free indeed. (ref: John 8:36)

The Apostle Paul says: wherever the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty and freedom. (ref: 2 Corinthians 3:17)

4. **EXCHANGE** (61:3) – being able to swap sorrow and pain for joy and gladness, gaining a spirit of praise in place of an environment of mourning. Interceding for the prodigal, the orphan and widow, the marginalised and the grieving; seeing them breakthrough into newness of life.

5. **ESTABLISHMENT** (61:4) – rebuilding those places that have been desolate or demolished. Being a restorer of hope, rebirth, and life.

I think of the demon possessed man Jesus encountered on the shores of Galilee. The man's life was tormented and everything he had was gone. But Jesus restored his life and he went home, healed. (ref: Luke 8:20-39)

Titus 3:5 says that we have been saved by being born again, renewed by the Holy Spirit. We have been given a second chance.

2 Corinthians 5:17 reminds us that we have been made new creations and that all things have been made new.

6. **EXALTATION** (61:7) – receiving a double portion of the blessing of God that re-establishes the expectation of the inheritance gifted from heaven.

You carry the favour of the Lord on your life. **Ephesians 1: 3** says that you have been blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ. (ref: Ephesians 1:3-14).

7. **EXAMPLE** (61:9) – the anointing and filling of the Holy Spirit becomes an example to others of someone who is blessed by God. The expression of the gifts of the Spirit (*i.e. 1 Corinthians 12 - 14*) alongside the outworking of the fruit of the Spirit (*i.e. Galatians 5:22-23*) draws people to Jesus.

Can you imagine being given access to these resources? Well, they are yours through the prayer of Jesus (John 14:16-17). All of these and more are yours (ref: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; Ephesians 4:11; Acts 2:4; Romans 12:6-8).

My prayer for you today is that you will be experiencing the fullness of the Spirit of the Lord being upon you. If you have never made such a declaration of faith about the work of the Holy Spirit, why don't you spend a moment reading Isaiah 61:1-11; and then taking a moment, ask the Holy Spirit to anoint your life with the words you've just read.